

Softball
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Steele County Times



Memorial Day
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$1 Wednesday, May 27, 2015

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Staff photo by Anna Segner

Enjoying the Memorial Day celebration

Finley, Bergen, Nolan and Jane Rolloff are dressed up in Memorial Day shades to watch the Owatonna Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25. Memorial Day celebrations were held in Owatonna and Blooming Prairie. See page 10A in today's edition for a story on the Blooming Prairie Memorial Day services and more photos on Memorial Day.

Farm helper bucks odds, survives harrowing rescue

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

With corn surrounding him and up to his neck for more than two hours, Christopher Johnson of Owatonna kept saying prayers because he didn't think he would survive.

When Johnson, 65, initially became totally buried in corn for a brief time and trapped for an additional two hours last week on his nephew's farm just north of Geneva in Freeborn County, history was against his survival. According to a study by Purdue University, nearly three-fourths of reported grain entrapments resulted in death from 1964 to 2005.

"I'm one of the very lucky ones," Johnson said. "I sometimes wondered if I would just pass out and that would be it. It was very scary."

Freeborn County Sheriff Kurt Freitag agreed that Johnson is one of the fortunate ones who survived something that often proves to be deadly. "We had a happy ending," Freitag said. "This stuff is like quick sand. This guy is pretty lucky."

As Johnson was sucked into an estimated 11 feet of corn in the 60,000 bushel bin, he instinctively grabbed for a rope that had been dangling close by and hung on for dear life. "I was hanging on for two hours with all I got," he said. "It seemed like 24 hours."

Johnson feels fortunate that his lifeline in the form of a rope was near by. "Without the safety rope, it would have sucked me right to the bottom," he said. "If I had missed grabbing the rope by an inch, we wouldn't even be here talking."

Barely able to breath and nearly choked off with corn in his mouth, Johnson faced excruciating pain throughout the two-hour ordeal. He said he couldn't open his mouth at all and refrained from breathing

GRAIN RESCUE
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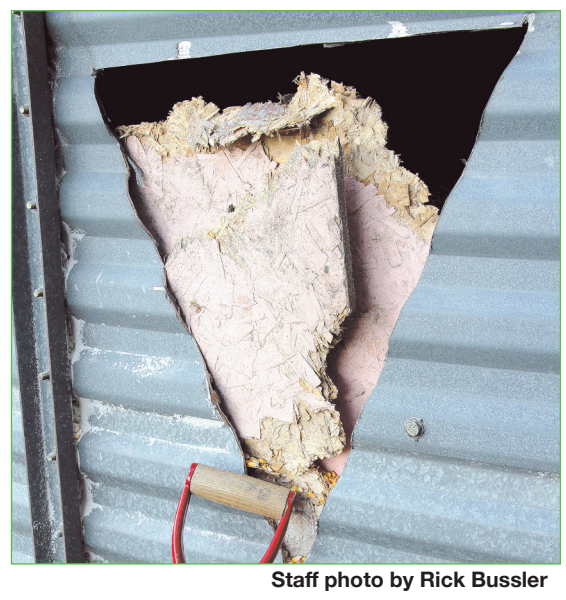
Photo Courtesy of Brant Hemingway Photography



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

It took rescuers more than two hours to free Christopher Johnson from a grain bin on his nephew Chad Johnson's farm located north of Geneva May 20. Once Johnson was rescued, he was loaded onto Mayo One and flown to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. He was released the next day. At the right, rescuers had to cut holes around the grain bin in order to unload corn from inside during the rescue mission.

Setback for Highway 14

By KAREN JORGENSEN
News Editor

Despite being declared one of the key issues of the 2015 legislative session the inability to pass a comprehensive transportation funding package has left the completion of U.S. Highway 14 in limbo.

That was the message of groups and individuals involved in transportation issues as the legislature adjourned last week.

"We are disappointed that even though legislators on both sides of the aisle agreed that funding Corridors of Commerce is important for Minnesota's economic growth, they failed to pass any funding for the program this session," said New Ulm Mayor Robert Beussman, the president of the U.S. Highway 14 Partnership.

"How long will we have to wait to finish expanding Highway 14 from Rochester to New Ulm," he asked.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz.

Standing in front of a giant roll of duct tape on a flatbed truck in front of the Owatonna City Hall, Kuntz said it was past time for a permanent solution to Minnesota's transportation problems.

"Duct tape can fix almost everything," he said, "but duct tape can't fix transportation."

The state cannot continue to say transportation problems will be fixed "next year," Kuntz said. "The answer's got to start this year."

Legislators in St. Paul somehow forgot the word compromise, he said. It's not just Highway 14, he said, because "every month we wait another bridge is declared unsafe."

The legislature adjourned the regular session

HIGHWAY 14
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Nursing homes gaining funds

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Negotiations continued to the final hour between Gov. Mark Dayton, the Republican House leadership and the Democratic Senate leadership and in the end some gains were noticed in funding directed to nursing home facilities.

The final Health and Human Services budget features increased funding for state nursing homes. Rep. Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea, said she was "overjoyed" about the budget agreement announced between House Speaker Kurt Daudt, R-Crown, and Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk, DFL-Cook.

Both leaders confirmed that the Health and Human Services budget agreement would include funding to reform nursing home reimbursement rate payments that will result in significant new funding for senior care facilities in all parts of the state, but especially in Greater Minnesota.

"I'm overjoyed that we were able to come together on a bipartisan basis to get this done for our aging loved ones," Bennett said. "These reforms will mean significant new funding to help our senior care facilities and ensure we're providing quality care for aging Minnesotans. This is going to make such a huge difference for our seniors and those who care for them."

The legislation was likely to be vetoed by Gov. Mark Dayton.

Prior to the new funding of the rate increase, the average under funding was $33 a day for nursing homes in Minnesota.

Funding reform was addressed in House legislation by Republicans who proposed to reimburse senior care facilities, resulting in $138 mil-

NURSING HOMES
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Vol. 122, No. 51 www.steeledodgenews.com 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

The journey is just starting

Over the next two weekends, more than 500 seniors will be graduating from school districts in our coverage area in Steele and Dodge Counties.

It is only the start of each student's journey. There will be heartbreak along the way.

There will also be triumphs and these graduates will gain skills and experience that will help them succeed in life.

The hope is that each one of these young men and women will make their dreams come true and be a productive part of society for many years to come.

But now is time for enjoyment with family and friends. And it starts with this weekend's first set of graduation ceremonies in Medford, Triton, Blooming Prairie and NRHEG and ends with graduation ceremonies at Owatonna High School.

Each of these students are finishing their final days in the classroom with tests, as well as spending time outside the classroom putting the finishing touches on the graduation parties that they and their friends will be participating in over the next few weeks.

Graduation is a happy time filled with lots of promise for our young people. In order to keep that promise shining brightly, alcohol simply should not be mixed with graduation.

Young graduates need to realize that they should not pick up any alcohol whether it's beer, wine or liquor.

Parents also need a reminder about not providing alcohol to teenagers to celebrate the end of a high school career.

It's time for young people to celebrate their achievements from high school free of drugs and alcohol.

That's a great reason for us all to celebrate during this special time of the year.

We wish you the best and congratulations on completing one of the first steps in your life's journey.

It takes a village… to save someone

HOT PURSUIT

Rick Bussler

For years, I've always heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." This week we're going to have a slight variation to "It takes a village to save a person."

That became abundantly evident last week on a farm north of Geneva on the Freeborn-Steele county line. Christopher Johnson of Owatonna was helping out his nephew with unloading corn when he became trapped inside a grain bin. After initially going completely under, he surfaced enough to pop his head out. For the next two hours, he was buried up to his neck in corn and only able to take short breaths during most of that time.

What happened after that is nothing short of a miracle thanks to the help of emergency personnel, family, neighbors and even complete strangers. No less than 50 people pulled together to help in rescuing Johnson from the grain bin.

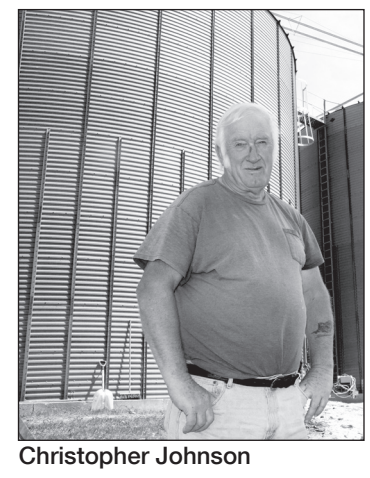
Besides Sheriff Kurt Freitag and his deputies from Freeborn County, fire departments from Ellendale, Geneva, Blooming Prairie, Hollandale, Clarks Grove, Albert Lea, New Richland and Manchester converged on the farm to help out. Ellendale Ambulance and Mayo One also stood by and assisted.

That's just the emergency personnel. Other help came pouring in from neighbors as well as workers from Watonwan Farm Service of Clarks Grove and Broskoff Structures of Geneva. Watonwan provided a grain vacuum and Broskoff hauled in a crane.

Armed with shovels, buckets, vacuums, skid loaders and other equipment, people worked frantically to remove thousands of bushels of corn from the grain bin to relieve pressure inside the bin in order to get Johnson out safely.

"The cool thing about it was how well everyone worked together," said Sheriff Freitag, who expected to be a little sore after shoveling grain for quite some time. He noted that many of the emergency personnel from three different counties have never worked or much less trained together before. "Everyone did a great job together."

But the rescue effort is only a part of this story that boasts a happy ending. Just last year, Sun Opta Grains of Hope donated an expensive tool for grain rescues to two area fire departments, Blooming Prairie and Ellendale. It's called Rescue Tube and it features five panels of aluminum designed to prevent a trapped worker from sliding further down into the grain bin. Each section of the tube acts as a shield so that grain that is pressing against the trapped worker can be removed.



Christopher Johnson

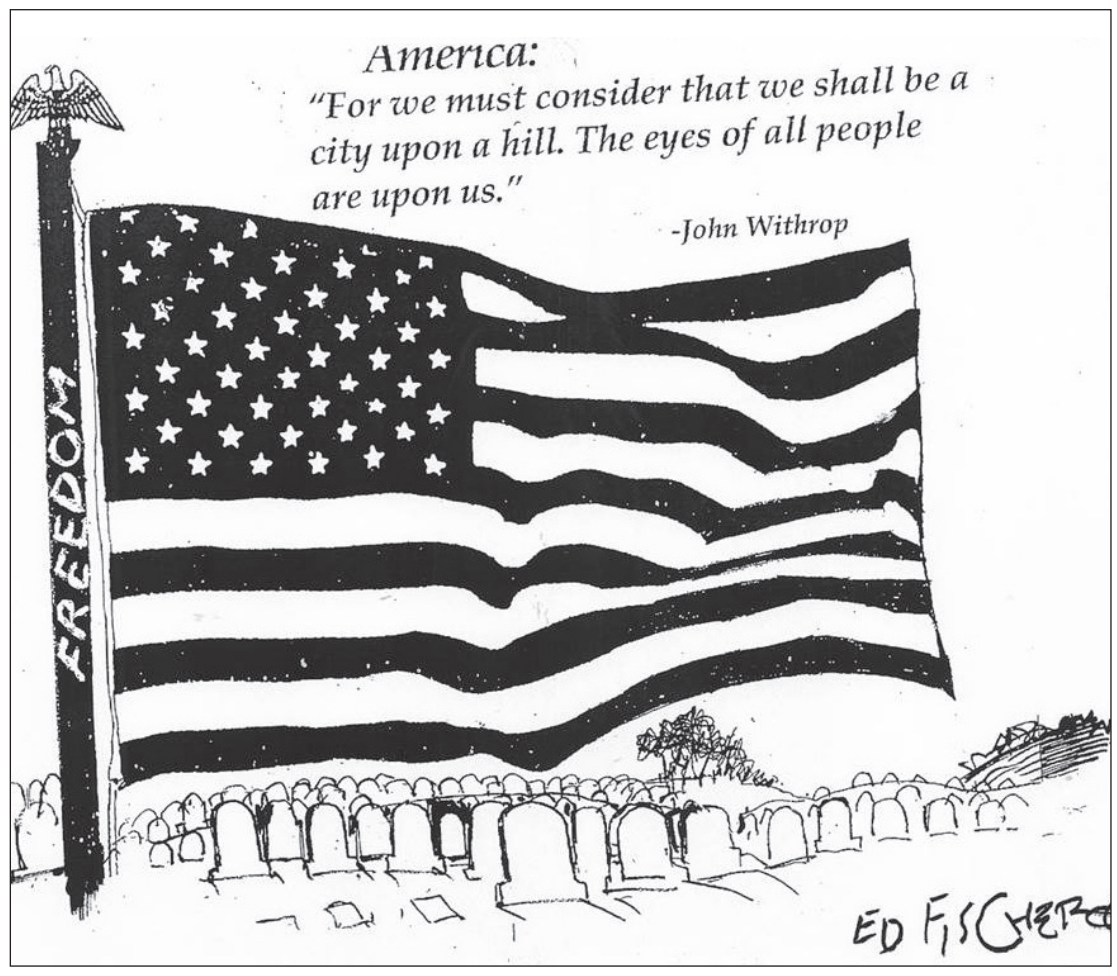
The tube donated to Ellendale Fire was used in last week's rescue of Johnson. The Blooming Prairie tube was used in another rescue effort last fall in which a man became entrapped in grain on a farm in Dodge County.

"It's been extremely helpful in getting the pressure off the person from the grain," BP Fire Chief Dean Naatz said of the Rescue Tube.

Members of several area departments, including BP and Ellendale, took part in special training from Central Valley Co-op just this past winter to learn how to rescue people trapped in grain bins. The training obviously has paid big dividends in saving Johnson.

Meanwhile, Johnson says it's a great day to be alive. "I guess I have more days left to ride motorcycle, chase girls and take my grand kids," he said, adding he also plans to continue helping out on his nephew's farm.

As last week's rescue mission reflects, it definitely takes a village to save a person. My hats off to all those who went in hot pursuit.



COUNTERPOINT

Westfield Township feedlot issue continues to draw more controversy

At ground zero of Minnesota's groundwater crisis

By SONJA TROM EAYRS

It's no surprise that half of the lakes and streams in southern Minnesota are too polluted for recreational activities ("So. Minn. water crises rises," April 30). My parents, lifelong farmers in Dodge County in southeastern Minnesota, have been battling the county and a feedlot operator this past year in response to the installation of the 11th hog building within a 3-mile radius of our family farm. This single factory farm sits on just 6 acres of non-homesteaded bare land that lies at the headwaters of the Cedar River. Just half a mile from the Trom family farm that has been in our family for nearly 100 years, it will produce manure equivalent to a human population of more than 7,000 people.

During the past year, my family has learned firsthand the failings of county officials and feedlot operators to address the environmental impact of factory farms. Easy permitting of these projects is par for the course in Dodge County. The Dodge County Planning Commission, aka "the feedlot commission" — consisting of seven members, six of whom are registered feedlot operators — quickly approved the controversial factory farm near my parents' farm a second time in December 2014, following vacation of the first conditional-use permit by a district judge.

It was time to take action — legal action. My parents filed a second lawsuit in January 2015, alleging bias, conflict of interest, failure to ensure that the feedlot operator has an adequate manure-management plan in place to protect the environment from possible surface and/or groundwater contamination, and other claims.

It was also time to take action — political action. A group of local citizens formed a grass-roots organization, Dodge County Concerned Citizens. The group is committed to clean air, land and water and has gathered extensive data from federal, state and local sources — data that illustrate alarming trends — showing that Minnesota groundwater is at risk of overuse and contamination.

Dodge County serves as an example of the environmental problems plaguing rural Minnesota. Not only is there a failure on the part of county officials to manage the use of groundwater, there is a failure to manage the manure generated from these feedlot operations. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) records indicate that only six of the 234 registered feedlot operators in the county possess a water-appropriations permit. Not surprisingly, there are several reports of wells going dry in the county. Also, recent data obtained from Dodge County show that only 37 of

GROUNDWATER
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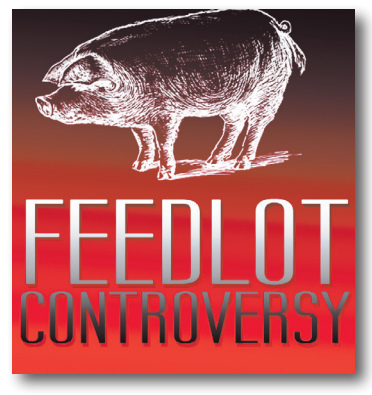

Provide stewardship for groundwater resources

By LORI STEVERMER

We should all be providing the best stewardship possible for our groundwater resources. We all depend on it; it is a shared concern. But there is little data to back up other statements made in a recent commentary by Sonja Trom Eayrs. While many would applaud Ms. Eayrs for defending her family at all costs there are significant details left out of her essay blaming feedlots and all levels of government for Dodge County's alleged water issues.

Manure is a valuable commodity that is bought and sold. It is used as a natural fertilizer and replaces commercial fertilizers that otherwise would have been used on farm fields. When placed at the right time and within the soil, it is the most sustainable source of fertility for our states farmers. The public expects farmers to do what is right and follow the law. As farmers, we share that same expectation and commitment.

She alleges that only a fraction of feedlots in Dodge County have well permits or manure management plans on file with the county. That may be true but the vast majority of feedlots in the county do not need a well permit because they do not draw more than one million gallons of water a year, which triggers the need for a permit. Either the farm is small or medium size or they have implemented conservation technologies to minimize water use, meaning no well permit is required. Technology has allowed pig farms to use 41 percent less water per pound of pork raised compared to when our parents or grandparents raised pigs.

Her claim that most feedlots in the county do not have manure management plans filed with the county may also be true but only because most of them are small or medium size farms. By law only larger farms are required to file manure management plants. Her omission of this detail suggests that almost all are not complying with the law, which is simply not true.

She also raises the red herring of wells going dry caused by feedlots in Dodge County. The DNR is required to investigate these allegations and to date in Dodge County the DNR has not found any basis to support Ms. Eayrs' claims.

I am afraid that the rest of Ms. Eayrs' letter does not provide any more "data or proof" on much of anything other than the fact her parents did not want the feedlot built. I can understand that, but to blame others and to spread false information to bolster her case is not ethical and does not help anyone make sound judgments on managing our state resources. It only pollutes the discussion.

Lori Stevermer, is a hog farmer near Easton, Minn.

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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Second Front Page

Community's quick reaction saves life



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Christopher Johnson of Owatonna survived a harrowing rescue after becoming engulfed in grain at his nephew's farm north of Geneva in Freeborn County last Wednesday morning. Johnson was trapped inside the bin for more than two hours as at least 50 emergency workers and other people came to his rescue. After he was freed, Mayo One flew him to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester where he was released the next day.

I'm one of the very lucky ones. I sometimes wondered if I would just pass out and that would be it. It was very scary.

Christopher Johnson
Grain Bin Survivor

GRAIN RESCUE

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except for "little biddy sips of air" here and there.

"I just knew I had to slow my breathing down to next to nothing so I wouldn't keep heaving my chest," Johnson said, adding breathing would have only made things worse by allowing more corn to pile onto him.

As for the pain, Johnson said it felt like "800 pounds of pressure" on his legs and about 400 pounds on his hips.

Said Johnson: "The pressure was just unbelievable. It was so intense that I thought I was caught in the auger."

A Harrowing Rescue

Johnson was helping his nephew unload corn last Wednesday morning. When an auger became plugged up, Johnson went inside the bin to investigate. Clutching a 15-foot pole, Johnson tried to break a crust that had formed so the corn could pass through.

Suddenly without warning, the crust broke and Johnson plunged into flowing grain. Within seconds, he became engulfed in about 11 feet of corn. A cleanup trip turned into a struggle for life.

He remained conscious the entire time and recalls hearing "blood curdling screams" from his brother who was at the top of the bin holding the rope. "I'm totally shocked he has a voice left," Johnson later said.

After Johnson became engulfed in the corn, his nephew, Chad Johnson, and other family members tried to rescue him by lowering plywood into the bin. "Once we got the boards in there, I realized we wouldn't get him out," Chad Johnson said, adding they decided to call 911 for help.

Sheriff Freitag said the family members stopped and waited for help when the "grain started sliding down like a mini-avalanche."

Chad stayed in the bin with his uncle and made efforts to keep him calm. But it was not an easy battle. "I couldn't move at all. If I did, it would have made in worse for him," Chad said. He added he had to work at keeping himself calm without panicking.

While Johnson clung to life inside the grain bin, at least 50 people raced to save him in a dramatic rescue attempt outside. Sheriff's deputies from Freeborn County, EMS workers and firefighters from numerous agencies as well as family, friends and neighbors dropped everything to scramble in an effort to free Johnson.

Johnson admits he had no idea from inside the bin how much commotion he created in the rescue effort. "I had no idea that there were more than five people here," he said.

Ellendale Fire Department showed up with a "rescue tube" that had just been donated to the department for grain rescues within the past year by local grain operator Sun Opta of Hope.

Firefighters carefully placed the rescue tube around Johnson to prevent more corn from avalanching over his head.

It was outside the bin where frantic efforts took place to remove the grain and rescue Johnson. Workers cut holes into the metal sides of the bin so grain would fall out. Rescuers took turns shoveling corn around the bin and utilizing skid steers and other equipment to make room for more grain outside of the bin.

"We had an amazing amount of help," said Johnson's nephew, Chad.

Escaped Injury

As the rescue went on, Johnson kept thinking to himself that there would be no way he could last this long.

The other thought Johnson had while being buried in the corn concerned his mother. In 1968, Johnson's mother experienced the death of a daughter from the Hong Kong flu. "That affected my parents unbelievably," Johnson said. "I thought I'm not going to do this to my mom again."

Rescuers finally got Johnson freed after two hours of frantic work. Johnson remembers being "so weak, but still conscious" when he was strapped to a backboard and taken to an awaiting medical helicopter. Mayo One flew Johnson to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester where he was held for observation and released the next day without a bruise, scrape or broken bone.

After being allowed to go home, Johnson said his phone blew up with family and friends checking in on him. "I had to shut the phone off last night because I had to get some sleep," Johnson said Friday afternoon. "It's been so overwhelming,"

Johnson said he believes his scuba diving experience had a major effect in keeping him alive in the grain bin. With scuba diving, "you really are controlling your breathing if you want the air to last in your tank," he said, adding in the grain bin he had to focus on his breathing to make his air last.

Overwhelming Help

Nobody has an official count, but there were at least 50 people helping in Johnson's rescue last week.

"This whole episode just blows me away," Johnson said, "It's hard to believe."

Johnson knows he owes his life to the EMS workers, firefighters, deputies, neighbors, family members and others who pitched in to save his life. "Without the whole community, I wouldn't be here," he said.

In addition to the various rescue vehicles that converged on the scene, neighbors and workers from area farm businesses brought tractors, skid steers, grain vacuums and a crane to help with the rescue.

Johnson doesn't know where to begin thanking everyone for their help in giving him a new lease on life. "It's called how can you possibly say thank you to all those involved," he said.

He estimates that he has helped neighbors in trouble at least a dozen times over the years. "What goes around comes around, I guess. I'm just sorry they had to come around for me," Johnson said.

Helping others has always been in Johnson's nature. "You can bet if something happens to a neighbor, I'll be right there to help," he said. "It's the Christian thing to do."

And don't think for a moment that last week's near-death experience will keep Johnson away from the farm. In fact, on the day he was released from the hospital, he was ready to come back and help, but was told by other family members he needed to wait.

"I love to help here on the farm," he said. "It's a great day to be alive."

Faith & Scuba Diving

Johnson credits his harrowing survival to two things— his lifelong faith in God and his scuba diving hobby, which he just took up in recent years.

"Faith has always been a major part of my life," Johnson says.

He admits he was prepared to die if it had been God's will to take him. "But I was going to hang on to the bitter end," he said. "God has a plan for every one of us."

Throughout the ordeal, Johnson recalls saying "prayers many, many times" over again. He said he asked God to "watch over my kids, grand kids and my mom." He has five grandchildren all under 10 years old.

After he was rescued, Johnson said, "I'm so thankful my grand kids don't have to go through anything horrible like grandpa's funeral."

The other thing that contributed to Johnson's survival is a hobby he took up six years ago. He learned how to scuba dive and now takes as many as three major trips to places like Mexico each year.

We had a happy ending. This stuff is like quick sand. This guy is pretty lucky.

Sheriff Kurt Freitag
Freeborn County

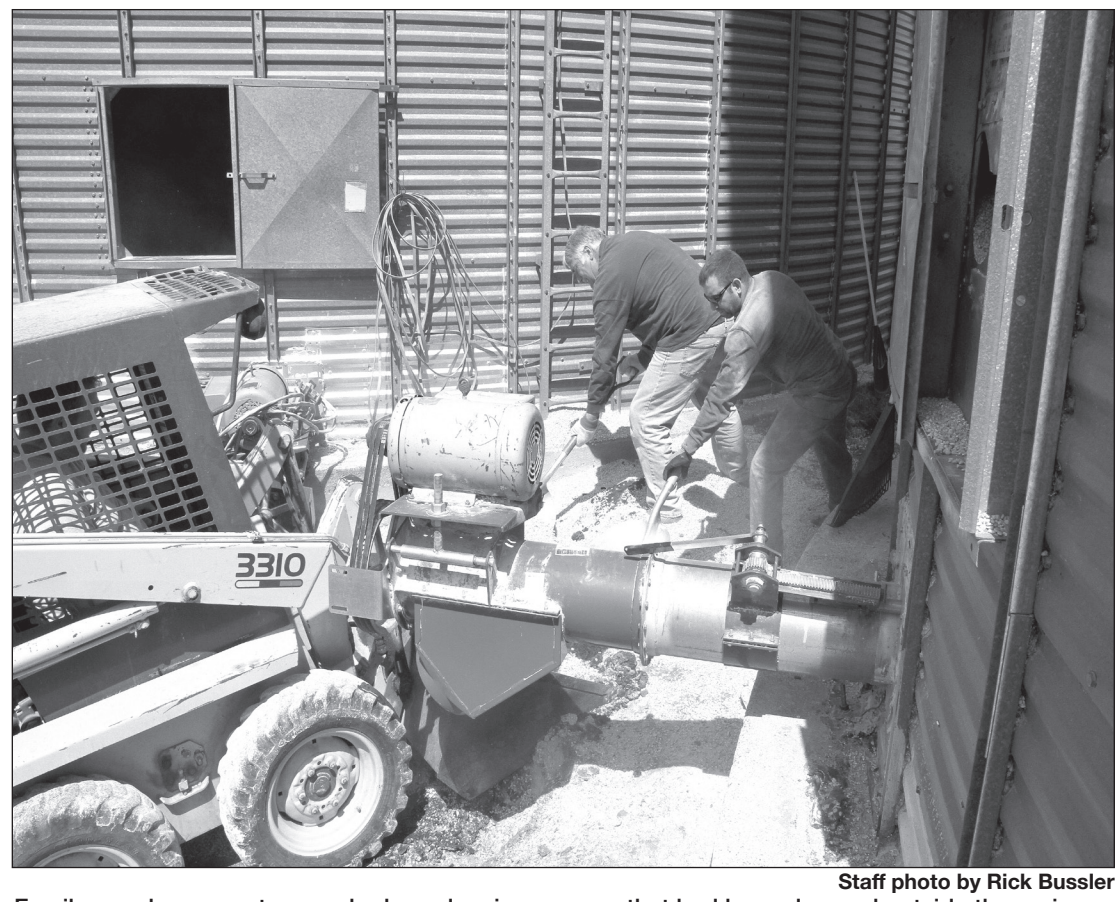
Safety precautions urged around grain bins

Amber waves of grain across American farms can prove to be deadly. Farming is one of the most dangerous workplaces in the country.

One of the leading causes of death on farms is death by suffocation of grain. In 2010, 51 workers were engulfed by grain stored in bins, and 26 died, according to a report by Purdue University.

The University of Minnesota Extension offers some safety precautions around grain bins to prevent tragedies from taking place:

- Have three people involved when you enter a grain bin and enter with a rope and safety harness.
- Never attempt a rescue by going into the grain yourself. Call 911 immediately.
- Keep children out of grain bins, beds and wagons at all times.
- Don't count on someone outside the bin to hear you shout.
- Begin rescue operations immediately by cutting large holes around the bin, about 5 feet up from the base, to empty grain.
- Lock out the control circuit before entering a bin, whether or not grain is flowing.
- If you become trapped in a bin of flowing grain with nothing to hold onto but you are able to walk, stay near the outside wall. Keep walking until the bin is empty or grain flow stops.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Family members spent a couple days cleaning up corn that had been dumped outside the grain bins to rescue Christopher Johnson last week. Once the corn was loaded into a skid steer, it had to be cleaned prior to being shipped off to market.

Public Safety

Blotter Spotlight:
Animal. On May 19 at 11:45 a.m., deputies received a report that a large snake was wrapped around an A/C unit in the 600 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

State: Deputy's off-duty death was job-related

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A high level of on-going stress on the job led to the death of a high-ranking officer in the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, a state agency has ruled.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has determined that Captain Loring Guenther's death was job-related even though he died in his home off-duty in September 2013. With the ruling, Guenther becomes the third officer who has died in the line of duty in Dodge County and his family will receive state and federal benefits earmarked for officer deaths.

Guenther was added to the state list as the 273rd officer lost in the line of duty in Minnesota. Last week during National Police Week, Guenther's death was publicly recognized for the first time as a line of duty death at state and local memorial services.

"It's pretty important to everyone in our office that (Loring) be recognized for his service," said Sheriff Scott Rose. "It was bittersweet. They felt he deserved it," he said. However, he added, it was emotionally tough on everyone because "it was like going through the funeral all over again."

The ruling about Guenther and subsequent memorial last week has provided a level of closure for some within the sheriff's office, Rose said.

The other Dodge County officers included on the police deaths list are Gregory Lange, Claremont Police chief gunned down in 1988 and Ole Havey, Hayfield officer shot to death in 1905.

Rose said DPS conducted a three-month investigation into Guenther's death before making the determination. The investigation included DPS officials interviewing members of the sheriff's office, Rose said.

The state investigation, Rose said, found Guenther had an enlarged heart caused by acute daily stress on the job. The enlarged heart had not been detected prior to Guenther's death. It was also found after he died that he was also in the beginning stages of coronary artery disease that had gone unnoticed.


Guenther

Both factors contributed to a massive heart attack in which Guenther died at his house on Sept. 10, 2013 just a short time after he arrived home from work at the sheriff's office.

The sheriff admits that such a ruling as Guenther's is unique to law enforcement. Rose said in the line of duty deaths most often occur at work during or immediately after stressful situations such as shootings, assaults or accidents.

Rose said there were a lot of things going on in the sheriff's office at the time of Guenther's death. "This came after long-term stress in the work place," he said. "He had a stressful work environment with his job with the administration at the time," he added.

Guenther worked under Sheriff Jim Jensen at the time of his death. After continued turmoil in the sheriff's office for quite some time, Jensen lost his bid for re-election last fall to Rose, who had been an investigator under Jensen.

"We have learned the hard way how a stressful (work) environment can affect your health," Rose said.

Asked what he is doing differently to create a better work environment from the previous sheriff, Rose responded: "My leadership philosophy is very different. I'm always positive and I encourage and support my people. I don't believe in discipline-based management."

Rose said the entire environment within the sheriff's office has changed since he took office in January. "It's such a more positive attitude here," he said.

Guenther had been with the sheriff's office for about 20 years at the time he died. Even though he grew up in the Twin Cities, he quickly became acclimated to Dodge County according to Rose. "It didn't take long for him to feel like he was a local guy," he said.

Co-workers described Guenther as being someone who would do anything for them, a strong, kind, thoughtful and humble leader.

Rose credited Guenther with making the sheriff's office a place where people wanted to work their entire careers instead of using it as a stepping-stone to other agencies. Guenther worked tirelessly at creating good pay and improving training and technology for the department, Rose said.

Efforts to reach DPS officials for comment about this investigation were unsuccessful.

Fire restarts causing damage

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A morning garbage fire rekindled later in the day on May 21 in a farmyard, got into a pile of logs and then the wind pushed it into some grassland.

There was no monetary damage to any of the property, said Blooming Prairie Fire Chief Dean Naatz.

"The cause was due to burning some garbage early in the morning," Naatz said. "It burned out and they left. Due to the wind the fire restarted. Ashes blew and caught the logs."

The fire occurred on the 3100 block of 128th Street. The fire call went out at 6:20 p.m. and the fire crews got back around 9:30 p.m.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department responded to the fire and then called for the Ellendale Fire Department for water and additional manpower. Hollandale, Geneva and Clarks Grove fire departments also assisted with the fire.

"The toughest part was the fire was all in a remote set aside land," Naatz said. "It was kind of tough to get ahead of it."

Naatz said it is important to be careful where you burn and realize that even though it is wet and rainy, there is still dead grass out there. "It does still burn especially with the wind," he said. 'You have to be careful where you burn."


Staff photo by Jamie Klemmensen
A garbage fire rekindled and spread to some grassland on May 21.

Public Safety briefs

Hayfield house fire sends 3 to hospital

Three people have been hospitalized after their house caught on fire Memorial Day night in Hayfield.

Sheriff Scott Rose said a woman and two of her children were taken by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester for smoke inhalation. Their conditions were unknown at press time.

Hayfield Fire responded to the blaze in the 100 block of Second Avenue SE just before midnight on Memorial Day. When deputies and firefighters arrived, there was heavy smoke coming from the basement windows. The occupants of the house had made it out safely prior to the arrival of emergency personnel, according to Rose.

Firefighters were on the scene until about 2 a.m. Tuesday.

The State Fire Marshall has been called in to investigate the blaze, but preliminary indications are that a candle burning in the basement caused it, Rose said.

Police blotter
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

May 19

Crash. Police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 4:19 p.m. A citation was issued to one of the drivers.

Owatonna Police

May 15

Burglaries. Two burglaries occurred throughout the day – at 7:53 a.m. in the 900 block of Vine St. E. and at 2:51 p.m. in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE.

Juvenile. Officers received a juvenile complaint from the 300 block of School St. E. at 8:57 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:03 a.m.

Vandalism. Officer took property damage report in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 2:33 p.m.

Warrants. Police made three warrant arrests – in the 1100 block of Hawthorne Ave. SW at 4:50 p.m., in the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW at 5:10 p.m. and in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 11:56 p.m.

May 16

Suspicion. At 2:09 a.m., officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 100 block of St. John Dr. NW.

Assault. Police arrested a subject following an assault in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 2:06 a.m.

Shoplifting. At 9:42 a.m., police responded to a shoplifting incident in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 10:09 a.m.

Drunken Driving. Police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 7th Ave. NE and Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 9:53 p.m.

Arrest. Officers arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:28 p.m.

May 17

Warrants. Officers arrested two adults for outstanding warrants. The arrests were at 12:17 a.m. in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. and at 1:45 p.m. in the 400 block of State Ave. NW.

Assist. At 1:58 p.m., police assisted another agency with arresting an adult in the 400 block of Morning Dr. SE.

Mental Health. Officer took mental health report in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 7:06 p.m.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 7:14 p.m.

May 18

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 4:23 p.m.

Vandalism. At 10:50 p.m., officer took property damage report in the 300 block of School St. W.

Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 600 block of Mound St. SW at 11:35 p.m. An adult was arrested at the scene.

May 19

Child Protection. At 3:20 p.m., officer took a child protection report in the 700 block of Havana Rd. SE.

Theft. A theft report was received from the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 7:33 p.m.

May 20

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 1900 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 1:49 a.m.

Child Protection. Police took a child protection report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:17 a.m.

Assault. At 8:04 a.m., police responded to an assault in the 200 block of 18th St. SW.

Animal. Officers responded to the 200 block of Nature Valley Place NW for an animal call at 12:23 p.m.

May 21

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 2100 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 2:22 p.m.

Restraining Order. At 2:45 p.m., officers received a report that a restraining order was violated in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.

Steele County Sheriff

May 16

Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at 168th St. SE and 54th Ave. SE at 5:08 a.m.

May 17

Domestic. At 2:51 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW. They arrested a subject at the scene.

May 19

Vandalism. Deputy took property damage report at 128th St. SE and 54th Ave. SE at 2:40 p.m.

May 21

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 3300 block of 28th St. SW at 12:29 p.m.

Theft. At 5:09 p.m., deputy took theft report in the 7800 block of 48th St. SE.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 11 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Joseph J. Trcka, 24, Rice County Jail, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. He was sentenced to $131, and 52 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Tessa A. Sjol, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of narcotics. Sjol was sentenced to $181, 47 days in county jail, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 11 – 15:

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Sudhanya Banerjee, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, $141; Mary L. Fisher, 51, St. Peter, speeding, $121; Lauren K. Grunklee, 16, Claremont, speeding, $131; Reese W. Hageman, 29, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Thomas J. Hart, 26, Minneapolis, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, $181;

Ben G. Hiniker, 85, Owatonna, driving wrong way on one way street, $181; Phillip D. Holm, 52, Edina, speeding, $221; Dennis D. Lemon, 72, Spring Valley, speeding, $121; Karl D. Mertins, 32, West Concord, seat belt, $106; Devon C. Miller, 38, Sauk Rapids, speeding, $121; Nicholas J. Miller, 26, Austin, speeding, $121;

Cynthia L. Morgan, 33, Savage, speeding, $121; Ernesto R. Quezada, 24, New Richland, speeding, $141; Wade A. Schroeder, 50, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Stacy L. Spurlock, 42, Columbia, MO, speeding, $221; Andres Vazquez Ramos, 35, Albert Lea, invalid license and speeding, $241; Andrea N. White, 41, Vermillion, SD, speeding, $131.

Owatonna Police Department

Aaron L. Ackland, 35, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Logan E. Brantley, 25, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Shankar R. Durairaj, 29, Owatonna, no MN license, $181;

Jeffrey N. Gamble, 29, Owatonna, domestic assault, $181, 28 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Tiffany D. Hall, 43, shoplifting, $181; Ronald D. Heard, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, $181, 6 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Taylor R. Jacobs, 20, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $181; Jimmy J. Jorgensen, 39, Owatonna, suspended license, $100 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Jon-Erik R. Meier, 27, Owatonna, DWI, $981, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

James D. Minter, 32, theft, $181 and 138 days in county jail; Aimee J. Palmer, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Kimberly J. Prusha, 28, Owatonna, theft, $2,223.91, 1 day in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Patrick C. Rose, 45, Owatonna, failure to yield, $131; Kelly A. Tysdale, 28, domestic assault, $131 and 90 days in county jail; Darrien D. Walker, 46, Owatonna, DWI, $581, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 208 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Robert G. Zwart, 45, Farmington, DWI, $1,081, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, comply with Ignition Interlock Program and 1 year of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Jared L. Aas, 40, Owatonna, careless driving and possession of Marijuana, $281, 4 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, and 1 year of supervised probation; Mary M. Alexander, 64, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Melissa J. Anderson, 43, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Aaron A. Armstrong, 40, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Collin A. Bremer, 19, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $181;

Mitchell J. Cocchiarella, 51, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Thomas A. Corriveau, 52, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Tyler D. Demars, 20, Medford, seat belt, $106; Jairo E. Garcia, 23, Faribault, assault, $131 and 90 days in county jail; Antonio M. Jandro, 19, Owatonna, permit violation, $131; Brady L. Jensen, 28, Ellendale, speeding, $141; Russell L. Kephart Jr., 62, Madison Lake, DWI, $606, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA, comply with Ignition Interlock program and 3 years of supervised probation;

Deborah L. Litke, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Samuel E. Logue, 41, Kasson, speeding, $131; Jesse D. Low, 19, Worthington, speeding, $121; Sheldan C. Luna, 19, Waseca, speeding, $141; Rogelio G. Nieves, 34, St. Peter, speeding, $131; Gary E. Ravnkilde, 71, Waseca, speeding, $131; Adam C. Ulrich, 26, Owatonna, speeding, $281; Alexander T. Willcox, 19, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $181.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 281 complaints for the week of May 13 – 19. Some of them include:

May 13

Domestic. Deputies responded

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 5A

Alleged drunk driver rams squad car

A suspected drunken driver is accused of backing into a squad car and causing significant front end damage.

Owatonna Police stopped a vehicle for failing to come to a complete stop at a stop sign and crossing over the centerline May 16. As the officer began approaching the vehicle on foot, he saw the reverse lights on the suspect vehicle come on and the vehicle began backing up.

The officer yelled for the driver to stop, but not before he backed into the front of the squad car, police said.

According to police, the driver showed signs of intoxication and failed field sobriety tests. Michael A. Sorenson, 43, was arrested for drunken driving and taken to the Steele County Jail where he consented to a breath test of .24, which is three times the legal limit to drive.


Sorenson

Sorenson has been charged with two counts of second-degree DWI, which are gross misdemeanors.

His 2001 Ford Expedition was also seized and is subject to forfeiture.

Police said the officer was not injured, but the city's police car will need about $2,400 in repairs.

Felony burglary charges filed

A suspicious person call has led to felony charges against a Dodge Center man.

Michael T. Hokanson, 20, has been charged with second-degree burglary and possession of burglary tools in Steele County District Court.

Owatonna Police responded to the Pit Stop Laundry on Mound Street May 18. When officers arrived, they found Hokanson and a juvenile outside the building. Police found both carrying folding knives, which officers believe were going to be used to gain access into vending machines in the laundromat.

Police said both Hokanson and the juvenile admitted they intended to steal from the business. Officers took both into custody, but later released the juvenile to a parent. The juvenile will be charged at a later time.


Hokanson

Hokanson appeared in court and the judge set bail at $5,000. He will appear in court again next month.

If Hokanson is convicted of the felony charges, he faces a maximum sentence of 13 years in prison and $25,000 in fines.

Fire damages rural BP house

A faulty dehumidifier is believed to have caused a fire at a rural Blooming Prairie house over the Memorial Day weekend.

Blooming Prairie Fire responded to the blaze at the Adam Thoen residence on 124th Avenue in Westfield Township around 8:30 Sunday night. All four family members in the house got out safely and were not injured.

Fire chief Dean Naatz said the homeowner noticed the fire by turning on an exhaust fan in the bathroom. A short time later the smoke detectors went off.

It took firefighters about a half hour to knock down the blaze. The fire department was on the scene for about four hours. Hayfield Fire provided mutual aide.

Naatz said a dehumidifier in a crawl space by the basement caused the fire. There was no major structural damage, he added.

MnDOT's spring road cleaning includes a magnet pluck pesky metal

MnDOT's spring road cleaning includes a magnet to pluck pesky metal hazards

Motorists on some of southeastern Minnesota's busiest highways will likely see a slow moving group of Minnesota Department of Transportation trucks this spring along the shoulder of the road. Give them room. They're clearing the path to make your travels safer.

MnDOT uses a truck outfitted with an eight-foot wide magnet to drive slowly along the road shoulders to pick up nails, screws, wire and other metal that can cause flat tires and be hazardous to vehicles.

It's part of the annual spring cleaning that MnDOT conducts on state highways to get ready for summer travel and construction season. Shoulders are also swept and bridges are flushed with fresh water to clear the remnants of winter's snow and salt treatment.

Work has occurred or is planned on Interstates 35 and 90, Highways 3, 14, 19, 52, 56 and 61.

The magnet effort helps clear the shoulders for motorists, but also aids MnDOT vehicles, which are often doing work that requires driving along the road shoulders.

The truck moves at approximately 5 to 10 mph and is followed by warning trucks to make sure motorists use another lane to give the crews a safe cushion of space. Crews will often be able to fill a 5-gallon pail with various metal objects plucked by the magnet, including nails, screws and springs.

MnDOT urges motorists to follow these recommendations in work zones:

- Stay alert
- Watch for signs, equipment and workers
- Minimize distractions, such as using cell phones, eating or drinking
- Avoid tailgating
- Follow posted speed limits and directional signs
- Stay in one lane while driving through a work zone

For real-time traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit www.511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

Learn more about Minnesota's investment in and maintenance of the state's transportation system at MnDOT's "Get Connected" site www.dot.state.mn.us/getconnected/.

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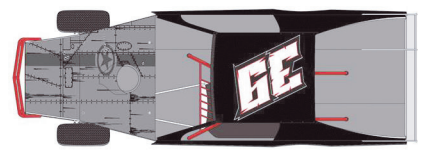





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FARM LIVING PLUS

Winning honors by handling dairy cows

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Her love of handling dairy cattle has earned Blooming Prairie High School junior Kalyn Naatz a second place finish in the state for her Dairy Handling CDE at the FFA State Convention.

"This meant a lot," Naatz said. "The whole day I was nervous."

She found out she had placed in the top five and felt that was a huge accomplishment right there. "It didn't matter what place I got there," Naatz said. "When they started calling from fifth it was a big honor."

Naatz, daughter of Doug and Holli Naatz, found her love for the dairy cattle on her grandparents milking farm. She spent a majority of her time on the farm. Dairy cattle and rabbits were the first thing she started hosting in 4-H.

"I always stuck with dairy, because that is what I knew best," she said. "It made my grandparents happy."

Dairy handling is showmanship and is not based on how an animal looks or how it acts. "You are showing the animal and how you can handle it if it does act up," Naatz said.

She has been showing dairy cattle since she was a 5-year-old Clover Bud in 4-H. "It was perfect for me," she said. "Showmanship is what I can take pride in. I can show my talents."

During the competition at the University of Minnesota, Naatz did not know what animal she would be getting. She started with a calf, then had a heifer and finished with a 4-year-old cow in her call back class.

"I'm used to handling all types," Naatz said. "The last round call back I had a pretty crazy cow to work with."

In general, Naatz said dairy animals are easy to understand. "You just have to understand how to handle them and what to do and what not to do," she added. "You have to stay calm."

The major challenge was trying to get them set up, which Naatz said is a matter of changing positions quickly. "It is hard if you don't know what kind of animal you are handling," she said.

When handling dairy cattle, Naatz said it feels like you are on top of the world. "Dairy handling is based on you. You are in charge of that animal," she said.

Naatz said this award will definitely push her to never give up. "I've always made it to state every year for dairy handling. This coming year I hope to place first," she said. "You always want to improve and there is room for improvement. I have one more year to reach my goal."



Submitted photo

Blooming Prairie junior Kalyn Naatz recently earned a second-place finish at the FFA State Convention handling dairy cattle.

USDA reminds farmers to certify conservation compliance by June 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reminds farmers to file a Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form (AD-1026) with their local USDA Service Center by June 1, 2015.

The 2014 Farm Bill requires producers to have the form on file in order to remain eligible, or to become eligible for crop insurance premium support.

Many farmers already have a certification form on file since it's required for participation in most USDA programs including marketing assistance loans, farm storage facility loans and disaster assistance. However, farmers who only participate in the federal crop insurance program must now file a certification form to receive crop insurance premium support.

These producers might include specialty crop farmers who may not participate in other USDA programs.

The Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form AD-1026 is available at local USDA Service Centers or online at www.fsa.usda.gov/AD-1026form.

When a farmer completes this form, USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff will identify any additional actions that may be required for compliance with highly erodible land and wetland provisions.

USDA's Risk Management Agency, through the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, manages the federal crop insurance program.

USDA has implemented many provisions of this critical legislation, providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Field activities for the week included applying fertilizer, spreading manure, and planting.

Scattered showers and snow helped improve topsoil moisture supplies to 2 percent very short, 29 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 4 percent very short, 35 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus.

Minnesota's corn planting reached 38 percent complete, 18 days ahead of last year and 9 days ahead of the five-year average. A few farmers in southwest Minnesota have started to plant soybeans. While small grain seeding was at least 3 weeks ahead of average, cool soil temperatures have slowed emergence to slightly ahead of average.

Seventy percent of the oat acreage was seeded and 23 percent had emerged. Spring wheat was 81 percent planted, five weeks ahead of last year.

Pasture condition rated 83 percent fair to excellent, up 3 percentage points from the previous week. Pastures are turning green, but have little growth. Farmers in central Minnesota were worried about the extent of winterkill in alfalfa and the possible need to reseed acres.

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How to find and choose a new doctor

Dear Savvy Senior,
What resources can you recommend to help me find and research some doctors in my area? I'm looking for a good primary care doctor or internist for my elderly parents, and need to locate a good orthopedic doctor for me.

Shopping for Doctors

Dear Shopping,
Thanks to the Internet, finding and researching doctors is a lot easier than it use to be. Today, there's a wide variety of websites you can turn to that provide databases of U.S. doctors, their professional medical histories, and ratings and reviews from past patients on a number of criteria. Here are some of the best sites available, along with a few additional tips that can help you find the right doctors.

Locating Tips
To help you locate some doctors in your area, a good first step, and one that doesn't require a computer, is to ask for a referral. Contact some other doctors, nurses, or health care professionals that you know, for some names of doctors or practices that they like and trust.

You should also call your insurance provider, or visit their website directory to get a list of potential candidates. If you or your parents are Medicare beneficiaries, you can use the Physician Compare tool at medicare.gov/physiciancompare. This will let you find doctors by name, medical specialty or by geographic location that accept original Medicare. You can also get this information by calling Medicare at 800-633-4227.

Once you find a few doctors, you need to call their office to verify that they still accept your insurance, and if they are accepting new patients.

Research Tools
After you find a few doctors you're interested in, there are lots of online resources you can turn to, to help you check up on them.

For example, you can find out if a doctor is board certified at the American Board of Medical Specialties at certificationmatters.org or call 866-275-2267. And to learn about malpractice claims and disciplinary actions taken against doctors, you can use your state medical board – see fsmb.org/state-medical-boards/contacts to search your state.

Here are some other good websites that can help you find and/or research doctors in your area for free.

Healthgrades.com: This comprehensive easy-to-use site provides doctor's information on education and training, hospital affiliations, board certification, awards and recognitions, professional misconduct, disciplinary action and malpractice records, office locations and insurance plans. It also offers a 5-stwar ratings scale from past patients on a number of issues like communication and listening skills, wait time, time spent with the patient, office friendliness and more.

Vitals.com: Provides background information on doctor's awards, expertise, hospital affiliations, and insurance as well as patient ratings on measures such as bedside manner, follow-up, promptness, accuracy of diagnosis, and average wait time. There's also a patient comment section.

RateMDs.com: Provides information on training as well as patient ratings on staff, punctuality, helpfulness and knowledge. Patients can also post questions and answers about doctors, and get doctor's ratings based on patient reviews.

Look Up Tool: If you want to find out how many times a doctor did a particular service and what they charge for it, go to data.cms.gov and click on "Medicare Physician and Other Supplier Look-up Tool" at the top of the page.

AngiesList.com: If you don't mind spending a little money ($20/per year), Angie's List is a membership service that provides doctor reviews using an A through F scale.

When reaching a doctor, it's wise to check out several of these sites so you can get a bigger sampling and a better feel of how previous patients are rating a particular doctor.

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 24, 2005

The school board approved the expansion of the preschool/school readiness program starting Fall 2005.

Amy Bohn, the current preschool teacher will be offering an optional day of preschool to her students each Friday during the school year. Bohn feels the extra day will aid the children in learning and skills that will be needed for kindergarten. The fee that will be charged for this additional day will offset the additional salary and supplies fee.

Superintendent Barry Olson discussed the re-implementation of the school's show choir with the board. The school board approved the move and agreed with Olson and the vocal music teacher that the choir would benefit the students.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 30, 1995

Jeff and Karen Krier, Cottage Grove, are the parents of a baby girl born May 8, 1995, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Kelly Marie has one brother, Cody. Grandparents are Ozie and Shirley Krier, Hastings and Paul and Bernice Stender, Blooming Prairie. Great-grandparents are Lottie Schmidt, Wykoff and August Stender, Sprig Valley.

Inga Johnson, 96, died Saturday, May 20, 1995 at Prairie Manor Nursing Home in Blooming Prairie. She was born on July 11, 1898 in Norway to Ole and Anna (Albertson) Johnson. They came to Blooming Prairie in the early 1900s. Inga moved to Faribault State School and Hospital at the age of 18. She moved to Westside Board and Care, in Owatonna, in the 1970s, where she loved until December of 1992. She then moved to Prairie Manor where she lived until her death.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
May 27, 1965

Baccalaureate services for the 1965 graduating class at Blooming Prairie High School will be held next Sunday evening, May 30, in the school auditorium, starting at 8:00 o'clock. Eighty-seven seniors, along with relatives and friends of the graduates, will this traditional service. Rev. T. J. Vinger, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, will deliver the Baccalaureate address.

Nels E. Lostegaard, highly esteemed lifelong resident of the Red Oak Grove community, passed away at 1:10 p.m. Sunday, May 23, at the St. Olaf Hospital, Austin. He was 93 years, 8 months of age at the time of his death.

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

Eight Blooming Prairie Boy Scouts were advanced to the rank of First Class at a court of honor for the local troop and the two troops of Owatonna at the Community Building last Thursday night. Lloyd Johnson, Clair Johnson, Charles Ressler, Laverne Eisman, Henry Rockne, Darrell Rasmussen, Chester Underwood and Clifford Madsen were the local boys to advance to First Class, the first boys in this community to obtain the rank.

Nine boys of Troop 41 received their Second Class awards. They were Ernie Betlach, John Peterson, Richard Tucker, Billy Shaw, George Johnson, Thomas Oswald, Donald Ditlevson, Leonard Vandenbrook and Robert Hawkins. As a tribute to their mothers, each of the boys receiving advancement awards gave their mothers miniature replicas of the award they won.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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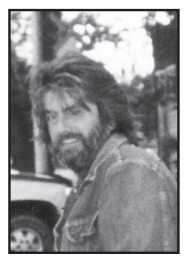
Community

Obituaries

Jerald Cartin, 66, formerly of Blooming Prairie



Jerald Alan Cartin died on Monday, May 18, 2015, at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Jerald was born on July 12, 1948, in Owatonna, the son of Thomas and Ethel (Borchard) Cartin. He also considered Bob and Norma Long as parents. He grew up and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1966.

Following high school, Jerald served in the U. S. Army in Vietnam. After his time in the service he worked various jobs. He was a tree trimmer and a custodian at the Waseca County Courthouse. Jerald went back to school and earned his welding certificate. He worked for Crossroads Trailer after finishing school.

He has been the owner/operator of his own trucking business since 1979, recently retiring due to health concerns. Later in his life, he enjoyed farming with the Kuethe family on their farm.

Jerald was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and a life member of the Harley Owners Group. He gave anonymously to many charitable causes over the years. Blessed be his memory.

Survivors include his son, Thomas of Hollandale; stepsons Todd and Travis Sailor; the light of his life, his granddaughter Liberty Anne Cartin; sisters Mary and Carol, and Norma Long; and several nieces and nephews.

Jerald was preceded in death by his parents; by Bob Long; his brother Thomas; and his nephew, Mark.

Funeral service was held on May 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Newry Township.

Bayview/Freeborn Funeral Home is assisting the family. Online condolences are welcome at www.bayviewfuneral.com.

Vlasta Johnson, 87, formerly of Austin



Vlasta Johnson, 87 formerly of Austin, died Monday, May 18, 2015, at the Good Samaritan Care Center in Albert Lea.

Vlasta Hrabak was born August 7, 1927, in London Township of Freeborn County, the daughter of Josef and Wilhelmina (Kopp) Hrabak. She graduated from Austin High School.

Vlasta worked as a secretary for the Charles Fox Candy Company in Austin. Vlasta married Dale Alden Johnson on June 22, 1947 at London, Minnesota.

Vlasta was a long time member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. After starting her family, she was a "stay at home" wife and mother. She enjoyed sewing, knitting and playing cards with the neighbors. Vlasta loved spending time with the grandchildren and the great grandchildren, enjoying their many sleepovers at "Grandma V's".

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Dale, sister MaryAnn Rezac and brother Joseph Hrabak.

Vlasta is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law: Darlane and Robert Muilenburg, Hollandale, Diane and Michael Runtsch, Forest Lake, Minnesota, and Deloris and Steven Ashton, Blooming Prairie; nine grandsons and wives: Chad and Allison Muilenburg, Mark and Holly Muilenburg, Adam Muilenburg, Kyle and Cathy Runtsch, Brendt Runtsch, Nathan Runtsch, Ryan and Jordan Ashton, Derek Ashton and Tyler and Danica Ashton; 11 great grandchildren; and sister Emily DeVriendt, Austin.

Funeral services were held on Friday, May 22, at St. Olaf Lutheran Church with Todd Portinga, AiM officiating.

Lyle Sargent, 89, Hayfield



Lyla Sargent, 89, passed away on May 21, 2015, at her home at Susie's Place in Hayfield.

Lyla was born on July 22, 1925, the daughter of Lyle and Amiee (Cobban) Worden in Minneapolis. She attended Robinsdale High School graduating in 1943. Following high school she attended the U of M graduating in Home Economics. On June 29th, 1946, Lyla was united in marriage to Dale Edward Sargent in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. They raised three children. In 1957, Lyla and Dale moved to Hayfield, where they owned and published the Hayfield Herald until 1985, when they retired. After retirement, Lyla Mary worked for the city of Hayfield for a number of years. She enjoyed music, reading, watching birds, flowers and singing in the church choir, was a member of circle, study club, and music club. Lyla Mary loved spending time with family and friends. She was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church in Hayfield.

Lyla is survived by her children, James Sargent, Duluth, Jill Matthiesen, Hayfield, and Patricia (Kelly) Njos, Blooming Prairie; four granddaughters, Brooke (Zack) Downey, Kate (Marty) Hinz, Emma Sargent and Nicole (Mike) Schneider; and three great grandsons, Reilly and Rauhan Downey and Tucker Schneider. In death, she was preceded by her parents; husband, Dale; grandson, James Matthiesen; one brother, Russell; and two sisters, Roberta and Maurine.

The funeral service for Lyla Mary Sargent will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church, 109 Main Street East in Hayfield with Reverend Charlie Talcott officiating. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery in Hayfield.

Visitation will be 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Home, 501 2nd Street NW in Hayfield and one hour before the service at the church on Wednesday. Blessed be her memory.

Judith Kollar, 69, Blooming Prairie

Judith Kae (Decker) Kollar, 69, of Blooming Prairie, passed away quietly in her home on May 11, 2015, from complications of COPD while in hospice care.

Judy was born in Austin to Tony and Alice (Christensen) Decker on Feb. 16, 1946. She graduated from Austin High School in 1964 then went on to graduate from Austin Technical School, becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Judy and Stephen (Tom) Kollar were married on Sept. 25, 1976, and made their home in Blooming Prairie.

Though she worked as a nurse in many capacities, the job she most enjoyed was with American Family Insurance in Austin. She also rode with the Steele County Mounted Posse from '89 to '91.

She was an animal lover who always took in strays - anything with four legs and fur could find a home with her.

She was preceded in death by her husband Stephen (Tom) Kollar; brother Luverne Skogebo; and sister Elaine Fjerstad.

Judy is survived by her three children, James Decker of Savannah, Georgia, Alise (John) Hickman of Bedford, Indiana, and Anthony Kollar; six grandchildren; her sister Cathie (James) Tanner, of Houston, Texas; brothers Arnie (Jean) Skogebo of Rochester, Allen (Marti) Skogebo of Crownsville, Maryland, and Marvin (Joan) Skogebo of Lompoc, California; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 28, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Visitation will be at the church for one hour before the service on Thursday morning. Clasen-Jordan Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

Gerald VanRavenhorst, 68, Blooming Prairie graduate

The Rev. Gerald "Jerry" T. VanRavenhorst, 68, of Caledonia, passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at his home.

He was born April 30, 1947, in Albert Lea, to Cornelius and Hilda (Gross) VanRavenhorst. Jerry was a 1965 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School.

On Oct. 19, 1968, he married Deborah Heiny in Brownsdale. Jerry had a very diverse history of occupations; from 1968 until 1993, he farmed the family farm and raised 2000 pigs a year. In addition, Jerry owned and operated Imperial Painting and he was an Elder, Preacher, and Worship Leader for the Austin Christian Fellowship.

From 1993 until 2002, Jerry, along with his wife, Deborah, and their four younger boys, lived and served as missionaries in Albania and Kosovo. From 2002 until the present time, Pastor Jerry, also fondly known as "PaPa Horse" to many, pastored the Bread of Life Church in Caledonia. He also worked as a painter for Miken Sports in Caledonia and he was a paper route carrier for the Winona Daily News and the La Crosse Tribune.

Jerry's hobbies were raising and racing his pigeons and he enjoyed all sports. He loved his big family and spending time with them. Sharing the love of the Lord with everyone was his passion. Jerry's favorite scripture passages were Luke 10:27 and Colossians 1:27 and he would encourage everyone to read them.

Survivors include his wife Deborah; six children, Heather Ann Larson, Heidi VanRavenhorst-Bell and her husband, Derek, Daniel VanRavenhorst (Jadi Heaney), David VanRavenhorst (Christine Reed), Aaron VanRavenhorst, and Ezra VanRavenhorst; six grandsons; five granddaughters; five siblings, Donna (Steve) Hensel, Dennis VanRavenhorst, Gloria (Vern) Dennis, Marilyn (Scott) Gullickson, and Darryl (Lisa) VanRavenhorst; his mother-in-law, Patricia Ann Heiny; and a plentiful number of nieces and nephews.

His parents; his step-father, Howard Lacher; and his father-in-law, James Heiny, preceded Jerry in death.

A celebration of Jerry's life was Saturday, May 23, 2015, at the Four Seasons Community Center, Caledonia. Online condolences may be sent at www.jandtfredrickson.com.

Free counseling-coordinating service for unwanted pregnancies

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

At least 20 volunteers are assisting women who are dealing with unwanted pregnancies with free counseling-coordinating services information in Owatonna and Steele County.

Birthright of Minnesota (Owatonna Chapter) was started in September 1970 in response to the need of a service to offer alternative solutions for women faced with the dilemma of unwanted pregnancy, according to a fact sheet of services.

Birthright provides free pregnancy testing, maternity clothing, infant clothing and referrals.

"Sometimes we're unsure of the impact that we provide," said Volunteer Coordinator Shirley Pfeifer. "We never persuade them to have an abortion. We do encourage them to do an alternative. Most times we do know we have helped."

Eunice Meixner, past volunteer coordinator who has volunteered for more than 30 years, said theyw do encourage that any child who has been conceived to have the privilege of having life. She believes the program has worked.

"Some gals need a friend to come to for making a difficult decision," she said. "It is better to have a baby in your lap. An abortion can affect you for many years."

There are 28 chapters statewide and more than 800 Centers nationally and internationally.

A caller does not have to give her full name if she does not wish to. In addition, each call is confidential. Birthright volunteers talk about the medical, psychological and financial costs of having an abortion. In addition, they inform clients of the many and varied health care services available in the community and state. In addition, the volunteers provide maternity clothes and baby clothes if the woman decides to keep the baby.

Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. Toll free hotline is 800-550-4900.

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 26
Alyssa Alwes, Sean Ingvalson, Dave Klug, Josh Dahl, Justin Dormann, Lou Sheppard

May 27
Darrick Schewe, Mary Malherek, Grace Ann Johns, Amy Simon, Jenny Haugen

May 28
Jill Linderman, Kristin Lueth Koening, Eleanor Harms, Karen Valentine, Jerry Ingvalson, Isaac Ille, Jennifer Wondra, Jesse Hernandez, Kolby Vigeland, Ella Salinas

May 29
Brian Kerrigan, Emma Holland
Mr. and Mrs. Lerald Farrow

May 30
Gene Myre, Ragna Thompson, Michael Hillson

May 31
Brieanne Wangen, Nathan Peterson

Anniversaries

May 26
Steve and Nellie Wollenburg
Sarah and Adam Bumgarner

May 28
Jim and Monica Prihoda
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Krell

May 30
Michael and Kathleen Iversen

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Area Church Spotlight



St. John's Lutheran Church, Claremont

Pastor's Corner



Do you have an advocate?

This would be someone who intentionally stands up for you, defends your position on matters and protects you from opposing arguments. Attorneys sometimes serve this purpose, but more often our spouses or best friends advocate for us and our cause. I sometimes serve as my aging mother's advocate when she receives medical advice and has to make decisions about her care. We all have advocates; can you name a few of your own?

A number of years ago when the book The DaVinci Code first came out, several parishioners in the church in St. Paul where I was serving came to me in distress… saying… What if this is true? This author is creating doubt in my mind about some of the basic things of my faith I've learned in Church.

I really wanted to say, SO WHAT'S NEW? We live in a world pre-occupied with an agenda that challenges the Christian faith. We live in societies where knowledge and reason hack away at the credibility of the Christian belief system. We live in an economy that makes the Christian way of life of sharing with others and tithing to the church absurd.

SO WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS BOOK? What's new about a fictional CODE challenging your Christian faith? Dear friends, the world challenges the beliefs of Christianity! This is why Jesus calls upon the Father to send The Advocate to us, and for us, to testify on Jesus' behalf… for us (John 15:26-27). Come, Holy Spirit, intercede for us with sighs too deep for words, because the world continues to cast doubt around what we believe in faith. Amen.

The Rev. Charlie Leonard
First Lutheran Church

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Area Church Schedule



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(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 Hurtt
(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.goodshephardowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale, MN
(507)465-8366
Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
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
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(507) 451-2165
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10 a.m. Sunday school

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
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www.tlcowatonna.org
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Catholic

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Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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The Rev. Swamy Pothireddy
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9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
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(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
with Children's Church
Family Faith Formation and First Communion class after Mass with noon potluck second Sunday of month.

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St. Isidore School - 451-5876,
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The Rev. John Sauer; the Rev. Michael Cronin, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
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www.ellendaleumc.org
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www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
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10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Blooming Prairie gathers to honor deceased vets
Memorial Day program draws a crowd

PHOTOS BY SHANNON KINLEY

By SHANNON KINLEY
Couunty Staff Writer

Despite the cloudy skies, families and friends filled the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club to honor deceased veterans.

The Blooming Prairie American Legion, the VFW posts and their Auxiliaries hosted the annual program. Veteran Tom Walters welcomed the crowd and VFW Chaplain Bev Holland read the opening prayer.

The veterans entered the room in formation and uniform equipped with flags and rifles and every one sang in unison as the Blooming Prairie High School Band played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Joyce Johns took the podium to share a patriotic reading and asked that audience members to visualize themselves at the cemetery.

"We walk among the tombstones where our fallen soldiers lie and listen to the bugle as taps begin to play. The chaplain led a prayer, we stand with heads bowed low and we think of fallen comrades we had known so long ago. They came from every city across this fertile land, that we might have freedom they lay here beneath the sand. We felt a little guilty a sacrifice was small. We only lost a little time, but these men lost their all," Johns said. "As we gather here for this Memorial Day to the names upon these stones, we just want to say thanks for what you have given no one could ask for more. May you rest with God in heaven from now through evermore."

Rev. Steve Peterson, of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, thanked the American Legion and veterans for inviting him to be at the event, read a reading from the First Letter of Peter and followed with the address.

"As we know this day is set aside by our country to remember those who have died in war. These are the men and women in the military service who have given their lives to insure our freedom and independence from foreign domination and those not in the military who actively gave their lives in war as well and to remember the many innocent victims of war," Peterson said. "This special day is celebrated with parades, visits to the cemetery, ball games, picnics all of which are good and have their right place, but Memorial Day, as its name suggests, is a day of memory."

Peterson continued, "Many of those that we remember today gave their very lives for others. What more can one give than that and what better reason to honor their memory. Today we remember and honor those who gave so much for us."



Veteran Tom Wacek salutes the flag while the other veterans stand in formation during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the Blooming Prairie High School band at the annual Blooming Prairie Memorial Day program at the Servicemen's Club.

The band, under the direction of Ross Reihus, played a couple of patriotic selections and the firing squad marched outside of the Servicemen's Club to fire three shots in a tribute to the fallen soldiers followed by the playing of Taps.

Holland closed the ceremony with a closing prayer and a potluck dinner was served for veterans and their families.

Following the potluck Quilts of Valor were presented to local veterans along with a presentation that recognized the 2014-2015 VFW.

Veteran Tom Walters, who is originally from Hallock, Minnesota served in the United States Air Force for two years and was very pleased with the turnout for the event.

"I thought it turned out very well considering we really planned to be outside so we really had to make some adjustments," Walters said.

Walters says Memorial Day programs are important because "We have so many people that have done so much for us to keep our country free. The playing of the Taps always gets me."



United States Army veteran Joe Wacek poses for a picture with his grandchildren Megan and Jared Giese after the annual Blooming Prairie Memorial Day program at the Servicemen's Club.

(RIGHT) The Blooming Praire High School Band, under the direction of Ross Reihus played patriotic selection of music at the annual Blooming Prairie Memorial Day program at the Servicemen's Club.

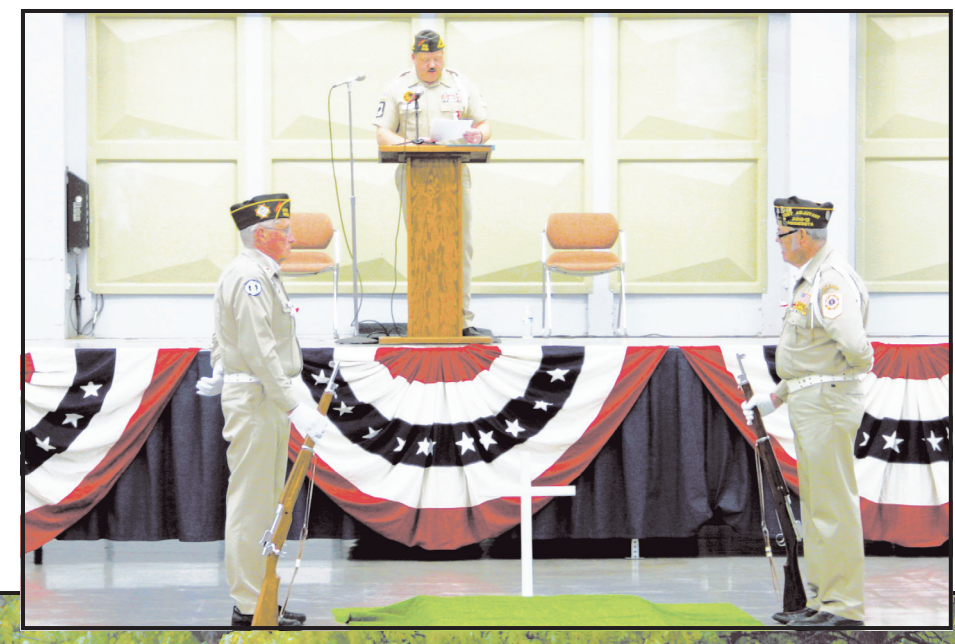




Veteran Tom Walters welcomed the crowd and introduced the readers and speakers at the at the annual Blooming Prairie Memorial Day program at the Servicemen's Club.



Photos by Anna Segner







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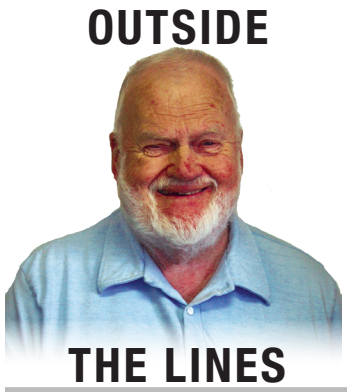


LeMar Nelson

A day to remember

This past weekend, the country paused for a few minutes to honor and remember all of the military personnel who have served our nation in the past or who are still serving today. To take a few moments on this occasion is the least we can do, and I sincerely hope that a holiday is not the only thing noted for the weekend.

Not having the obligation or the opportunity to have ever been in the service. I have a greater respect for the brave men and women who have done so. Although some recall that time as a chance to see parts of the world they may never have seen without their service time, the horrors of war adhere to their memories for years after. Thanks and much gratitude goes to all service personnel, both living and dead. I salute you!

Still in action

By the end of this week, we will know if the spring sports season has ended, or if the high school still has some athletes involved in state competition. A couple of golfers are still in section playoffs, as are several track athletes and the softball team. It is a question whether any of these individuals or the softball team can win their way into state tournament action, but it has been obvious that the spring sports at BPHS have provided a lot of success and excitement.

I would think that some track competitors, like Taylor Hagen, Alec Ille or Cole Sunde might have a chance to move on, and either or both Taylor Christianson or Tommy Braaten stand an opportunity to advance to the state meet. The softball team may have a tougher time in the section, but neither do I count them out. Credit goes to Coach Ali Mach and the team for getting to the section again. It will be interesting, for sure. Finally, although the team had another losing season, Coach Matt Kittelson deserves some credit for keeping the baseball team enthused about playing the game and having fun doing it. The boys certainly didn't give up at any point during the season, and they are to be commended for that attitude.

Moving on

Next Sunday, another graduating class will march across the stage for the last time to receive high school diplomas. The class of 2015 has certainly had its share of accomplishments, both academically and in extra-curricular activities. Some milestones in sports have been achieved and some school records scattered over the course of the year.

There have been some isolated incidents of disruptive behavior, but overall, the class can leave BPHS with a satisfying sense of accomplishment. Let me add my personal congratulations to the seniors and the best in whatever future undertaking each graduate chooses. Good luck.

Two end season

Both Tricia DeBoer and Shelbi Swenson, former BPHS softball standouts, recently wound up the season at their respective colleges. DeBoer steadily improved her year at St. Cloud State University, finishing her junior year with a .304 batting average. She had 42 hits, including seven doubles, a triple and

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 3B

MEDFORD BASEBALL

A special season for Medford boys

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

A 6-5 loss to Lyle-Pacelli ended one of the most successful Medford baseball seasons in a decade.

The Tigers entered the subsection tournament with a 12-6 record. Those 12 wins were five better than last year and nine better than 2013. While their home game against Southland would prove the last win of the season, the boys from Medford put an exclamation point on it, defeating the Rebels 7-6 in 10 innings, the team's first playoff win since 2007.

"The win over Southland was a huge piece in continuing to build the program," said Medford Coach Jon Chappuis. "Southland has a deep tradition of success in Section 1A. (Battling) for 10 innings and overcoming many…precarious situations shows the mental toughness of this team."

Multiple times in extra innings, Southland threatened with runners in scoring position, but each time junior Nicholas Meixner would pitch his way out of it, with the help of his defense. The Tigers had their own share of stranded runners in extra innings, but a tenth-inning RBI hit by senior Nick VonRuden brought Meixner safely home, sealing the win.

Players gathered at the pitchers mound, jumping and hugging and cheering on a game to remember.

The Tigers struggled against Hayfield on May 23, falling 11-1.

"We appeared to come out a little tight," said Chappuis. "We gave up many plays that we had made throughout the season."

MEDFORD BASEBALL
Continued on Page 2B



Staff photo by James Knoop

Medford players celebrate after defeating Southland in 10 innings on May 21.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Blossoms advance to sections



Staff photos by James Knoop

Coach Alison Mach calls for runner to round third and go home in an 11-1 win against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown on May 22.



Batter McKenna Hein hears a word from Coach Mach shortly before stepping up to the plate with a runner on third.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After losing a 5-0 shutout to Hayfield for the subsection championship, the Blossom girls bounced back to defeat Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Friday, May 22, for second place and advance to the section 1A tournament. Hayfield held the Blossoms to just five hits in the opening loss to the Vikings.

Two WEM runs in the top of the fourth came on two walks, a single and a Blossom error. A single run came in the fifth on four straight singles and the final run for the Bucs scored in the top of the seventh on two hits and a fielder's choice. The final out came when a fine throw from the outfield cut down a runner at third base.

BP counted five runs in the third inning against the Bucs and added four more in the fourth for a 9-2 lead and put the game safely into the win column. Pitcher Elly Strunk scattered eight hits and survived a line drive off her hand in the third inning to earn the win in the circle.

In the third Tessa Ivers walked and Madison Worke reached on an error. Strunk stroked a double to drive in two runs, and Kalyn Naatz drove in two more runs after Bria Baldwin and McKenna Hein both singled in front of her. Naatz would add another two RBIs in the fourth. Strunk singled, Baldwin and Hein walked, and Naatz singled both runners in. Emma Christianson's base hit plated one more run in the inning.

The final BP run scored in the fifth, when Ivers reached after a strikeout stole second, and came home on Strunk's third hit of the game. BP had 10 runs, 12 hits, no errors; WEM had four runs, eight hits and one error. Strunk walked four and struck out 10 batters for the 11-10 Blossoms.

After Strunk's long drive to centerfield was run down in the first inning of the Hayfield contest thwarted an early threat started by Ivers and Worke singles, the Vikings used a walk, a single and two straight Blossom errors to count four unearned runs in the bottom of the first inning. That was more than enough for Hayfield pitcher Jackie Sanvick, who allowed only four runners to reach base after the first inning.

Ivers and Naatz each had two of the five BP hits in the game, and the Vikings added a little insurance with a final run in the third. Neither team could score again. Hayfield had five runs, seven hits, no errors; BP had no runs, five hits and two errors. Strunk walked three and struck out five, while Sanvick also walked three and struck out four batters.

BP was scheduled to play Fillmore-Central at Todd Park in Austin on Tuesday, May 26, in a 5 p.m. contest.

Trap shooters in first after third week of competition

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The Blooming Prairie High School trap shooting squad took over first place after the third week of competition on May 16, besting second place Litchfield by 30.5 points. Osakis High School finished third, followed by Osseo and Menahga high schools. Nine teams comprise the Section 5A conference. Approximately 15 conferences around the state field squads of trap shooters.

Individually, three Blossom boys and four girls ranked in the top 15, respectively. Karson Vigeland of BP and Logan Schroon shared top honors with a 21.67 average, and Jon Hatch placed 10th with a 20.17 mark. Zach Sisler and Payton Hatch finished with 19.50 and 19.17, respectively.

For the girls, Carissa Easton and Alison Pryor both finished in the top four. Easton claimed second at 16.33, and Pryor carded a 15.33. Abby Wayne and Lauren Larkoski shot 11.00 and 9.50, respectively. The competition goes through June in the spring league.

As Coach Erik Vigeland commented, "I am sure that the standings will fluctuate during the trap shooting season, but so far, so good."

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASEBALL

Young Blossoms fall to Hayfield in sub-sections

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie's baseball team had a short stay in the subsection tournament as the team fell to Hayfield, 6-4, on the Viking diamond Thursday, May 21. One inning made the difference in this one as the home team scored all six runs in the third inning and then held off a spirited Blossom rally in the fifth and sixth innings.

"We were down 6-0," remarked Coach Matt Kittelson, "and I was very happy that we just didn't cash in and give up. We kept fighting back and really made a game of it."

Hayfield jumped on Sam Swenson in the third for the six run outburst and used three walks, two doubles and a single to do the damage. The Vikings did not score again and had only two base runners after the third on a walk in the fourth and a harmless single in the sixth.

BP plated a lone run in the fifth on Riley Olson's single and a double for Brad Staska, and they scored three runs in the sixth. Swenson doubled and Lucas Noble reached on an error. After two went out, a walk and a Noble single put two runners on. Olson stroked a double for two runs, and Connor Getchell singled in a third run to cut the lead to 6-4.

A walk to Swenson and a Noble single put two men on in the seventh with two outs, but a pop up to the pitcher ended Blossom hopes for the season. Hayfield had six runs, six hits, two errors; BP had four runs, six hits and no errors. Olson and Staska had two hits each.

BP finished the season 4-16, and the team lost its last nine games in a row.

In the last regular season game at home, Goodhue jumped to a 4-run lead in the first inning, and added five runs in the third to put the game away on Friday, May 12. The Blossoms plated the only run in the third on a walk a groundout, and Swenson's sacrifice fly. Scott Romeo took the loss for the locals.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior Sam Swenson delivers a pitch against Hayfield in a 6-4 loss on Thursday, May 21.

Coach says senior leadership helped young players grow

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Although suffering a difficult 6-4 loss against the Vikings on May 21, Coach Matt Kittelson was pleased to see his team put themselves in a position to win.

"Defensively, we didn't have any errors, and Sam (Swenson) pitched a very good game for us," said Kittelson. "The third inning, where (Hayfield) scored all six of their runs, was all Hayfield. We didn't do anything to hurt ourselves. They just came up with some big hits."

The error-free game was an accompliment the team struggled with this season.

"Obviously we wanted to come out on the winning end, but I was happy with how we played," said Kittelson. "We gave ourselves a chance."

Looking back on the year, Kittelson found plenty of positives.

"These kids experienced a lot of growth this season, both as a team and individually," said Kittelson. "There were a lot of young kids that were asked to do a lot this spring, and they really stepped up to the challenge."

Kittelson said his team grew close over the season and were very supportive of each other.

"That all starts with senior leadership, and we had three of the best seniors a coach could ask for," said Kittelson, referring to Sam Swenson, John Rumpza and Scott Romeo. "They are all great athletes, but even better human beings, and they took these young guys in and led by example. Those guys will be impossible to replace next year, but they set the standard for the direction in which we want this program to move going forward."

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GOLF

Golfers near top after first round of sections

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After the first half of the Section 1A golf tournament at Willow Creek Course in Rochester, both Taylor Chrstanson and Tommy Braaten find themselves near the top of the leader board. The other half of the meet was to be played on Tuesday, May 26.

Fillmore Central and Wabasha–Kellogg stand one and two in the team standings for the girls, while Fillmore Central and Hayfield earn the top two spots in the boys' division. BP has an incomplete score in both team events with too few competitors, but the individuals all qualified for the second round action.

BP's Christianson is tied for second with Tiffany Stumpf of Wabasha-Kellogg. Both carded an 89 over the 18 holes. Fillmore Central's Grace Miller shot an 86 for medalist honors. Christianson had a 44 on the front nine and a 45 coming on the back nine. Other BP girls who recorded scores in the meet included Sabrina Stanley at 114 and Alexa Rudlong at 120.

For the boys, Braaten is currently tied for third with Brady Becker of Hayfield, as both carded a 77. Braaten fired a consistent 39 and 38 in his two rounds. Jordan Miller (FC) and Bob Borkowski (Lewiston-Altura) stand one and two with 72 and 75, respectively. Jon Hatch shot an 88 and Brody Carlson came in at 100.

Weather conditions included a cloudy, damp day with calm winds and temperatures in the 50's. Final rounds will offer some close competition for individuals, and a close battle for the boys between Fillmore Central and Hayfield, with the Vikings trailing Fillmore Central by eight strokes and Lewiston-Altura just three strokes back of Hayfield. Fillmore Central has a commanding lead over Wabasha-Kellogg in the girls' division 366 to 411.

MEDFORD BASEBALL

Continued from Page 1B

Things got tricky for the already short-stacked team when an AJ Chappuis arm injury against Southland forced Coach Chappuis to mix things up on the pitching front.

"We got into a tough situation," said Chappuis. "We made the decision against Hayfield to pull Wyatt Volkmann out of that game and save some of his innings for LP. He pitched great but eventually got tired."

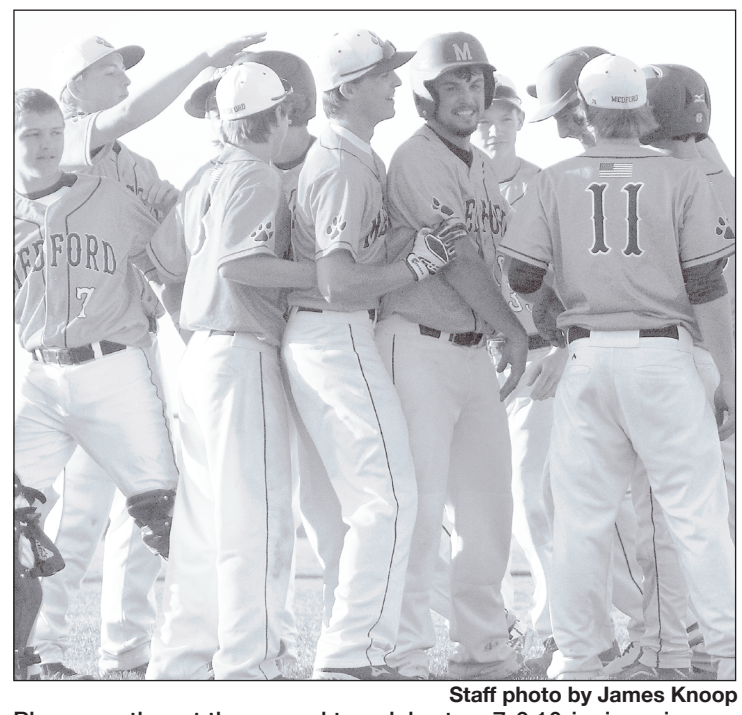
Though the team may not have made it as far as hoped, Chappuis is proud of the run his young team made.

"The team grew not only as a baseball team but as young men as well," said Chappuis. "This team did many things that no other Medford team has done before. With only two seniors starting, and as many as four freshman, it shows the potential of this team in upcoming seasons. The leadership that the two seniors provided during this season was a huge reason for our success."

Chappuis added that during the regular season, his varsity team had only nine players. With the bench cleared every time the team took the field, few players were able to get the rest many players on other teams receive.

"No one player could take a game off," said Chappuis. "To have the success that we had with only nine players is something not many other teams could have done."

The team will lose two seniors, including Nick VonRuden and the coach's son, AJ Chappuis.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Players gather at the mound to celebrate a 7-6 10-inning win over Southland on Thursday, May 21.

NRHEG SOFTBALL

Despite early exit, coach says team exceeded expecations

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

The No. 2 New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva softball team took an early exit in the sub-section tournament, as 4-15 Tri-City United shut out the 12-3 Panthers 13-0.

The loss came hard for players and coaches, but first-year Coach Coy Hupfeld said TCU's talent did not surprise the team.

"TCU had played tough against Le Sueur-Henderson and a couple of other very good teams, so our girls weren't going to overlook them," said Hupfeld. "We came in with the same mentality that we always have. We never expected a blowout, but we did expect to win. TCU just played the better game."

Hupfeld credited TCU for exceptional pitching

"Typically with a pitcher with high velocity we catch up by the fourth or fifth inning, but that just didn't happen," said Hupfeld.

Hupfeld said he commended his team on a fantastic season.

"Going into this year, I don't think anyone expected us to win much since we lost our All-State pitcher and All-Conference catcher from last year, but the girls never cared for what others were saying," said Hupfeld. "They just came to every practice and game with a trerrific work ethic; and even with adversity, they picked each other up. I could not emphasize how proud of them I was for an awesome and fun season. Their attitudes and personalities were what really made this a special season."

The team will lose seniors Anna Stork, Alyssa Esplan, Kelli Harrington, Ryann Hagen and Jade Peterson. Hupfeld said the loss of the seniors will hurt, but he is thrilled with the younger players who will step up to the plate.

"I see a lot of talent in our younger classes," said Hupfeld. "As long as they take the same approach into next season, I can see them (growing) both as individuals and as a team. We focused (this season) on the fundamentals. Don't make the big mistakes, and you'll stay in most games. That's really what defined our season, and hopefully we can take that into next spring."



Staff photo by James Knoop
Coach Coy Hupfeld gives his players a pep talk during their game against Tri-City United.

Blooming Prairie Tracksters advance to sections

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A number of Blooming Prairie tracksters will advance to the section meet, after results from Sub-Section 2A competition at Grand Meadow High school on Tuesday, May 19.

Stewartville won both the girls' and boys' team titles with GMLOS second to the Tigers in each division.

The Blossom girls earned three firsts, two by senior Taylor Hagen. She won the shot put with a toss of 38-1 ½ and threw the discus 107-10. The 4x800-meter relay team of Alison Pryor, Sam Wurst, Lauren Larkoski and Alanna Grant took first in 10:49.82.

Pryor took second in the 3,200-meter run in a time of 12:47.62, Larkoski placed third in the 400-meter run at 1:04.64, as did Asia Thostenson in the 100-meter hurdles with a 17.93 time. Leah Schiefert finished fourth in the pole vault with a height of 7-8 and Alanna Grant picked up a fifth with a 2:39.61 in the 800-meter run.

Alec Ille won the 3,200-meter run for the boys with a new school record of 10:03.37 and placed second in the l,600-meter run with a 4:45.03 time. Cole Sunde finished with three seconds, plus running a leg in a relay. He came in second in the 200-meter dash with a 23.40 time and jumped 18-9 ¼ in the long jump and 40-10 ½ in the triple jump. The 4x100-meter relay team (Sunde, Kevin Eischens, Weston Myer, Anthony Nelson) had the other second with a 46.24 time.

The 4x800 relay team of Angel Villarreal, Evan Doerhoefer, Jesse Schewe and Eiljah Baker placed third with a 9:59.94 time, Nelson finished fourth in the 200 at 24.17, and Marten Morem and Quentin Kubista came in fifth in 400 and pole vault respectively in 59.93 and 9-4. That makes a dozen local athletes from the local track teams the chance to compete in the section meet this week.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



RILEY OLSON

Junior baseball player Riley Olson has been a spark plug on offense, despite the team's losing record. One of the most consistent batters, Olson had three of the Blossom hits in last week's doubleheader and has stroked six hits in the last four games. A player on a team that, despite a losing season, Olson and the rest of the team has enjoyed the year and looks forward to a better season the next year.



KALYN NAATZ

Blossoms first baseman, Kalyn Naatz, has steadily improved her batting average over the season and now is one of the leading hitters on the team. In last week's last two tournament games, Naatz had four hits in the contests and batted in four runs against WEM in that victory. With very few seniors on the team, Naatz has assumed a leadership role and has been a help in mentoring the younger players on the squad.

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Minimizer racers compete in second race; hope to improve trucks

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

Minimizer semi-truck racers Trevor Kruckeberg and Brad Klemmensen travelled to Willows, California, to take on other drivers from around the country at Thunderhill Raceway last weekend.

While the race proved to be more experience for the drivers, Klemmensen said the trucks will need some tweaking before the two can become competitive. He added that the California track was especially difficult for his truck.

"The truck was not set up the best for the track we were on," said Klemmensen. "It had a longer straighaway that was tough for my truck. It was a hilly area, which made things extremely challenging. There were opposite bank turns, and it seemed like almost every corner was pushing you away from the track." Klemmensen also added that turn seven was nearly a 100-degree turn, which proved to be very tight for a semi to make.

Klemmensen and Kruckerberg will head to Pikes Peak International Raceway in Fountain, Colorado, this weekend, and then the two have a month off before heading to Charlotte Motor Speedway on July 4 weekend.

Klemmensen hopes to use the break to tweak the truck to where he wants it.

"We're going to be taking the trucks to Blooming Prairie and do a ton of work on them," said Klemmensen.

Klemmensen said that while the two are middle-of-the-pack drivers, he hopes the work done to the trucks will propel them to top-three racers.

"Hopefully we'll have a game plan ready," said Klemmensen.

Klemmensen added that he is having a great time racing and is looking forward to getting more competitive in the future.

Those interested in the Champ Truck racing can find more information at minimizer.com or champtruck.us. Minimizer will also be live streaming the races this weekend at minimizerracing.com.

The first race will take place Saturday, May 30, at 10 a.m. Mountain time.



Submitted photo

Team Tortured, driven by Brad Klemmensen, makes its way down the difficult Thunderhill Raceway in Willows, California.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

15 RBIs. She succeeded in five of seven steal attempts for the team that compiled a 31-27 record for the season.

Sophomore Swenson's Bethel team captured the MIAC championship, but was upset by St. Thomas in the playoffs. Swenson hit just .216, but she had two doubles, a triple and a home run among her 16 base hits. Both players should be commended for being a part of an upper class college softball team, and we will undoubtedly hear more from them next season.

Another year gone

As I conclude 22 years of writing the high school sports, compiling school history memories, and attempting interesting and entertaining items for a column each week, I find myself reflecting more and more over the past school year and the past 22 years that it has been since my retirement from the local school staff.

Although there have been a few occasions when I have struggled to find items I think worthy of a column, I honestly can't find one moment of regret. Now, just as the high school sports scene winds up another year, I also wind up another campaign of writing.

My editor willing, I will still continue my column occasionally through the summer, but otherwise I will take a couple of months to regenerate this tired old brain of mine. Plenty of action is on tap for the summer, including a new Main Street, the annual Ribfest on June 27 and the big old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration.

I don't think there is one resident in this entire community who can complain about a lack of things to do in Blooming. Enjoy the summer, and I'll see you around. A couple of Sunday school children can leave us with things to ponder: "Solomon had 200 wives and 700 cucumbers" and "Joan of Arc was burnt to a Steak." We'll talk again.

Golf League Standings

Blooming Prairie Country Club
Week 2 - May 11

Place		Points
1	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	19
1	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	19
3	Lea Lembke Hansen	18
4	Grunklee Evans Possehl	17.5
4	Hillberg Wanous Pfiefer	17.5
6	Myer Motl Tollefson	17
6	Lembke Farrow Hanson	17
6	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	17
9	Braaten Pirkl Resler	16
10	SkalaR Thiele Sammon	15
10	Koster Long White	15
10	Strunk Farr Ingvaldson	15
13	Minimizer Minimizer Minimizer	14
14	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	13.5
14	Peterson Behnken Bishop	13.5
16	Hareid Bartsch Wilkerson	12
16	Skala Jensen Lee	12
18	Clark Blome Skala	10.5
18	KlemmensenD Drexler Zwiener	10.5
20	Glynn Glynn Esplan	9
21	Haberman Hegal Henefield Hanson	8.5
21	Morgan Sekora Olson Schuster Iacovino	8.5
23	Doerhoefer Stalach Olson Worke	7.5
24	White Lysne Johnson	6.5
25	KlemmensenJ KlemmensenR Anderson	6
26	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	2

Division	Team	Score
A	Lea Lembke Hansen	33
A	Peterson Behnken Bishop	33
B	Kruckeberg Kruckerberg Johnson	33
C	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	36
D	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	35

NRHEG girls Sub-Section 5A results

Team Scores: 1. Waseca 193, 2. WEM 174, 3. Maple River 121, 4. NRHEG 118, 5. USC/AC 116, 6. St. Clair 57, 7. JWP 33

100-meter dash — 3. Gretchen Ramaker, 13.56, 4. Maddie Wagner, 13.8.
200-meter dash — 8. Erin VanWilgen, 30.62.
800-meter run — 7. Kelly Harden, 2:40.15.
1,600-meter run — 6. Annie Prigge, 6:16.40, 8. Hailey Westrum, 6:22.56.
3,200-meter run — 5. Sandra Quezada, 13:35.86, 7. Mia Williams, 14:34.75, 8. Jade Mely, 14:35.52.
100-meter hurdles — 2. Hailey Schuller, 16.63.
300-meter hurdles — 4. Hailey Schuller, 53.1.
4x100-meter relay — 4. Marnie Wagner, Gretchen Ramaker, Erin VanWilgen and Maddie Wagner, 54.23.
4x200-meter relay — 1. Hailey Schuller, Gretchen Ramaker, Marnie Wagner and Maddie Wagner, 1:53.42.
4x400-meter relay — 6. Hailey Westrum, Mia Williams, Annie Prigge and Grace Kofstad, 5:09.43.
4x800-meter relay — 3. Kelly Harden, Sandra Quezada, Hailey
Westrum and Maddie Bartlett, 11:06.61.
High Jump — 1. Maddie Wagner, 5-0, 6. Marnie Wagner, 4-4.
Long Jump — 4. Hailey Schuller, 14-6 3/4.
Triple Jump — 5. Gretchen Ramaker, 29-11.
Shot Put — 4. Emily Eder, 32-1 1/2, 6. Sophia Fischer, 31-6.
Discuss — 4. Emily Eder, 96-0.
Pole Vault — 5. Kelly Harden, 8-0.

Five girls qualify for Sections:
Hailey Schuller: 4x200-meter relay, Long Jump, 100-meter high hurdles and 300-meter low hurdles.
Gretchen Ramaker: 4x200-meter relay and 100-meter dash
Marnie Wagner: 4x200-meter relay and 100-meter dash
Maddie Wagner: 4x200-meter relay and High Jump
Emily Eder: Shot Put and Discus



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 13

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds
Feature—Dan Wheeler, Robbie Franklin, Ryan Wetzstein, Bryan Hernandez, Jeremy Misgen, Jason Born, Ryan Goergen, Jake Stark, Tammy Clark, Darryl Hainka, Cory Asmussen, Garitt Wytaske, Brayten Cisneros, Luke Hainka
First Heat—Franklin, Born, Goergen, Wetzstein, Clark, L. Hainka, Asmussen
Second Heat—Wheeler, Hernandez, Misgen, Wytaske, Stark, D. Hainka, Cisneros

USRA B-Mod
Feature—AJ Zvorak, Cory Crapser, Nate Chodur, Alex Williamson, Chris Weigert, Kadden Kath, Anthony Condit, Charlie Steinberg, Jayden Larson, Mark Wytaske, Davis Henderson, Anthony Jennings, Cole Lonergan, Terry Kohnert, Josh Mattick, Kylie Kath, Morgan Schrage, Brandon Hare, AJ Johnston, Raey Hastings IV, Mike Chisholm
First Heat—Kylie Kath, Chodur, Chisholm, Kohnert, Johnston, Condit, Henderson
Second Heat—Mattick, Zvorak, Williamson, Lonergan, Steinberg, Jennings, Wytaske
Third Heat—Crapser, Hare, Kadden Kath, Hastings IV, Schrage, Weigert, Larson

Pure Stock
Feature—Matt Brooks, Jason Newkirk, Brady Krohnberg, Jesse Stahl, Ross Spitzer, Stacy Krohnberg, Bob Schoenfelder, Adam Godeke, Daniel Guttormson, Jeremy Wenzel, Cody Perry, Greg Lammers, Tom Kaiser, Anna Brouwers, Jordan Everson, Ryan Jacobsen, Larry Scott, Keith Weber
First Heat—Brooks, B. Krohnberg, Spitzer, Newkirk, S. Krohnberg, Brouwers

Second Heat—Schoenfelder, Everson, Godeke, Perry, Guttormson, Wenzel
Third Heat—Stahl, Lammers, Jacobson, Kaiser, Scott, Weber

USMTS Modifieds
Feature—Rodney Sanders, Jesse Glenz, Dan Ebert, Brandon Davis, Zack Vanderbeek, Kelly Shryock, Cade Dillard, Lucas Schott, Damon Haslip, Jesse Sobbing, Jason Cummins, Eric Pember, Dereck Ramirez, Stormy Scott, Ben Kates, Brent Larson, Bob Gierke, Chris Oertel, Joel Alberts, Casey Arneson, Greg Pfeifer Jr., Brad Dierks, Jason Hughes, Cody Scholpp, Darwyn Karau, Joey Jensen
B-Main #1—Pember, Shryock, Scholpp, Alberts, Oertel, Billy Vogel, Gierke, David Schuster, Doug Hillson, Michael Wytaske, Dagan Heim, Pat Graham, Steve Wetzstein
B-Main #2—Jensen, Scott, Arneson, Dierks, Kates, Pfeifer Jr., Brock Bauman, Ramirez, Karau, Cory Crapser, Joe Horgdal, Cody Bauman, Greg Jensen
First Heat—Sanders, Cummins, Scholpp, Pember, Crapser, Pfeifer Jr., Schuster, C. Bauman
Second Heat—Hughes, Haslip, Vanderbeek, Alberts, Hillson, Heim, Graham, Wetzstein
Third Heat—Glenz, Davis, Dillard, Scott, Dierks, Karau, B. Bauman, Jensen
Fourth Heat—Ebert, Larson, Shryock, Kates, Vogel, Oertel, Horgdal
Fifth Heat—Schott, Sobbing, Jensen, Arneson, Gierke, Ramirez, Wytaske.

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Gopher Conference

Softball

	Conf.	Overall
NRHEG	8-2	12-4
Faribault B.A.	7-2	11-5
Maple River	5-1	11-7
Blooming Prairie	3-3	8-9
WEM	4-6	7-13
USC	3-7	4-13
Medford	0-9	2-14

Baseball

	Conf.	Overall
WEM	10-2	12-5
Medford	8-4	13-8
USC	7-5	13-7
Faribault B.A.	6-5	8-12
NRHEG	5-7	7-12
Blooming Prairie	3-9	4-16
Maple River	3-9	6-15

Big 9 Conference

Softball

	Conf.	Overall
Mankato West	15-1	18-2
Mankato East	11-4	13-5
Rochester Mayo	9-3	11-5
Winona	10-4	12-8
Rochester Century	10-5	13-7
Albert Lea	5-7	6-7
Northfield	6-9	8-12
Owatonna	5-9	5-10
Rochester JM	3-8	7-13
Austin	3-9	5-11
Faribault	3-11	4-12
Red Wing	3-13	5-16

Baseball

	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	10-3	15-4
Mankato West	9-3	13-5
Rochester JM	9-3	15-5
Rochester Mayo	9-5	11-10
Owatonna	7-6	8-10
Red Wing	8-7	12-7
Rochester Century	6-6	11-9
Albert Lea	5-8	10-10
Austin	6-10	7-11
Winona	5-9	5-12
Mankato East	3-8	9-11
Faribault	2-11	3-16

Boys Lacrosse

	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Century	4-0	9-4
Rochester Mayo	3-1	4-9
Northfield	3-2	5-8
Rochester JM	1-3	4-7
Owatonna	0-5	1-12

Girls Lacrosse

	Conf.	Overall
Owatonna	7-0	8-4
Rochester Century	6-1	6-6
Rochester Mayo	2-6	4-9
Rochester JM	2-4	4-8
Northfield	2-5	3-10

Spring Schedule

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 L 10-5
May 12… vs. WEM L 10-1
May 14… at NRHEG L 5-2
May 15... at NRHEG L 5-3
May 18... vs. Goodhue L 12-1
May 21... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 6-4

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 W 11-4
May 15... vs. WEM L 3-1
May 21... vs. Southland W 7-6
May 23... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 11-1
... vs. Lylfe/Austin Pacelli L 6-5

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... at USC 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 L 11-4
May 14... vs. Blooming Prairie W 5-2
May 16... vs. Albert Lea L 13-0
May 19... vs. Blue Earth Area L 5-3
May 22... Sub-Section
... at WEM W 10-4
May 27... Sub Section
... at Waseca

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 L 2-1
May 13... at Winona W 8-2
May 15... vs. RicoriL 5-0
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 RIver 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 W 7-4
May 15... vs. NRHEG L 8-2
May 18... vs. Blenville-Emmons W 11-1
May 20... Sub-Sections
vs. WEM W 11-1
May 22... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 5-0
...vs. WEM W 10-4
May 26... Sections
... vs. Fillmore Central

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 L 15-0
May 14... at WEM L 11-1
May 18... Sub-sections
... vs. Southland L 16-3

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 9... at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 6-0
... vs. New York Mills W 9-2
May 11... vs. Medford W 15-0
May 14... at Blooming Prairie W 8-2
May 19... Sub-Section
...vs. Tri-City United L 13-0

Owatonna

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 L 7-2
May 12... at Austin W 6-5
May 14... vs. Winona L 8-4
May 15... at Rochester Century L 7-1
May 20... Sub-Sections
...vs. Austin W 4-2
... vs. Hastings L 6-3
May 22... Sub-Sections
... vs. Lakeville South L 11-9

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

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

May 5... at Maple River
May 12... Home Invitational
May 21... at USC
May 30... at Mankato West (Sections)

Owatonna

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

May 2... vs. Farmington L 9-6
May 5... vs. Rochester Mayo W 15-3
May 12... at Northfield W 11-4
May 14... vs. Rochester Century Postponed
May 16... at Prior Lake L 8-1
May 18... vs. Rochester JM W 7-2
May 21... vs. Eagan L 8-7

OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

May 5... vs. Rochester Mayo L 17-9
May 14... vs. Rochester Century L16-3
May 16... at Robbinsdale Cooper W 18-2
May 22... Park (Cottage Grove) L 16-4
May 26... at Lakeville North (Sub-sections)

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 Wacesa
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



AREA SPORTS BOOSTERS



These businesses are proud supporters of the Steele County Times' expanded countywide sports coverage. We wish our local sports teams the best success throughout the season. Go Blossoms. Go Panthers. Go Tigers. Go Huskies!

























Employment CONNECTION

How to get noticed in a crowded job market

Finding a new job is never an easy task. That task grew even more difficult over the last half decade, when a struggling economy forced many companies to lay off workers and institute hiring freezes. As a result, unemployment numbers rose, and many out-of-work men and women found themselves searching for ways to stand out among a crowded pool of applicants.

Standing out in a crowded job market has always been tough, but many professionals find it even more difficult to get noticed now, when many companies request prospective employees apply for job postings via the Internet. That process can be frustrating, as even the most qualified applicants can easily get lost among the myriad of workers all applying for the same position. But as daunting as finding a new job may seem to those looking for work, there are ways to stand out among the masses.



Go the extra mile when sending your application.

Many online job postings provide a link or an email address where applicants can fill out an application or send their resumes. This is a necessary step, and applicants should follow the directions in the posting. But applicants who really want to get noticed can take the extra step of finding the contact information for the company's hiring manager and sending their resume directly to that person's email address. Include the title of the position you're applying for in the subject line of your email, and cut and paste your cover letter into the body of the email. In addition to sending your email to the company's hiring manager, consider CC'ing the person who might be your boss if you were to get the position.

Tighten things up.

Your resume should reflect your work experience, but you want to focus primarily on the experience and skills that are relevant to the position. You can list past positions or internships you've had, but keep the synopsis of those positions brief if they bear little relevance to the position for which you're applying. The main focus of your resume should be the things you have done in the past that make you the best candidate for this job. This might change as you apply for various positions, but tailor each resume to each specific position.

Make your resume download-friendly.

Applying for positions but getting little response despite your qualifications? Chances are your resume might not be download-friendly. Bullet points and boxes might look good to you, but if the hiring manager on the receiving end of your resume does not have the same version of the program you're using, that resume might look like a scrambled mess by the time the it's downloaded. In such instances your resume is almost certain to end up in the scrap heap, no matter how qualified you might be. When uploading your resume to a company Web site or emailing it to a hiring manager, choose a format they can easily download. A PDF, for example, is a format that's easy to download and unlikely to scramble.

Beware of hyperlinks.

Adding hyperlinks to a resume can be hit or miss. When it's a hit, a hiring manager can click on a link in your resume and be taken directly to samples of your work. However, if you're asked to submit your resume via an online application instead of sending it directly to a hiring manager's email address, then those same hyperlinks might be relegating your application to the trash bin before it's ever seen. That's because the database may be programmed to associate any documents with hyperlinks as spam, in which case the hiring manager will never see your application or resume. Hyperlinks can be useful and help you stand out, but only when they're employed under the right circumstances.

Include social media profiles.

More and more companies want employees who are familiar with social media, which can work to an applicants' advantage or prove detrimental. If you have been responsible regarding your use of social media, conducting yourself in a professional matter and even benefitting your existing employer, by all means share these profiles with potential employers.

INDEPENDENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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Kenyon Senior Living

Kenyon Sunset Home - Skilled Nursing - Rehab Therapy Services & Gunderson Gardens Assisted Living

Director of Nursing

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Please complete application at 605 Grain Millers Drive in St. Ansgar or submit your resume to the following email or fax number: HR.STAnsgar@grainmillers.com or Fax: 641-713-4101

PublicSafety/Classifieds

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 4:52 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash occurred in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield at 5:38 p.m.

Burglary. At 7:05 p.m., a Hayfield resident reported a burglary when an unattached garage was open in the 74100 block of 200th Ave.

Fight. Deputies responded to a fight in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 9:02 p.m.

May 14

Crash. At 6:45 a.m., Dodge Center Ambulance, Dodge Center Fire Rescue, Mayo One and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident at 180th Ave. and 670th St. in Dodge Center. One person was transported to St. Mary's Hospital by Mayo One.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the Hayfield School District regarding a truancy issue at 9:31 a.m.

Animal. At 8:04 p.m., deputies received a report that a head of 50 cattle were in the roadway in the 64000 block of 180th Ave. in Dodge Center. Deputies responded and helped bring the cattle back to the pasture.

May 15

Domestic Assault. Deputies arrested a subject for domestic assault in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 3:31 a.m.

Vandalism. At 9:27 a.m., vandalism was reported in the 74800 block of 160th Ave. in Hayfield when the front window on a tractor had been broken out.

May 16

Animal. At 6:15 p.m., a Hayfield woman reported that her neighbor's dogs killed ducks and chickens in the 23100 block of 720th St.

Vandalism. Deputy took vandalism report at 1st Ave. NE and Hwy. St. in Dodge Center at 10:46 p.m.

May 17

Assault. A Dodge Center woman reported at 9:40 a.m. that she was assaulted the previous night at a residence in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE.

Suspicion. Deputies received a report at 11:49 a.m. that a subject had broken into an apartment in the 100 block of Main St. W. in Dodge Center and was staying there.

Fraud. A Claremont resident received a phone message at 8:09 p.m. saying that he was in big trouble with the IRS.

May 18

Theft. At 7:25 a.m., a Hayfield business reported that a van was missing from its shop in the 400 block of 9th St. SE.

May 19

Larceny. A Hayfield woman reported that horse fencing had been stolen from her pasture in the 22400 block of 750th St. at 6:08 a.m.

Environment. At 8:10 a.m., deputies received a report that items were being dumped in a ditch at 207th Ave. and 606th St. in Dodge Center.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 68200 block of 260th Ave. in Kasson at 8:25 a.m. A 9-year-old boy was throwing things at his mom.

Fraud. A Claremont resident reported being the victim of debit card fraud in the 200 block of Julia St. at 1:45 p.m.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 11 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

David P. Fournier, 48, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to $3,666.50, 90 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service, and 10 years of supervised probation.

Tristin A. Janes, 18, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. Janes was sentenced to $1,075, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms, anger management, psychological evaluation, obtain GED, write letter of apology, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Joseph T. Peters, 26, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. The defendant was sentenced to $1,000, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Dustin M. Reiser, 34, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony issuing a dishonored check. Reiser was sentenced to $1,928.36, 58 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 11 – 18:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Thomas G. Anderson, 59, Byron, stop sign, $130; Emily M. Broring, 20, Kasson, speeding, $120; Hannah R. Byron, 31, Waseca, theft, $180, no trespassing at Dodge Center Hardware Hank, 10 hours of community service and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Derek M. Dehoff, 29, Walkerton, IN, parking violation, $32; James F. Dewerff, 39, Hayfield, no insurance, $280; Jessica O. Freerksen, 43, Rochester, revoked license, $205; Alek E. Freiderich, 19, Kasson, minor consumption, $180; Sammy L. Garza, 24, Claremont, invalid license, $180; Drew R. Hanson, 22, Chatfield, speeding, $140; Megan A. Murray, 30, Pine Island, parking violation;

Andy G. Rodriguez, 18, Kasson, minor consumption, $180; Douglas P. Sannan, 48, Bloomington, parking violation; Lisa M. Scott, 36, Hayfield, speeding, $280; Connor S. Tapp, 20, Lewiston, speeding, $220; Ashley M. Valek, 30, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $140.

Kasson Police Department

Jeremy D. Banken, 37, Kasson, stop sign, $130; Steven L. Delzer, 65, Dodge Center, seat belt, $105; Jeffrey A. Heidemann, 36, Mantorville, seat belt, $105;

Oliver B. Lee, 26, Kasson, cancelled license, $280 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Randall E. McCoy, 54, Cannon Falls, seat belt, $105; Roberto A. Reynolds, 42, Rochester, revoked license, $280 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Adam D. Vanoort, 38, Mantorville, stop sign, $130.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Roger E. Borchert, 58, Mapleton, intrastate carrier violation, $130; Richard A. Ferguson, 46, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $280; Ashley J. Johnson, 27, Dodge Center, speeding, $140; Wesley C. Kramer Jr., 27, Friendswood, TX, speeding, $120.

Garage Sale

HAYFIELD CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE
Friday June 5th & Saturday June 6th.
There will be several sales all around town come find all the great deals!

This event is sponsored by the Hayfield Chamber of Commerce.

Owatonna Fire

May 15

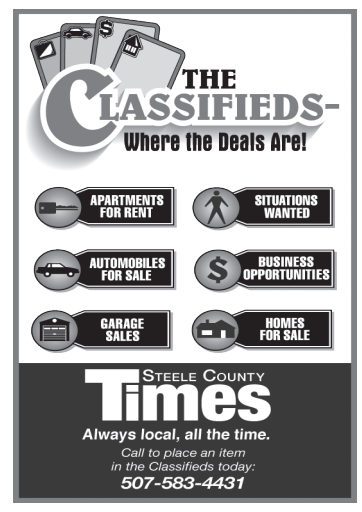
Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 at 4:32 p.m.

May 17

Accident. At 4:37 p.m., fire personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 at mile marker 38.

May 20

Medical. Owatonna Fire assisted paramedics with a medical emergency on Hwy. 218 at 4:11 p.m.



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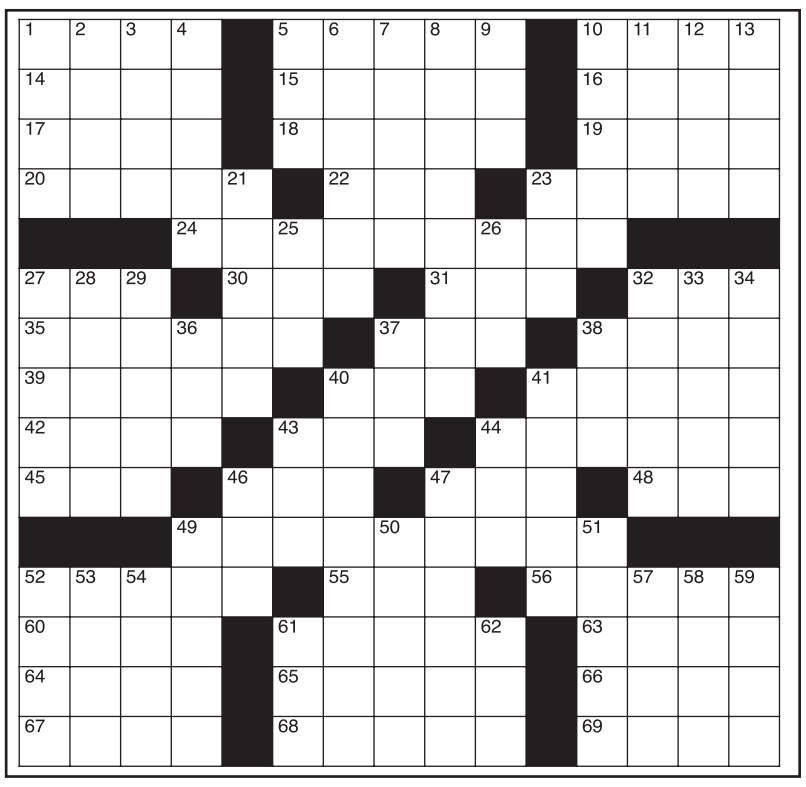
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Suns
5. Bog
10. Woodcutter hero Ali
14. Aquatic reptile (abbr.)
15. Cape Verde capital
16. Chemical compounds
17. Maple genus
18. "All _____ on deck"
19. Roman public squares
20. Leavened rum cakes
22. Quilting gathering
23. Large hero sandwich
24. Oprah's BFF
27. London radio station
30. Downwind
31. Frosty
32. Brake horsepower
35. In a way, removes
37. Bridge-building degree
38. Mother of the Titans
39. Nostrils
40. ___ choy: Chinese cabbage
41. A.K.A. rose-red spinel
42. Blue goose genus
43. Take in solid food
44. Speak incoherently
45. Chop with an axe
46. Wrapped package (abbr.)
47. Auricle
48. Former CIA
49. Highway Patrol's Crawford
52. Yemen capital
55. John __, Br. statesman (1584-1643)
56. Expressed pleasure
60. First Chinese dynasty
61. Indian dresses
63. Swiss river
64. Teen skin disease
65. Takes dictation
66. Husk of wheat
67. Went quickly
68. Stud with jewels
69. Recess



CLUES DOWN

1. Wound crust
2. Killer whale
3. Leopold & ___
4. Bony piece of meat
5. Speed measure (abbr.)
6. Productive land
7. Rajah's wife
8. Close companion
9. Possesses
10. Make less visible
11. Buffalo
12. Tennis player Bjorn
13. Mountain range in Kyrgyszstan
21. Gross revenue
23. Honey (abbr.)
25. Affirmative
26. Frozen water
27. Carpenter's work table
28. __, Danish astronomer
29. 1977 AL MVP Rod
32. Italian Air Marshal Italo
33. Mends
34. Bullfighting maneuvers
36. 1/100 yen
37. Board of Trade
38. Idle talk
40. Hairless scalp
41. Hannibal's surname
43. Old Tokyo
44. Spoken in the Dali region
46. Women's undergarment
47. Weasel's winter fur
49. Blatted
50. Medieval circuit courts
51. Muslim shrine in Mecca
52. Former ruler of Iran
53. Fungal spore sacs
54. Baseball team #
57. Stringed instrument
58. Geological times
59. Sandy piece of seashore
61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
62. Drunkard

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Legal Notices

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/21,4/28,5/5
5/12,5/19,5/26

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 55060to 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 FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN 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, 616

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 ABANDONED."

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 ABANDONED."

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

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

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-961

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of
Larry C. Beers,
Decedent

A petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on June 9, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., by this Court at 111 E. Main St., Owatonna, Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (Minn. Stat. 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:
Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated:
2015.05.11

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

Dated: May 11, 2015
Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N Cedar Ave
PO Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

5/19, 5/26

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 24, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $149,454.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Beth M. Smith, 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 December 2, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17836 as Document Number T000066673 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 27, 2010 as Document Number T000066778 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 25, Block 1, Radel Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 595 24TH STREET 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: $147,196.86 TRANSACTION AGENT: 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: 17.271.0125 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: July 7, 2015 at 10:00 am PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 7, 2016.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Beth M. "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: May 11, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

BY

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
(15-0801-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-992

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

**Estate of
Ila M. Buss,
Decedent**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 7th, 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, January 7, 1998, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Marcia R. Hand, whose address is 1635 Mosher Avenue, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

**Dated:
2015-05-13**

BY THE COURT

**Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court**

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna MN 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

5/26, 6/2

Postponement

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 15, 2003ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $140,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): James E. Hougas and Colleen E. Hougas, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 24, 2003, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 52675 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 20, Block 1, Tricentennial Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1065 Barney Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-334-0120 COT#14595 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $115,849.24 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 19, 2015, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2015, or the next business day if November 19, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 26, 2015

Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.

Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for May 19, 2015, at 10:00 AM, has been postponed to June 19, 2015, at 10:00 AM, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by December 19, 2015. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: May 19, 2015.

Wells Fargo Bank, NA, successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.

Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
2550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-099841
Attorney for Mortgagee

5/26

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-1019

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

**Estate of
John Franklin Williams,
Decedent**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 7th, 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 24, 2015, ("Will") and for the appointment of Thomas Nesvig, whose address is 550 22nd St. NE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

**Dated:
2015-05-18**

BY THE COURT

**Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court**

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Ave.
PO Box 545
Owatonna MN 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

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 thefollowing described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: 4/25/2005 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $ 127,715.58 MORTGAGOR(S): Gregory Scott James and Delane Renee James, Joint Tenants, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Beneficial Loan and Thrift Co. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 4/28/2005 as Document Number A000331487 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 7/21/2014 as Document Number A000397931 in the Office of the County Recorder, Steele County, Minnesota TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 17-119-0506 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 5, Block 5, Riverside Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota ABSTRACT PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 223 Highland Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Beneficial Loan and Thrift Co.RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Caliber Home Loans, Inc.TRANSACTION AGENT: None TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: N/A THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE AS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE: $137,943.69 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 preforeclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County Minnesota at public auction as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 7/16/2015 at 10:00AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl ,Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 1/16/2016, or the next business day if 1/16/2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: 5/26/2015
U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust, Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee
Klatt, Augustine, Sayer, Treinen & Rastede, P.C.,
By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

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

5/26, 6/2, 6/9
6/16, 6/23, 6/30

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
April 20, 2015

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m.
(Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL - CLERK Jon Sunde, Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau
ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal; Assistant Principal; BPTA Members; Member of the Press
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Mr. Olson.

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve minutes, bills, treasurer's report and resignation. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Additional Administrative Position
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the hiring of Alison Mach for the new administrative position titled "Pre-K – 12 Associate Principal/Activities Director" effective for fiscal year. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Revised Leave of Absence
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a revised medical leave of absence for a staff member through May 2015. The leave was previously approved through April 2015. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D . Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract Member Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve a resolution relating to the termination and non-renewal of an elementary teacher at the end of the current school
year. Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Resolution Proposing to Place Personnel on Unrequested Leave of AbsenceMember Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve proposing to place a high school staff member on .2 FTE on unrequested leave of absence as of June 30, 2015.
Motion carried. (Roll Call Vote: 7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. Class Sizes/Sections
Mr. Olson and Mr. Staloch presented information. No action taken.
G. 2015-16 Staff Development Allocation
Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve waiving the 2% staff development set-a-side requirement for the 2015-16 school year. The approved amount is $22,000 plus a .5 FTE graduation standards position which will equate to approximately $54,000. The BPTA approved waiving the set-a-side on April 17, 2015.
Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
H. Prom DJ
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Kelli Braaten to approve John Fouarge to provide musical entertainment at Prom. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
I. Student Insurance Program
Motion by Kathi Peterson and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve voluntary insurance coverage participation for the 2015-2016 school year.
Motion carried. (7 Aye/ 0 Nay)
J. MSHSL Membership Resolution
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Kathi Peterson to approve a resolution for membership in the MSHSL. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
K. Title I Resolution
Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve a Title I resolution. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Committee Reports
A report update was given by the following committees: Building and Grounds/Facilities,
Education Foundation, Negotiations, Technology, Transportation, and ZED.
B. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2014-15 school year as of April 14, 2015, is 413 at the elementary school and 297 at the high school (286 attending BPHS and 11 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 8 seniors and 3 juniors which will all attend full-time.
C. Dates to Note.
The Board noted dates of importance.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
The National Honor Society process was discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rodney Krell and seconded by Jon Sunde to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, a School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, May 18, 2015, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).
A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

5/26

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
April 16, 2015

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Sunde, Kathi Peterson, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the April 20, 2015, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

5/26

HIGHWAY 14

Continued from Page 1A

last Monday evening and Tuesday morning a truck bearing a giant roll of duct tape headed out from St. Paul on a "Duct Tape Tour" to bring attention to transportation problems.

On Tuesday the tour made stops in Rochester, Owatonna and Mankato and headed to Willmar, St. Cloud, Alexandria, Bemidji, Virginia and Duluth on Wednesday and Thursday.

The tour was sponsored by Move MN, a statewide coalition of more than 200 businesses, organizations and local governments committing to fixing Minnesota's long-term transportation problems, the organizers said.

The duct tape roll has traveled throughout the country bearing a sign reading "Emergency Bridge Repair Team," said Russell Hess, political coordinator for the Laborers District Council of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Its purpose, he said, is to bring attention to the fact temporary fixes are not the answer and they cannot be fixed with duct tape.

"We're disappointed in the legislative session," said Margaret Donahoe, co-chair of Move MN and executive director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance. "Unfortunately they could not reach an agreement for the Corridors of Commerce."

The cost of the projects continues to rise each year, she said.

"We're hoping they will be able to agree next year for a long-term, sustainable solution," she said.

Corridors of Commerce is a funding program to expand economically significant highways in Minnesota. Funds from the program are being used to finish the section of Highway 14 from Owatonna to near the Steele and Dodge County line. A major portion of Highway 14 that remains to be upgraded is the stretch from just west of Claremont to Dodge Center. There is also a portion near New Ulm that remains unfinished.

The Corridors of Commerce money is split between projects in the metro area and greater Minnesota. It is estimated that the program will need approximately $1.6 billion in funding over the next 10 years. The Highway 14 portion of the project will cost between $230 and $400 million to finish the project.

At the start of the legislative session all sides agreed transportation issues needed to be a priority but they could not come to an agreement on how to fund the projects.

Gov. Mark Dayton proposed a $12 billion transportation budget that included raising the gas tax and implementing a metro-area sales tax. House and Senate Democrats proposed similar plans while Republicans proposed a $7 billion plan that did not increase taxes or vehicle registration fees but directed money from other areas to a Transportation Stability Fund.

The lack of a compromise has caused frustrations among those involved in seeing the projects completed.

"It is critical that the legislature adopt a bipartisan transportation plan that provides sustainable and predictable funding from a variety of sources, including general funds and a sensible increase in user fees like the gas tax, so that we can finally finish highway 14, New Ulm to Rochester," said Dodge County Commissioner Steve Gray, who also serves as the Highway 14 Partnership vice president.



Staff photo by Karen Jorgensen

With a giant roll of duct tape in the background, Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz said last week that it was past time for a permanent solution to Minnesota's transportation woes. Duct tape can fix a lot of things, he said, but transportation is not one of them. It's more than just Highway 14, he said, because every week a new bridge is declared unsafe.

Sidebar:

Here's how some of the nursing homes in Rep. Peggy Bennett's district would have benefitted under the Republican bill passed in the House:

Prairie Manor Care Center—Blooming Prairie —16.18 percent increase, 459,452 increase in 2016

Field Crest Care Center—Hayfield —29.17 percent increase, $568,846 increase in 2016

Parkview Care Center—Wells —14.55 percent increase, 317,978 increase in 2016

Good Samaritan Society—Albert Lea —32.77 percent increase, $1,653,007 increase in 2016

St. John's Lutheran Home—Albert Lea —30.59 percent increase, $2,356,423 increase in 2016

Thorne Crest Retirement Center—Albert Lea —21.44 percent increase, $551,049 increase in 2016

Funding increases for these nursing homes under the recently passed Health and Human Services legislation adopted in the late hours of the session have not yet been detailed.

NURSING HOMES

Continued from Page 1A

million in new funding. This would have meant as much as 30 percent or more in increased funding for senior care facilities in the area included in Bennett's district, 27A

Bennett expressed optimism late last week as negotiations were ramped up by both major political parties. She said helping nursing homes was a major priority for Republicans. The Senate and governor had less in the pot labeled for senior care.

Bennett called the cause to increase nursing home funding a bipartisan cause. "We should not use nursing homes as political pawns," she said. I don't like political games; it seems like they (governor and senate) are dragging their feet on purpose," she added.

Referring to a recent announcement by the Minnesota Department of Health that it was assuming control of the Owatonna, Care Center and Faribault Care Center, Bennett said this was a symptom of what is going on throughout the state in respect to inadequate funding.

"We need a good fix on this nursing home funding matter," Bennett told the Times.

The Minnesota Department of Health took over management of those health care facilities under a receivership order granted by a Ramsey County judge.

Senate File 1471 was introduced this session to make changes to the receivership statute to improve the state's ability to protect vulnerable persons when a receivership is required. In the past 10 years, there have been four receiverships affecting five nursing homes, and out of these receiverships, two nursing homes were closed, two stayed open and one is currently ongoing.

GROUNDWATER

Continued from Page 2A

feedlots have manure-management plans on file with the county.

Minnesota needs to do more. Did you know that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) estimates that there are more than 18,000 registered feedlots in operation in the state? Yet Big Ag is pressing for more and bigger feedlots. Given the huge number, the MPCA estimates that the amount of manure generated by livestock in Minnesota is equivalent to a human population of about 50 million people. That's untreated, liquid animal manure chock full of nitrogen, phosphorus, E. coli bacteria and other contaminants that threaten our surface water and groundwater.

Statewide, the DNR reports that groundwater use has increased 35 percent over the last 25 years — about 3 billion gallons per year on average. A single feedlot, such as the one near my parents' farm, will draw an estimated 3.5 million gallons of water per year. No wonder we are seeing depletion of our precious groundwater.

Not only do data from the MPCA indicate that conditions in southern Minnesota watersheds are worsening, they also show that the highest concentration of concentrated animal feeding operations is in the southern part of the state. These are large facilities that are capable of holding 1,000 or more animal units and that require federal permits to operate. It's no surprise that nitrates, phosphorus and E. coli are showing up in southern Minnesota streams and lakes.

But this is only part of the story. Data obtained from the MPCA do not include county feedlot programs that are responsible for the permitting and oversight of feedlots with fewer than 1,000 animal units. Most feedlots in Minnesota are operated under the Delegated County program — an arrangement between the MPCA and 53 rural Minnesota counties. For example, in Dodge County, the total number of animal units actually exceeds 83,000 (including both federally permitted concentrated animal feeding operations and locally permitted feedlots under the Delegated County program), which equates to a human manure equivalency exceeding 830,000 people.

While Dodge County Concerned Citizens certainly commends Gov. Mark Dayton's efforts to increase the buffer zones along Minnesota's waterways, we have to do more. While the buffer zones address the effect of too many contaminants, this proposal does not address the cause. So, if you want to stop the risk of overuse and contamination of groundwater in Minnesota, it's time to connect the dots and stop constructing feedlots.

Sonja Trom Eayrs lives in Maple Grove and grew up in Westfield Township. Her parents still live on the family farm. She wrote this article on behalf of Dodge County Concerned Citizens and it was originally published in the Star Tribune May 13.

Steele County

Public Informational Open House #4
Thursday, May 28th
Hosted by Steele County and the City of Blooming Prairie
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Blooming Prairie City Center, Council Chambers
138 Hwy Avenue S.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Project Background: Steele County will be undertaking a roadway reconstruction project on Main Street (CSAH 42) between Center Avenue and 5th Avenue NE starting in June 2015. The City of Blooming Prairie is partnering with Steele County on this project to: replace water mains; replace sanitary sewer mains; replace/upgrade the storm sewer system.

Public Open House Purpose: The primary purpose of this open house is for the residents and businesses along the project to meet the project construction representatives from the prime contractor, Elcor Construction, and Steele County. This open house meeting will provide an opportunity to allow the public as well as local residents and business owners to hear the contractor's proposed construction sequence and estimated schedule.

Open House Format: The open house will be a "drop in" style of meeting where displays and construction plans are available. Attendees will be able to discuss the overall project with the construction representatives and have their questions answered on a one-on-one basis.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions or comments prior to the open house, please contact:

Steele County: Anita Benson at anita.benson@co.steele.mn.us
or (507) 444-7670
City of Blooming Prairie: Michael Jones at CBP@SMIG.net
or (507) 583-7573

5/19, 5/26

NOTICE

The City of Blooming Prairie would like to remind residents that depositing grass clippings and other vegetation on the public streets presents a danger to the water quality of our local watershed and is also a violation of city ordinance. Street sweeping can catch some of the debris, but it is not the most economical use of taxpayers' dollars. Lawn clippings, leaves and other debris often clump and clog catch basins, contributing to flooding in your neighborhood.

Please collect and dispose of grass clippings property or leave on your lawn.

5/26, 6/2

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Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer

1.Blooming Prairie Ambulance Board Member Rick Hansen cuts the ribbon during an open house ceremony.

2. Katie Wolf serves pork and beans and Bobbie Bruns delivers some chips for those going through the food line at the ambulance open house.

3. Cody Nirk buckles Evan Halverson in the ambulance during the ambulance facility open house at the new facility on U.S. Highway 218 in Blooming Prairie on May 19.



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Ignaszewski

4-H coordinator wins award

The University of Minnesota Extension has recognized Steele County 4-H program coordinator Tracy Ignaszewski for her work with children in the 4-H program.

She recently received the Dean's Distinguished Program Staff Award at a University of Minnesota Extension Staff Day on May 5 in St. Paul.

The award is given each year to an individual Extension community program assistant, community program specialist, community program associate or 4-H program staff in performing Extension work.

Ignaszewski has been 4-H program coordinator in the county for 17 years. She has worked with more than 600 youth who participate in 4-H at various after-school sites and 4-H clubs.



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

NRHEG junior SaraJo Stewart paints on her mural in the New Richland high school hallway. At least two students are painting or have painted murals in a hallway in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva high school.

Art comes alive on school walls

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Murals are showing up in the hallways of the high school building in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District.

Junior Kristin McKay has completed a mural of a girl dreaming about the ocean. Her inspiration came from an ocean scene out of a book.

"I like the ocean," said McKay, who grew up in Boston before moving to New Richland.

Another junior, SaraJo Stewart, is completing a mural right across from McKay's that shows a girl listening to music.

"Music is part of the soul," she said. "I looked on the Internet for an art drawing and found one similar."

Stewart has been working on the mural for about a month and

ART ALIVE
Continued on Page 2C

Cramped space dictates need for new gym space

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third article in a series leading up to the June 8 Referendum to decide whether or not to upgrade facilities at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District. This story discusses a new gym and locker rooms in New Richland high school building.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It is not unusual to attend an activity at the NRHEG gym in New Richland and see folks sitting right on top of the event and at time in harm's way.

And NRHEG secondary principal Dave Bunn said the one concern the school district has with this setup is safety. "We can't have people during basketball games on one side sitting in the first row of bleachers because the out of bounds line and bleachers are right on top of one another," Bunn said. "We also have concerns of kids running in and out. In general, there are safety issues for the players, the officials and the citizens."

The current gym seats approximately 800 people in the bleachers. In addition, for certain events, chairs have been put on the stage to make room for more people.

Another concern is limited practice space, practice times and sharing gyms. In addition, the school district works with community education and other organizations to utilize the facilities.

"Another large facility would certainly assist us in being able to provide adequate space for everyone," Bunn said.

A June 9 Referendum will be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Ellendale and New Richland schools to decide whether or not to upgrade school district facilities. A portion of the $14 million proposal would assist in building a new gym, fitness room and locker rooms.

NRHEG boys basketball coach Pat Churchill said that the school district is fortunate that there are two courts available in each community. "We do have the gym up there (in New Richland) that is not the best to practice on," he said. "We have an old floor that is slick and it is hard to keep it clean. The varsity gym is smaller and cramped. The quality in those is not as good as it could be."

Activities Director Dan Stork said the current facilities are simply outdated. "Our competition gym does not meet the safety requirements in terms of safe space around the court. The acoustics and lighting are nowhere near what our fine arts programs need to showcase their talents," he said. "Our weight room is extremely small and cannot house the number of student athletes we have that want to use it."

Stork said the proposed facility would allow the school district to hold a multitude of tournaments and post season events which would financially benefit the school and communities.

Churchill added that having a new athletic facility helps and excites the students. "You look at investing in the school, expanding and making that a better place, it helps the community," he said. "It gives the kids the tools and things they need to be successful. I think that is something that will go a long way for the future of NRHEG as a whole. If we can make it a better educational experience, it is only going to help us in the long run."



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

School leaders believe NRHEG gym space is needed for athletic programs and providing a safer environment for the students.

The locker rooms have issues with air quality. They have been refurbished, but Bunn said they are still not adequate for what the school district wants or needs.

With enrollment staying the same, Bunn said it is still important to stay competitive. "We want to stay attractive. We are keeping the folks we have and provide them the state of the art facility in order to maintain that," Bunn said. "If things are neglected and not updated, districts have the tendency to have declining enrollment or lose enrollment because of it. We want to make sure we are competitive so we don't end up losing students to our neighbors."

Stork said the new facilities would have a tremendous benefit on the athletic programs in terms of providing a safer playing environment for athletes, giving student athletes a much needed weight/fitness training facility and providing fans a much better viewing experience.

"This would also allow us to make major improvements to the sound, lighting and seating in the existing gym which would really spotlight our fine arts programs," he said.

Bunn believes this is also forward thinking. "It is a better train of thought then when you see a facility start to deteriorate, then you are in a reactive role," he said. "This is very proactive. It looks to the future."



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Justin Schumacher enjoys his pork and beans during a tasty meal. See more ambulance open house photos on 10B.

Large turnout for ambulance facility open house

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Almost 500 people were expected at the first open house of the newly-built Blooming Prairie ambulance building. And the turnout didn't disappoint members of the ambulance crew and others in the community.

"We got a really great turnout," said Blooming Prairie Ambulance Director Jeremy Halverson. "People have been saying nothing but good things about the building. There has been great community support."

The evening included a meal, a facility tour and a ribbon cutting ceremony. In addition, children were able to get an inside glimpse of the ambulance vehicle.

Blooming Prairie Mayor H. Peterson agreed it was a fantastic turnout. "It is a great facility and everyone is impressed," he said. "We did this because these volunteers deserve the best."

Halverson stated that the ambulance crew had planned for 500 people.

Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce President Luke Swenson said he couldn't believe the turnout. "Talk about support for a local community," he said, adding that he believed the turnout was large because it was for a group of volunteers that serve the whole community.



Submitted photo

Generous donation to school

Part of the donations from this year's MBO Benefit Concert was used to purchase an euphonium for the Lincoln band program. The generosity of the citizens of the Owatonna area made this happen.
Pictured left to right is Jerry Besser (MBO board member), Max Guenther, Holly Guenther (band teacher holding the new euphonium), Logan Spaar and Tanya Paley (MBO President.)

CountyLiving

County fairground changes

By ANNA SEGNER
Staff Writer

There are a few modifications that are in effect or in the works for the Steele County Free Fair grounds.

The first modification that will be in effect for this year's fair is the new policy that designates smoking and non-smoking areas on the fairgrounds. The Steele County Free Fair Board has received approval on this policy from the Steele County Board of Commissioners.

The new policy is simple; smoking is only allowed in the designated smoking areas. This policy is in effect for the fair and during other events that take place on the grounds throughout the year. During the fair, there will be maps and signage available, so that people are informed. There are over seven designated smoke areas throughout the fairgrounds, including an area surrounding the Beer Gardens.

"It hasn't been a problem, and we don't want it to become a problem," said fair manager Jim Gleason, as the fair board views the policy as a positive and slight variation.

The Four Season's Building is a county building, and it has a separate year-round policy. Smoking is only allowed in the designated smoking area, which is at the southeast side of the building. There are benches and a cigarette butt there to signify the area. During the fair, however, this space is usually home to multiple concession stands.

According to Steele County Park and Recreation/Four Seasons Director Steve Schroht, while the Four Season's building has its own smoking policy, the Four Season's Building will follow the same smoking policy as the Steele County Free Fair during the week of the fair.

"I think in the end it will work out well for everyone," said Schroht.

Besides the new smoking policy, the fair board has been generating new ways to utilize space on the grounds. According to fair board president Dan Deml, the racetrack is not a well utilized space. The Enduro racetrack is the space that is used frequently, while the half-mile racetrack is largely unutilized.

The plan, which is in its early stages, is to utilize the north and the south ends of the track for more parking and more concessions. The Enduro racetrack will remain. The fair board is envisioning the south end of the racetrack to be transformed into a parking lot. Deml claimed that parking is one of the biggest issues that the fair faces, so utilizing the racetrack space will aid the solution.

The north end of the track will probably be transformed into another lane for more and bigger concessions. As of now, the only way to get from the west end to the east end of the fairgrounds is to walk around the large racetrack, but adding another lane for concessions will give another lane of walking traffic from the east to the west end of the fair. This will ease up walking traffic and make for better movement. The construction of the north end may also allow for some more green space.

Reconstruction of the racetrack space will not begin until after this year's fair. The fair board is still in the planning stages of this project. Regarding the future renovations, Deml remarked "This should improve our space. It will give us some extra space to work with and maybe some more green space. We might be able to do some shifting around, and this will give us room for some premium parking, which is a good thing"

Road updates

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

I-35 Owatonna:

All of the existing pavement has been removed on I-35. The project's prime contractor Mathiowetz Construction will continue to prepare for the new road base. The subcontractor is continuing demolition work on the bridges in both locations in preparation for beginning to drive pile next week after the Memorial Day weekend.

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. This will continue into fall 2015.

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.

Highway 14

Four-lane expansion east of Owatonna near Highway 218 continues with the removal of the existing pavement. The contractor, Mathiowetz Construction Company, Inc. of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, should finish up with this phase of construction sometime mid-next week.

Mathiowetz plans to begin construction of the large box culverts on Tuesday, May 26.

Traffic remains head to head in the construction zone, but it has shifted from the old eastbound lanes to the new westbound lanes, which were reconstructed in 2014. Additionally, the eastbound onramp to Highway 14 from Highway 218 is closed.

Mathiowetz is constructing new concrete pavement at the intersection of Highway 14 and County Road 43 for the new westbound travel lanes.

The highway will be expanded from two lanes to four lanes and is part of the Corridors of Commerce state program for highway construction in Minnesota. The $12 million project is expected to be completed in September of 2015.

Old Highway 14 in Owatonna

Old TH 14 / CR 2 / Hoffman Drive in Owatonna has single lane traffic in both directions for the concrete pavement repair of the inside driving lanes from I-35 to the west city limits of Owatonna.

The prime contractor, Mathiowetz Construction, is re-grading a large ditch section in front of Bosch along the Hoffman Drive section of the project from I-35 to the east all the way over to State Avenue. Three fiber optic utilities had to be relocated prior to the project start date in preparation for the new ditch cut to be able to be constructed. They were in the way for ditch grading activities on the south side of the eastbound lanes.

The work in Owatonna is being done by Mathiowetz on Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive) from the beginning of the west Owatonna city limits to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Additionally, Old Highway 14 is closed and detoured beginning at the Owatonna city limits, which are about 1.5 miles west of I-35. The closure will last into October for the concrete overlay work. Call 507-304-6106 for additional information. This project is being completed by the MnDOT district based in Mankato.

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. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

The $16.9 million project is being led by prime contractor Shafer Contracting Co, Inc.

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.

The $4.1 million project will include highway resurfacing, grading and lighting. The project begins near Highway 56 north and runs west to the current Highway 14 expansion project. It also includes two miles between Highway 218 and I-35.

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

FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

No poultry or bird competition

For the first time in recent history there will be no poultry and bird competitions and displays at the Steele County Free Fair. The Minnesota Board of Animal Health has issued a directive to cancel all bird exhibitions at county fairs, the State Fair and other gatherings of birds. The Board's directive is effective through the end of 2015 and also prohibits birds from being included in swap meets, exotic sales and petting zoos.

The purpose of the Board's directive is to minimize the risk of potential further spread of the virus avian influenza.

The Steele County Free Fair does not have open class poultry competition. Only 4-Hers and their poultry projects are involved.

Brad Rugg, Extension 4-H and State Fair and Animal Science program director said, "Some 4-Hers will be disappointed that they won't be able to show their poultry projects at fairs this summer, but we're exploring alternate learning opportunities to offer them at fairs and will share more details as plans develop."

*There is still a need for some volunteers to help in the Culinary Arts department for entries on Monday, Aug. 17. Time will run from 5 p.m. to no later than 10 p.m. If you can help, call Culinary Arts Superintendent Monica Kruschke at 213-1854.

*A decision on the theme for the 2016 fair will be made during June. When the theme is selected, a sign is then created during the summer and the new theme is displayed during this year's fair. If you have an idea for 2016 please send it or e-mail it to the fair. We will not use "dream" again so soon. Be sure and include your name and address and a contact number.

*The Steele County ADA (American Dairy Assn.) will be sponsoring "Bella" the milking cow this year. It will be located near the FFA Storybook Farm during the fair.

*Those planning to enter the Demolition Derby scheduled for 4 on Sunday afternoon of the fair can get information at www.impdemoderby.com.

*Dates of the 2015 SCFF are Aug. 18-23 in Owatonna. Check the fair website at www.scff.org for entry forms and other pertinent information. The fair office number is 507-451-5305.

United Way discusses year's progress

By ANNA SEGNER
Staff Writer



Staff photo by Anna Segner

President and CEO of Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Jennifer Libby addressed barriers to income and financial stability during a United Way town hall meeting.

Progress through community collaboration has been a big part of United Way's Strategic Initiative. On Thursday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m., United Way officials met with community members and leaders to discuss and share progress on initiative projects. Main areas of concern are income, health and educational disparities of Steele County.

Collaboration groups that include leaders and directors from businesses, education and organizations have been key to the strategic initiatives. "United Way cannot do everything. We're a part of the game, but we need to all work together. We've spent time putting collaborations together, but now we are on the brink of starting projects," said Paley.

United Way's Director of Strategic Operations Tanya Paley led the meeting by reviewing the topics of concern at last year's meeting. Those main areas of concern last year were as follows: barriers to attaining a living wage job, lack of transportation to get to work, lack of childcare for alternating shifts, lack of low cost housing and lack of emergency resources. "These are areas that our agencies have been looking at and really trying to focus on," said Paley.

President and CEO of Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Jennifer Libby addressed barriers to income and financial stability. Libby spoke to the success of "Made in Owatonna Day," which connects high school students with local businesses.

"We are seeing more of an interest under Tanya's direction, and we are hoping to do it not once a year but twice a year. That would allow us to target not 50 students but 100 students and not three businesses but six businesses."

As far as a plan to help aid community members with financial stability, Libby introduced the Emergency Reserve Fund, which is a project under way which will inform and help individuals and families save away money for those crisis moments in life.

Strategic initiatives regarding health concerns were addressed by the director of Steele County Public Health Stan Groff.

Groff reported that a Farm to Family program is going to be launched on June 11 at various pick-up sites around the community. Farm to Family is a program that will provide fresh ingredients and recipes for a meal in a box at a convenient pick-up location.

The search for land to start a community garden is in progress. Cooking classes to educate the community is also in the works. There are also programs in the works to jump start physical activity.

The director of community education Debra McDermott-Johnson spoke to some educational disparities that the community faces. McDermott-Jonson shared the statistic that while the graduation rate for Owatonna is at 85.5 percent, the graduation rate for Hispanic students or students on free or reduced lunches is only 65 percent.

Mcdermott-Johnson also acknowledged issues such as transportation to preschoolers, especially for families that have tight work schedules that might be second or third shifts. That early childhood development is important to a child's future in education. Projects are under way to make those first few years of education as productive as possible in preparation for elementary school experiences.

The United Way's town hall meeting was a step among many steps toward making some positive impacts on the community.

ART ALIVE

Continued from Page 1C



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

NRHEG junior Kristin McKay stands near her completed mural of a girl dreaming about the ocean.

hopes to have it finished by the end of the school year.

Both girls are happy for the opportunity that the school district has provided. Both also believe that more should be done for those students who are interested in the arts.

"I like art. I'm not a very athletic person and wanted to do art," she said. "I was really surprised that the school actually was paying attention to art and not sports. I was really happy."

Stewart said it would be amazing if NRHEG expanded its art program. "They need to do something like that," she said. "Our school never pays attention to any art. It is really sad."

McKay also believes that the school district should have an increased art emphasis. "I think if we were allowed to be more creative and expressive, it would be more joyful," she said, adding there are a lot of artists in the school. "The art program should be expanded. You need to be creative in everything and apply it to whatever you do. It is also relaxing and provides a little bit of freedom."

McKay has been doing art since she was seven years old. She got into art because of her love for reading. She would then draw pictures from the stories.

"I enjoy letting loose and letting your mind wonder," McKay said. "It is very relaxing."

McKay is hoping to get into an illustration business as she gets older. She has done book covers for teachers in the school district. The mural was a challenge for her because it is something new to her. "It was a new surface. It was a new type of paint," she said. "It was fun."

When Stewart becomes stressed or sad, she starts drawing. When she starts drawing it isn't hard for her to come up with an idea. "I consider myself a creative person," Stewart said. "I have a very wild imagination and dream big."

She has changed her mural drawing several times and said will probably change it more because it is still not where she wants it to be. What she likes about the drawing is the colors are random. "I'm trying to make her skin bright so she will stand out," Stewart said. "When the painting is all said and done people will see with it whatever they want to get out of it."

Blooming PrairieLiving

VFW, American Legion auxiliaries name coloring contest winners



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Members of the Blooming Prairie VFW and American Legion and auxiliaries visited Blooming Prairie Elementary School third grade classrooms recently to present awards and to give a lesson on American flag etiquette. Shown from left to right are Ardell Swenson, Marilyn Witzel, Gary Thorson, Tom Walters, Gerry Berg and Joyce Johns.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Patriotism at its best was evident on the Friday afternoon of the recent Memorial Weekend when Blooming Prairie's VFW and American Legion auxiliaries presented awards to American Flag Coloring Contest winners.

The contest was open to all third-graders at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School.

Winners are: first place, Keily Averhoff, daughter of Jasmine and Cody Carlson; second place, Lily Graves, daughter of Tracy and Peter Graves and third place, Mason Brown, son of Deb and Jared Brown.

The coloring contest winners are students of Mrs. Becky Johnson, Mrs. Chelsea Van Roekel and Ms. Angie Avery.

A formal presentation of awards was held following an educational lesson on the American flag, led by Marilyn Witzel. American Legion Auxiliary president Ardell Swenson presented miniature flags for all three sections of third-graders.

Joyce Johns, VFW Auxiliary president, and Gerry Berg assisted with the special presentations.

Tom Walters and Gary Thorson presented a demonstration on how to fold the American flag following military rites.



Winners of the Blooming Prairie VFW and American Legion Auxiliaries Coloring Contest were recognized with special awards recently. All are third-graders at the BP Elementary School. Shown from left to right are: Lily Graves, second; Mason Brown, third and Keily Averhoff, first.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Some different vehicles were used to transport Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America members to school on Friday of last week. It was FFA Drive Your Tractor to School Day. All sizes and kinds of tractors were parked in the south parking lot at Blooming Prairie High School.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

An open house to celebrate recent remodeling was held at Koster's Car Corner in Blooming Prairie on Friday, May 22. Employees and representatives of the BP Chamber of Commerce participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony. Followng the ribbon cutting, Rod, Tess, Breauna and Reeves Coster took a spin in a 2001 Ford Thunderbird featured on the Kosters lot. The remodeling included replacement of windows, painting of the office, installation of new garage doors, cemented alley way and various improvements in energy efficiency with lighting and air conditioning. Koster's will celebrate its 25th year of business in November of 2016.

Choruses perform at Spring concert

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

Another fine performance marked the annual spring concert by the Blooming Prairie High School junior and senior high choruses recently.

Besides the usual vocal presentations, the two groups entertained the audience with group dances centered on the popular "Grease" movie, and the Beatles' rage of the early 80's. Needless to say, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

"Arise and Clap your Hands" by the junior high chorus provided a fitting and rousing end to the three selections from that group. The fact that this young chorus still has voices to sing in parts is a plus and the boys' voices add to that quality.

One of the highlights in recent concerts revolves around the five-member chamber choir, and their renditions of "Bravo" and "Gone, Gone, Gone" thrilled the overflow audience in the commons area. The voice of bass Timothy Frazier is a joy to hear, and his blend with the female members excels. The five are a joy to listen to.

The familiar "You'll Never Walk Alone" kicked off the senior high chorus selections, and that number, plus "Already Home," showed excellent harmony and good power from all sections of the group. Some outstanding singers, both girls and boys, make this a most interesting concert organization.

Moving to the gym for the dance finales, the junior high chorus displayed some clever dance steps to the music of "Grease," and the senior high chorus did the same while singing the Beatles in Revue."

The evening provided great entertainment for the capacity audience, and Director Kari Bottin and accompanist Amelia Harthan are to be commended for their excellent work. To deal with almost 120 voices is daunting, but Ms. Bottin does it with exuberance and aplomb, and the result is a very pleasant experience

The American Legion Auxiliary will be sponsoring and celebrating their 10th year of Reviving

Flower Show and Luncheon
Thursday
July 30, 2015

at the Servicemen's Club - Blooming Prairie
Exhibitor entry categories will be similar to last year. The exhibit will include several classes for the flower or plant entries, prizes, and lunch followed by a card party.

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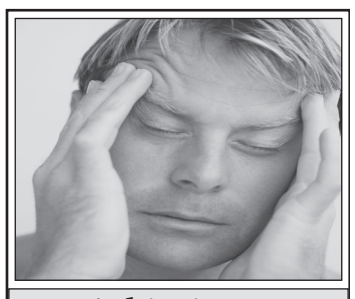

Achieving a state of ease

The word "disease" comes from "diss" and "ease". You're sick when your body lacks "ease". Your body's "ease" is directed by your nervous system - The focus of chiropractic care.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

Chamber Spotlight

AgPower dealerships span 130 miles

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Correspondent



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Green is the color of choice at AgPower dealerships. Here, Kevin Hansen, regional sales manager for AgPower, is shown by some of the inventory at the Owatonna dealership.

It's a 36-acre campus that is impressive to say the least. We're talking about AgPower Enterprises Inc., located at 3555 SW 18th St. in Owatonna.

AgPower is a group of five John Deere dealerships located in Owatonna, Hollandale, Belle Plaine, Northwood (Iowa) and Osage (Iowa). Administrative headquarters are located in an 80,000 square foot building that was constructed in Owatonna in 2012. It is a state of the art building, said Michael Veldman, chief executive officer of AgPower.

Coverage by the five dealerships spans 130 miles from Owatonna to Osage, Iowa, Veldman said.

The Owatonna dealership features a huge repair shop that measures 300 feet long and 160 feet wide. A wide variety of parts are also available.

AgPower in Owatonna and its other dealerships are busy continuously with farmers and residential customers walking through the doors.

"We sell some huge pieces of farm equipment and also market a considerable amount of lawn care equipment," said Veldman. "We sell all sizes of tractors from 20 horsepower to 600 horsepower."

His involvement in the farm implement business actually dates back to his father Wilbur who ran a hardware store and implement company with a partner.

He and his partner split in 1952 and Wilbur took over the implement business. He built a building in Hollandale on the north edge of town. The current Hollandale dealership is now located on the west end of Hollandale.

Mike went into business with his father in 1976. They signed an agreement to build a new building in 1997. Since that time, the operation grew with more partners being added, including Ron Christensen, Michael Veldman's sons Jake and Brock, Keith Siemon (retired), Terry Siemon, Jay Behne, Dana Norby and Randy Norby.

The five dealerships are staffed by 140 employees who Veldman says are the keys to success in the implement business.

"It has been a real joy see our employees meet farm equipment.

"It's a world issue," Veldman believes. The current spring season looks favorable, he said.

The economy "hit the skids" with a decline in commodity prices in recent years, Veldman explained. He said farmers experienced two difficult spring seasons in 2013 and 2014.

AgPower has seen many changes in technology in recent years with the GPS tools playing a key role in farming these days.

In addition to John Deere, the dealerships at AgPower carry Stihl and Honda products. AgPower also sells commercial sprayers to co-operatives. Veldman says AgPower serves one-third of Wisconsin, one-half of Minnesota and the northern tier of Iowa with commercial sprayers.

Veldman, who is in his 40th year in the implement business, said he is very thankful for his customers who come from the Blooming Prairie area. "I am very familiar with the Ingvalsons and Troms," he said. "We have to be good to our customers and they have to trust us," Veldman said.

The number of customers has declined over the years but the size of single farming operations has grown, Veldman related. "Keeping up with technology and the high prices of machinery is a constant challenge," he added. Some tractors carry a price tag of $250,000 and a corn planter may cost $300,000.

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Ellendale-Geneva Living

NRHEG students honored

NRHEG students were honor during a School Awards program in New Richland on May 20.

Below are the scholarship recipients and other award winners.

Scholarship Recipient
Jacob Bushlack Memorial:
Matthew Jensen
Ryan Hagen
Raymond & Florence Sponberg
Jamie Beckstrand
Kelson Titus
Darrol & Pauline Sponberg
Nicholas Bartness
Melissa Malakowsky
E.F. Johnson Foundation
Trevor Tracy
N.R. Lions Club
Ryann Hagen
Ellendale Lions Club
Jake Langlie
Ag Ed Scholarship
Samantha Pettey
Melissa Malakowsky
Amy Beckstrand
Jamie Beckstrand
Open Arms Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention
Jade Peterson
Federated Insurance
Grany Kyllo
Memories Car Club
Dylan Arnold
Steele-Waseca County Electric
Dakota Thiele
Zola Mae Reese Memorial
Keith Maxon
Ryann Hagen
Basketball Boosters
Anna Stork
Spencer Tollefson
Lyle & Helen Wayne Memorial Scholarship
Jet Wayne
Education
MN-NRHEG
Haylie Mosher
Jade Hill
Jake Langlie
Nicholas Bartness
Aurora Strom
Wayne Broeker Memorial
Brady Beenken
NRHEG Alumni
Kevin Kalis
Haylie Mosher
Sleigh & Cutter
Samantha Pettey
Ertel Memorial Scholarship
Cassidy Sletten
Ryann Hagen
Ingeborg Rugroden Memorial
Alyssa Esplan
Karina Gaona
Maple Island Park Association
Anna Stork
Matt Jensen
Zak Stenzel
State
Bank of New Richland
Brady Beenken
Karina Gaona
Ryann Hagen
Kelli Harrington
Jade Hill
Logan Knutson
Jake Langlie
Melissa Malakowsky
Keith Maxon
Anna Stork
Aurora Strom
Trevor Tracy
Achieving Dreams for Disabilities-Waseca Co
Bianca Kohnert
Naeve Hospital Alumni & Nurses Club
Dillon Kubiatowicz
Anna Stork
Jade Hill
Ryann Hagen
First Lutheran Church
Jake Langlie
Accentra Credit Union
Jake Langlie
AgStar
Kevin Kalis
Zach Stenzel
Band Boosters
Melissa Malakowsky
Naeve Hospital Auxiliary
Ryann Hagen
National FFA Foundation
Melissa Malakowsky
Outstanding FFA Member & FFA Scholarship
Haley Mosher
Drew Woodwick Memorial
Jade Peterson
LeSueur River Lutheran Church
Keith Maxon
Spencer Tollefson
Haylie Mosher
Colton Hagen
Ryann Hagen
MN Short Horn Lassie
Jamie Beckstrand
Amy Beckstrand
DeKalb Leadership
Melissa Malakowsky
Canadian Pacific Legacy
Keith Maxon
Red Cross
Jade Hill
Mayo Clinic Health System Albert Lea & Austin
Jade Hill
Ryann Hagen
Freeborn County Farm Bureau
Jet Wayne

Awards
Triple A
Keith Maxon
Anna Stork
Excel
Jessica Nafe
Trigstar
Elijah Lutgens
Torrie Stencel
Abby Christopherson
Class Officers
Seniors
Jake Langlie
Jade Hill
Nicholas Bartness
Ryann Hagen
Anna Stork
Trevor Tracy
Juniors
Dempsey Tucker
Anna Bailey
Jessica Nafe
Sophia Fischer
Student Council
Abby Christopherson
Anna Lundberg
Sophomores
Oakley Baker
Grace Johns
Kallie Spooner
Rachel Collins
Jason Jongbloedt
Maci Surat
Freshmen
Justin Mortensen
Samiha Blowers
Renee McNett
Betsy Schoenrock
H.S. Ambassadors
Libby Nelson
Sandra Quezeda
Karina Gaona
Tyler Schlaak
Shanna Stencel
Samantha Pettey
Mercedes Dickerson
Cynthia Quezada
Maurya Johnson
Lacy Nelson
Maci Surat
Ben Lewer
Jake Langlie
Justin Mortensen
Katelyn Christianson
Orin Mely
Kristina Palmer
Kayley Camerer
Kallie Spooner
Cecelia Torp
Jennifer McKay
Jillian Jongbloedt
Perfect Attendance
Brady Beenken
Jordan Mueller
Destiny Hill
Nicholas Shultz
Maurya Johnson
Justin Mortensen
Kevin Kalis
Lizzy Hagen
Aaron Seath
Nicholas Dzuibak
Evan Dobberstein
Nathaniel Techau
Music
Louie Armstrong – Jazz: Logan Knutson
John Phillip Sousa: Melissa Malakowsky
Outstanding Senior Award: Shanna Stencel
The National Choral Award: Cassandra Koziolek
Marching Band Panther of the Year: Aurora Strom
President's Education Award
Karina Gaona
Kelli Harrington
Jake Langlie
Anna Stork
Trevor Tracy
Nicole Edon
Anna Lundberg
Torrie Stencel
Oakley Baker
Maurya Johnson
Samuel Prigge
Nora Retallick
Maci Surat
Betsy Schoenrock
Justin Mortensen
Ryann Hagen
Jade Hill
Melissa Malakowsky
Aurora Strom
Anna Bailey
Katherine Lewer
Jessica Nafe
Clayton Nelson
Grace Johns
Jennifer McKay
Cynthia Quezada
Kallie Spooner
Emily Prigge
Ben Lewer
Chad Agrimson
Panther Press HS Writers
Kately Christensen
Libby Nelson
Samantha Pettey
Kristina Palmer
Jillian Jongbloedt
Maci Surat
Shanna Stencel
Jake Langlie
Justin Mortensen
Speech Team
Karina Gaona
Nora Retallick
Reader's Theatre Performers
Ben Lewer
Justin Mortensen
Jennifer McKay
Jill Jongbloedt
Bailey Burg
Whittney McCamish
Ethan Johnson
Will Rudau
Nicole Wallin
Nora Retallick
Ceclia Torp



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Tops in the State

NRHEG students Abby Christopherson, Torrie Stencel and Eli Lutgens found out during the annual high school awards ceremony that their TrigStar team was in first place in the state. Earlier this year the team captured the gold during the 13th annual TrigStar competition. The program is an annual competition that recognizes the best students of trigonometry in high schools across Minnesota.

The school that keeps giving from the heart

The end of the school year is here and I would like to share with everyone how proud I am to work at NRHEG Elementary School.

As I reflect back on the 2014-2015 school year I am in awe of our students and staff.

What a dedicated group of teachers and staff who work together to support each individual student to grow, develop and reach their highest potential as they journey through their elementary years.

At NRHEG Elementary of course academic achievement is recognized as a high priority, however, there is a second high priority the school is committed to which is developing and recognizing the "heart" in everyone.

The "heart" in each and every person at school who demonstrates caring, sharing, helping, befriending, accepting and supporting others at school and in their communities. Let me share with you how "the heart" at school which keeps on giving.

This year throughout the school year there have been numerous programs conducted by students and staff to support their communities.

Starting in November, there was a "Turkey Trot" held in the physical education classes where the students trotted (ran laps) around the gym to support the area food shelves with additional Thanksgiving Meals. Students were given the opportunity make a donation of no more than $1.

On the day of the trot we collected more than $100, which purchased more than $1,000 of food for Thanksgiving dinners. What a way to start the year!

In December we held our annual Christmas Toy drive. Students and teachers made many girls and boys happy at Christmas. Hundreds of toys were collected and given to the area food shelves to give to local families. What a gift of giving was shown here at school at Christmas time!

In February during "I Love to Read Month" we held a book drive. Here again the students and staff shared their love of reading with many other children.

During the book drive we collected more than 500 books, which were again given to the area food shelves to share with our communities families!

During March in Minnesota is the "Food Share Drive." This is the major drive throughout the state where food shelves get a large portion of their yearly donations.

NRHEG Elementary students and staff came through again with 277 pounds of food and monetary donations of $300, which purchased $3,000 worth of food.

An additional 50 pounds of food was collected for the food shelves during this year's elementary play.

Also in March and April the students and staff contributed to support the area Cancer Association and Juvenile Diabetics Association. This school just keeps on giving and sharing their "hearts" with everyone.

Our kindergarten classes are great at showing us the way of caring, sharing and giving to their communities. They demonstrated this at four special times during the year. On day 50 at school they held a food drive and learned about how the food shelves help people! Way to Go kindergartners!

At Valentine's and Easter the kindergarteners went to Whispering Oaks to celebrate these holidays.

They brought decorations, sang songs and visited with the residents. Everyone had a wonderful time!

On April 22, each kindergarten student brought a recyclable item from home. The classes walked to the recycling center to deposit their item and learned about how to help the environment by recycling.

This school is amazing; I still have more to share….!

Throughout the year the fourth- and fifth-grade students worked with the New Richland Area Food Shelf for a total of 2 ½ hours each month. A different group of fourth- and fifth-grade students participated each time.

In the spring groups of five students from each for our fourth grade classes went to Whispering Oaks Assisted Living to read the newspaper to the residents. This was a special time for both the residents and the students.

So you can see that NRHEG Elementary is a school dedicated to achieving each students highest potential in both academics and being good citizens who care and share for others deep from their hearts.

I want to acknowledge our principal Mr. Doug Anderson for his leadership and guidance which allows for the students and staff at NRHEG Elementary to grow and learn each day! Thank you Mr. Anderson!

Barb Handahl
is the Family Services Coordinator
in NRHEG Ellendale School.

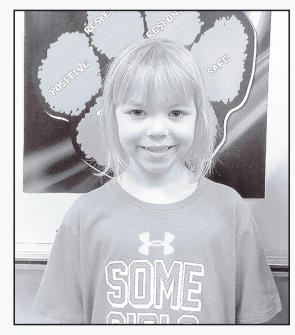
Student of the Week

Ciara Stenzel is in Mrs. Jensen's Kindergarten Class.

Her parents are Doug and Amy Stenzel from New Richland, Minnesota. She likes to play with toys and her dog. She likes to shop at Target and play football.

When asked what she would like to do when she grows up, she said paint a rainbow and plant corn. Ciara shows Panther Pride by being a leader and showing great responsibility.

She is a great listener and



always makes good choices. She listens to directions so well that she can do her work and then help others if needed. Great job Ciara!

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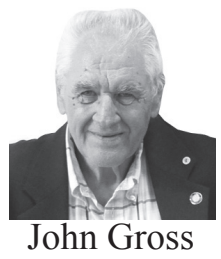
MedfordLiving

Medford High School Graduation - 1915

ANOTHER TIME



John Gross

Although there has been a school in Medford since 1855, it would be 60 years before the district would award diplomas to high school graduates.

This took place on June 3, 1915 and the first graduating class consisted of four students, all girls.

The first school (of which there is record) was a simple one-room log cabin constructed in 1855 southwest of what is now Piper Hill. This structure was replaced in 1867 by a two-story wooden frame building at a cost of $2,500.

Two teachers were employed; one taught all three primary grades together on the first floor, while the other had the three upper grades on the top floor.

Anyone wishing to continue their education after this would usually then attend Owatonna High School or Pillsbury Academy. Known as District 5, this building was located on the southeast corner of what is now East Central Avenue and 2nd Street NE. It served the district until 1912.

Two years before this, voters decided to build a more modern school and a new site was purchased for $600 across the street to the east on what was then the James E. Cady farm.

On Aug. 12, 1911, four neighboring "common" school districts voted to consolidate with District No. 5 in Medford, and that December approved a $17,000 bond issue. Work began on the new two-story red brick edifice in the spring of 1912, but as the building neared completion, it became obvious that $3,000 more was needed.

The school board had also recently learned that for a little more money and adding several more rooms to be used for "manual training, domestic science and agriculture" Medford could become an accredited high school.

On Sept. 10, 1912, voters were given the choice of approving either $3,000 just to complete the building or $6,000 to enlarge it into a high school. The latter proposal carried by an overwhelming margin of 56-8.

Ten days later, the Owatonna Peoples Press remarked that Medford "is now a remarkably good place in which to live, and its educational facilities are such that more people are bound to come here to live."

The first commencement ceremonies were held on June 3, 1915 in Lee's Hall (on N. Main Street) as the building did not have an auditorium. The next day the Owatonna Journal-Chronicle observed: "There was an attendance which more than crowded the capacity of the hall, the interest in this program being so general. The program consisted of orations delivered by the first four graduates from the school and the usual formal exercises.

The orations were delivered in a manner which increased the already great pride felt by the entire community in this notable institution and were received with every evidence of warm appreciation."

The four graduates, all girls, and their orations were; Leona Bailey, "The Value of Consolidated Schools;" Amy Penz, "The Natural Resources of Minnesota;" Dorothy Hill, "Immigration;" and Beth Gilman, "The Value of Industrial Training in Our Schools."

This first high school building was destroyed by fire in 1921 and quickly replaced by another which also housed the high school on the second floor and commencement activities took place in the gym.

After an addition to that building containing a new gymnasium and stage were completed in 1953, graduation ceremonies were held there until 2003.

Since that time, commencement exercises have been conducted in the new school "on the hill." On Friday evening, May 29, at 7 p.m., 58 graduates are scheduled to receive their diplomas.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Menus

Medford School Lunch Menu

May 26: Pulled Pork Sliders, BBQ Sauce, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Harvest Chicken Salad, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 27: Chicken Nuggets, Whole Wheat Bread, Buffalo Chicken Wrap, Taco Salad, Tator Tots, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 28: Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy & Dinner Roll, Deli Sub, Chef Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

May 29: Stromboli w/Marinara Sauce, Yogurt Pak, Garden Vegetable Salad, Glazed Carrots, Baby Spinach, Radishes, Choice of Fruit

June 1: Chicken Day, Pasta W/Marinara, Deli Sandwich, Carrots, Cucumber Slices, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

June 2: Taco Tuesday w/ Fixins, Deli Sandwich, Corn, Broccoli Florets, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

June 3: Hot Sandwich Day, Deli Sandwich, Baked Beans, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit

June 4: Pasta W/Meatballs, Or Alfredo, Deli Sandwich, Peas, Celery Sticks, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit

An FFA Show at the school





Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

ABOVE: Third graders Lexie Dill (left) and Promise Herrera pet a kitten on Baby Animal Day at Medford School as one of the FFA Week festivities.

RIGHT: Freshman Jakob Wall tosses a hay bale as far as he can during Medford School's hay bale toss for Western Wednesday. The school celebrated FFA week from Monday, May 18, through Friday, May 22, with various activities and dress up days including Animal Print Monday, Patriotic Tuesday, Western Wednesday, Ag Business Thursday and Blue & Gold/FFA Friday.

City approves multiple uses of EDA funds

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Medford Senior Care's expansion is one step closer after the Medford City Council approved a $40,000 revolving loan from the EDA to Delwyn and Julie Spronk, owners of Medford Senior Care, at its meeting on Monday, May 18.

"We have had a fair amount of married couples come to us and the rooms we have right now are just not large enough to accommodate them," Delwyn Spronk said. "We are looking at putting on eight units that will be more of an apartment type versus the efficiency apartment we have now. They will have a combination kitchen and living room with a full kitchen, a separate bedroom, their own bathroom with a shower and possibly their own laundry facility if they wish to have them."

The expansion, which will be located on the northeast side of the property, will also include the addition of four garages for half of the new units. The total project is estimated to cost around $800,000.

The expansion would also require the hiring of eight additional part-time staff including one cook and seven CNA positions.

Council member Marie Sexton brought up the concern that since the expansion is a bit larger than was projected, it will now be near the city's storm sewer line.

Delwyn estimated that the addition would be within 15 or 20 feet of the storm sewer line and if it could not be worked out between the city and the Spronks, the last resort would be to bring the number of rooms down to six instead of eight.

Council member Chad Merritt commented that he would like to see the term of the loan shortened.

"I'd like to see this term down from 20 years; then we have locked up $40,000 at 2 percent for 20 years. The EDA is established and I'd like to see some of this money be used for some new businesses that are coming in," Merritt said.

Mayor Lois Nelson said generally the EDA tries to give out two to three loans each year, which average between $8,000 and $35,000 with a cap at $40,000.

After discussion, the council and the Spronks agreed to a 10-year term that would keep the payments the same as the 20-year term with a balloon payment due after year 10.

Beatification of Main Street

The city council also approved giving up to $1,000 from EDA funds to Dennis Burgess for the purchasing of eight flower pots to be positioned along Main Street. That money will go toward the purchase of the plants, the potting of the plants and paying Straight River Enterprise staff for maintaining the pots three times a week.

Throughout the year Burgess has already collected $500 in donations, and if there is money left, over it will remain in the fund for next year.

Gas and Food Signs

The city council also approved the purchasing of three general gas and food signs from Steele County from EDA funds. There will be two signs installed along Central Avenue and another along the Frontage Road across from the Medford Outlet Center.

Earlier this spring, MnDOT installed general gas and food signs on the off ramps and the EDA wanted to see additional signs put in beyond the off ramps to direct motorists to gas

EDA FUNDS
Continued on Page 8C

Weekly crossword

on Page 6D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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WILDER PAGEANT



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Owatonna Living

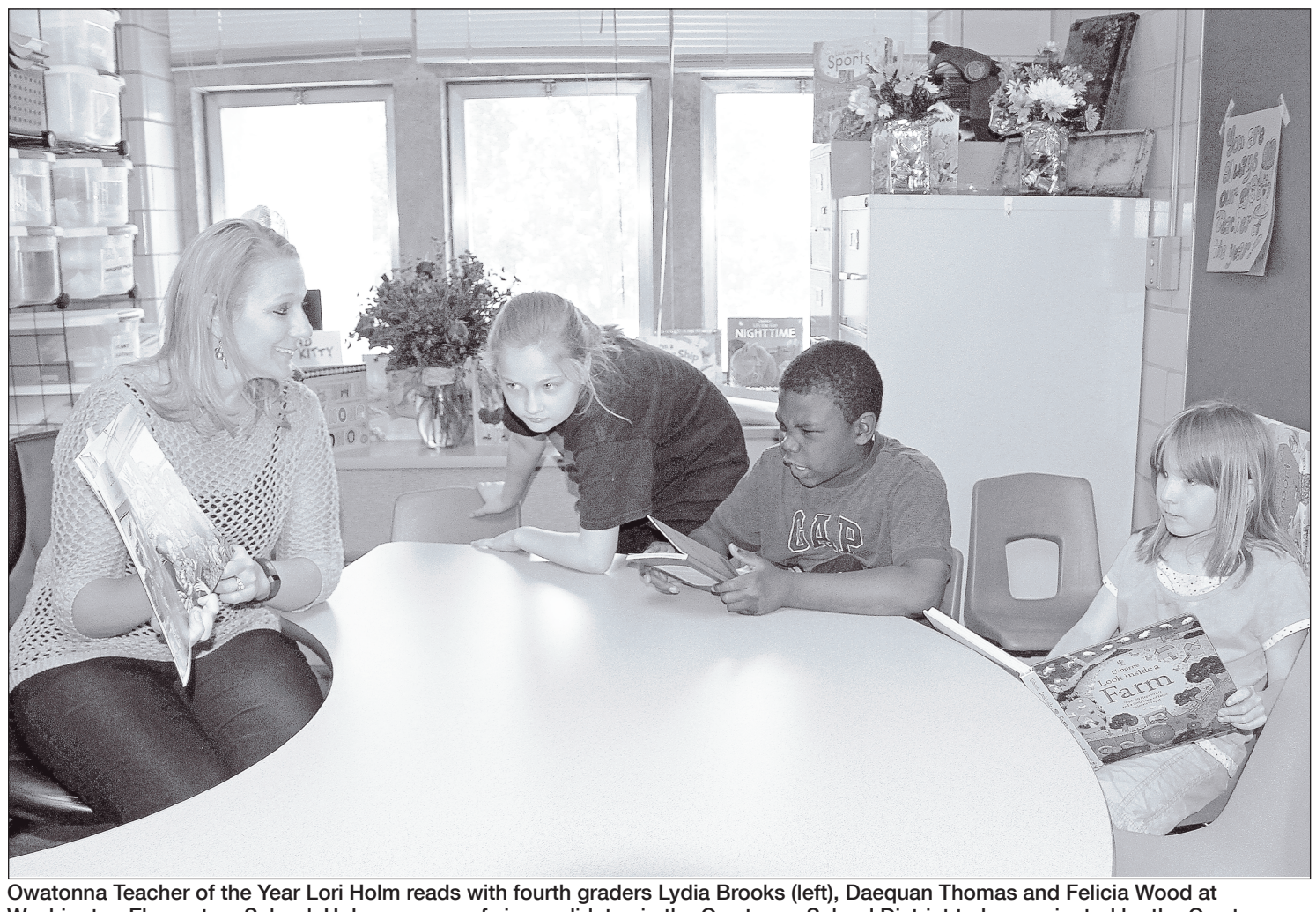
Owatonna Teacher of the Year

Holm is recognized for compassion for her students



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

Washington Elementary School's Special education teacher Lori Holm shows off her Owatonna Teacher of the Year plaque. Holm was one of six candidates in the Owatonna School District to be nominated by the Owatonna Education Association (OEA).



Owatonna Teacher of the Year Lori Holm reads with fourth graders Lydia Brooks (left), Daequan Thomas and Felicia Wood at Washington Elementary School. Holm was one of six candidates in the Owatonna School District to be nominated by the Owatonna Education Association (OEA).

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Washington Elementary School's special education teacher Lori Holm was chosen as the Owatonna Teacher of the Year earlier this month at the Owatonna Educators Awards and Recognition Banquet.

Holm was one of six candidates nominated by the Owatonna Education Association (OEA), which is the union that represents ISD 761.

The other candidates included Kayla Davis from McKinley, Tamara Gonzalez from McKinley, Mark Langlois from McKinley, Bill McClintock from Wilson and Josh Tolle from Willow Creek.

Washington Elementary Principal, Beth Svenby, says Holm is deserving of this recognition because she is an amazing educator.

"The compassion that she has for her students, the passion she possesses in helping each individual student grow and the grace she communicates with through her actions and words exemplifies what an outstanding teacher should be," Svenby wrote in an emailed statement. "Without a doubt, Lori was meant to be an educator and has made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many others, both students and staff."

Svenby added, "The countless hours that she spends researching and developing key instructional strategies to meet the needs of each of her learners is so impactful and purposeful in both the students learning and her professional learning as well. Lori is the definition of a lifelong learner and is diligent in constantly refining her instructional skills as the needs and learning styles of our students evolve."

Holm, who has been at Washington since 2010, couldn't believe the news that she was chosen.

"I was shocked, speechless, humbled. It is just hard to believe… everybody comes to work and does a great job and everybody should be honored," she said. "It validates that I am making a difference in the lives of kids. It means that I need to continue doing what I am doing and then some. I need to strive to continue to be better."

Holm is originally from Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and first became interested in becoming a teacher when she was in high school.

She took classes, baby-sat and volunteered for a variety of kid programs as well in the special education classroom.

She graduated from the University of North Dakota with a major in elementary education and a minor in special education and has since gone on to get her master's degree in reading. She is currently working on her master's in administration from the University of Minnesota.

I just really enjoy seeing those kids grow and thrive when given the right opportunities and building their self-esteem," Holm said. "I love making a difference in as many lives as I can."

Holm works with students with all different types of disabilities and primarily works with them on reading recovery. The biggest challenge for her has been staying up-to-date with the constantly evolving research for educators.

Holm said the most rewarding aspect of her job is "When we are able to close the achievement gap with kids and they are working on grade level materials."

Students continue learning through summer incentive program

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

With the school year coming to a close, staff at McKinley and Wilson Elementary Schools are doing everything they can to keep students learning throughout the summer.

Both schools are participating in a similar summer learning incentive program in which students keep track of their learning minutes on a calendar and those who meet their goals are eligible for a breakfast and prizes once school resumes in the fall.

MCKINLEY

"Research says that if a kid doesn't read or do any learning over the summer, they regress two months when they enter our doors in September," said McKinley principal Justin Kiel. "The main purpose is to get kids to continue their learning and make it real-world applicable. It is to honor the work that they are doing at home already and to keep them learning over the summer."

McKinley put on a similar program last summer; however, students only kept track of their reading minutes. This year, the school decided to partner with the PTO to expand the program to include all subjects.

"We want kids in books, but we also want to honor the fact that there is other learning that happens," Kiel said. "We want kids to understand that when you become a lifelong learner, it is not necessarily in a textbook or reading but the day-to-day things that you are doing."

Before the school year ends, students will meet with their teachers to come up with monthly goals and be given calendars. Each time a student does a learning activity they record what the activity was, how long they did it for and have a parent or guardian sign off on the calendar.

Some examples of eligible activities include reading a book, helping cook dinner using a recipe, creating a grocery list, writing a letter or email, helping plan a family trip, playing an educational game and making a scrapbook.

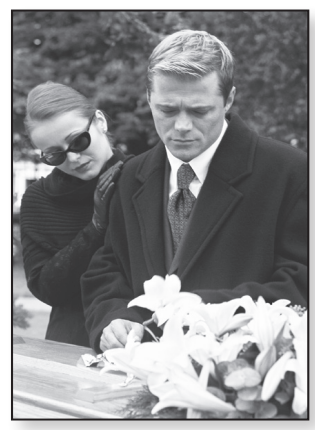
Students will also be able to count minutes they spend at the school. Every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. students can join staff to read and check out books and then head to the garden from 1 to 2 p.m. to help observe and tend to the garden.

"Our hope is that we have lots of kids in the building and that every kid continues to do learning so that we don't see that dip in the summer," Kiel said. "When kids come in the fall and do their fall benchmark, we'd love to have maintenance or growth with them. We'd really like for them to continue the love of learning and come back energized."

SUMMER LEARNERS

Continued on Page 7C

GRIEF RELIEF



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OwatonnaLiving

Family creates pieces to preserve memories

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

When Travis and Samantha Ahrens are not busy chauffeuring their children around to their sporting events and activities, the two like to spend quality time together creating memories while working to preserve other people's memories.

The Ahrens, of Owatonna, started their business A5 Creations five years ago and decided to name it A5 because of their last name and the number of members in their family. The two run the business together with occasional help from their three children Avery, 11, Teagun, 10, and Addison, 8.

"It kind of started when I was looking for something a little bit more interesting than a plain black or silver picture frame," Samantha said. "I'm kind of creative, and he is handy as heck, so I figured we could find something to make."

The two make various sizes of picture frames, wooden boxes and large letters, all of which can be personalized to the customer's desire.

The newest item they are experimenting with is clocks, however, they are still fine-tuning them and have not put them up for sale just yet.

"I love photos and memories, that is an important part of our life. Displaying them in an awesome way is rewarding and to know that we've had a part in that in somebody else's home is very cool," Samantha said.

Travis is in charge of using the saws and the technical side of things such as measurements, and Samantha is in charge of the creative side of things such as the painting and sanding. Both of them work together on personalizing items as well as the final assembly.

"It is something that we can do together in the garage, and I really enjoy the woodwork," Travis said.

Samantha added her favorite part about A5 Creations is it is time they can spend together. "In our crazy life we don't get to spend a lot of time together, so this is something that we can hang out together, chat and just be together."

If hauling around their kids isn't enough to keep them occupied, both of them have full-time jobs; Travis is a Commander for the Owatonna Fire Department and Samantha is a probation officer for Steele County.

Their busiest season for A5 is from Thanksgiving through Christmas and also around holidays.

During busy months the two spend around two to three hours a day sawing, sanding and painting and during the down months a few hours a week.

The main challenge for them has been finding the time in their schedules to dedicate to making the items.

"On my days off I can do a bunch of cutting and get stuff ready to go for her so at night when she gets home or after the kids go to bed, she can start painting or sanding," Travis said.

On the weekends is typically when the two get to work on it together.

In the beginning the two attended various craft and vendor sales, but now they only attend one to two a year because they want to keep orders manageable.

"We want to keep it fun, a hobby and to continue to like doing it. We also want to keep our jobs because we both enjoy what we do," Samantha said.

Travis added, "We really don't want to do too much, otherwise it takes away from other stuff."

Another challenge has been the Minnesota weather. The two run the business out of their garage, so in the winter they are forced to move some of the operation inside, such as painting, so the paint doesn't freeze. They hope in the future to be able to insulate their garage.

Travis particularly enjoys making custom orders and seeing his handiwork go to someone else's home, and Samantha enjoys seeing the customer's reaction when they see the finished product.

"To see their satisfaction that we did what they wanted to do and now be part of their home is rewarding," she said.

The Ahrens sell their products primarily through their Facebook page and also have products for sale at The Hat Chic in Owatonna.



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

LEFT: Travis and Samantha Ahrens, of Owatonna, hold up one of the many items they have made for their business A5 Creations. They make a variety of picture frames, wood boxes, large letters and most recently clocks.

BELOW: Samantha Ahrens paints a big letter "B" for a customer. Samantha and her husband Travis have run A5 Creations out of their garage for five years.

BOTTOM LEFT: Travis Ahrens saws some wood for one of his latest creations through A5 Creations.





SUMMER LEARNERS

Continued from Page 6C

Students who get parent or guardian initials for their number of learning minutes and reach their summer goal will be put into a drawing for prizes. Students who not only meet their monthly goals, but also submit their calendar will be invited to the breakfast where prizes will be drawn. Prizes include an iPod Touch, Target and Walmart gift cards and a chance to be the principal for the day.

WILSON

Wilson Elementary School's Principal Julie Sullivan says Wilson implemented the program four summers ago after witnessing many of their students lose the growth they had made during the school year over the summer.

Wilson's summer incentive program is set up the same way as McKinley's because Kiel was working at Wilson when the program was created.

"We want to encourage kids to stay active with their learning in the summer. We totally understand that summer is time to be a kid, but we also think that asking a family to do 15 minutes a day maybe four to five times a week isn't asking to much," Sullivan said. "We want students to understand that learning is important all the time. We are not asking for a huge part of their time in the summer, but enough to keep that brain going."

Each grade level sets a goal for how many learning minutes they want to complete over the summer and if that goal is reached, the student is eligible for a breakfast and 10 to 15 prizes. Sullivan says typically there is one large prize such as an iPod and numerous smaller prizes such as soccer balls, footballs and gift cards.

"It gives parents a tool and something they can use to keep their kids going in the summer. We hope that they don't lose too much over the summer and can come in the fall and kind of pick up where they left off," Sullivan said.

Sullivan's hope for the program this year is to get more kids actively involved in the program, as well as to get more parents to see the importance of continuing their child's learning over the summer.



Kindergartner Reilly Hoffman plays a reading comprehension game on the iPad that would qualify as learning minutes on her summer incentive program calendar.



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

Kindergarteners Lauren Hettinga and Jace Feuring sit in comfy chairs while reading a book together. This activity would qualify as learning minutes on their summer incentive program calendars.

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RECIPE CORNER

Fluff Pie

- 1 graham cracker crust pie (they have light versions of these)
- 1 pkg. sugar free jello (any flavor)
- 1 regular size container of sugar free or lite cool whip
- 2 containers of light yogurt (any flavor)
- 1/4 cup water

Boil in microwave 1/4 cup of water (I usually do this in a big enough glass bowl to add everything else) stir in package of jello until completely dissolved stir in cool whip and yogurt pour into graham cracker pie crust cover and refrigerate for half an hour…then enjoy!

By Angie Carlson • BP Elementary Teacher

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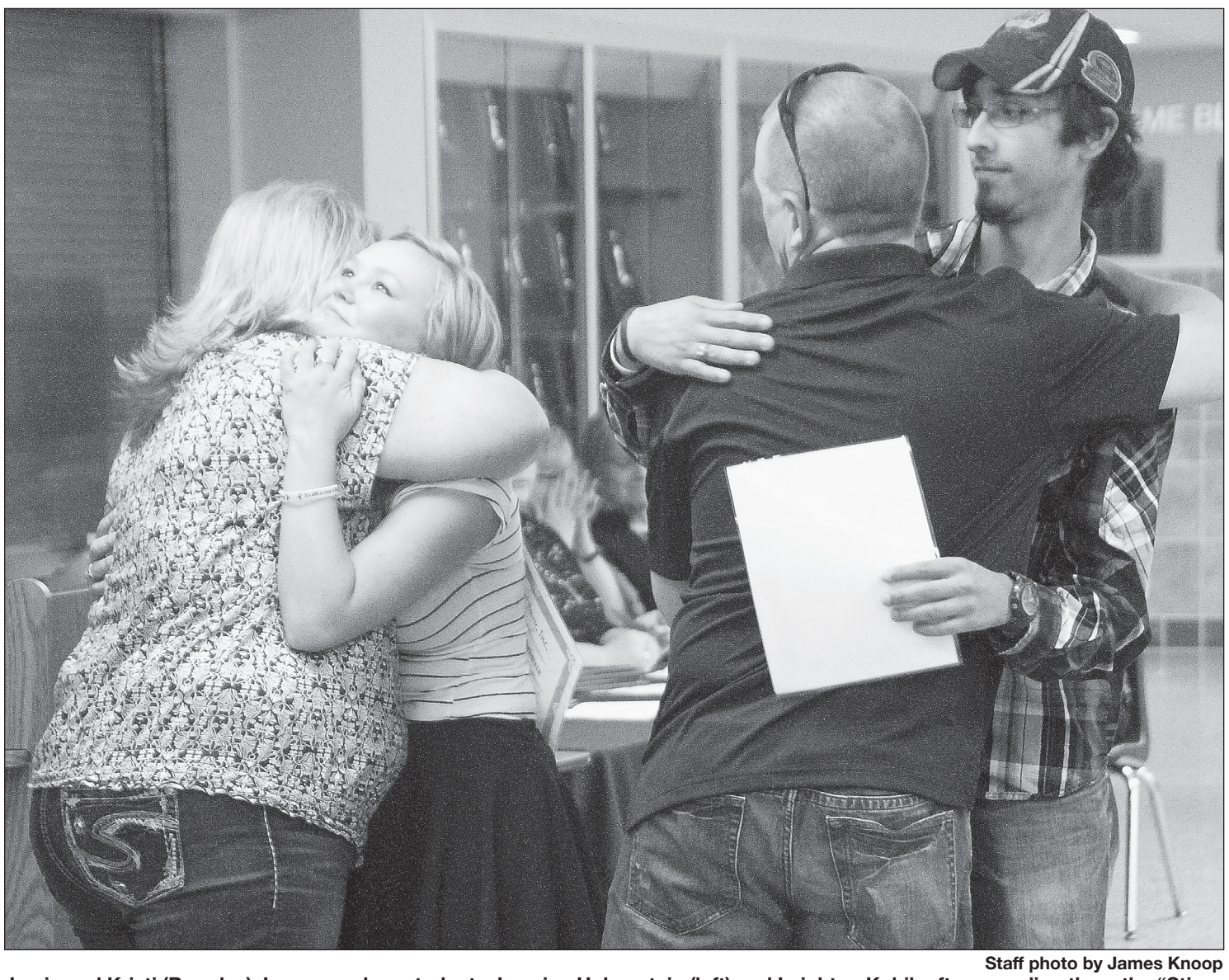
Blooming Prairie honors graduation seniors



Staff photo by James Knoop

Jamie and Kristi (Bromley) Jorgenson hug students Jasmine Hohenstein (left) and Leighton Kubik after awarding them the "Stix of Fury Alex Jorgenson Memorial" scholarship during the Blooming Prairie senior awards night.

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

On Wednesday, May 13, Blooming Prairie High School hosted its annual senior awards night.

Students were recognized for grants and scholarships, as well as awarded scholarships and certificates by local organizations and individuals. These qualifications for scholarships ranged from academics to involvement, athleticism, character and many more. The amounts also were wide-ranged, spanning from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

According to the evening's coordinator and school counselor, Mary Worke, the goal of the evening was "to recognize the students for their achievements." At the conclusion of the evening, Worke stated to the students, families and guests that the amount awarded in scholarships and grants this year far surpassed that of any previous year.

The total amount was $601,800, and Worke stated that the amount passed the previous high by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

During the ceremony, Worke joked that she has become known for chasing down students to fill out scholarship applications.

"Even $100 is a big deal," said Worke. "It makes me sad when (students) don't fill them out."

Worke added that while not as many students applied for scholarships as she believes should have, there were many who excelled in the process.

"There's always more money out there," stated Worke. "It's just a matter of if the kids take the initiative, and these kids put in a ton of time."

Also included in the evening were the official announcements of the two valedictorians and one salutatorian. The valedictorian honors belong to Taylor Hagen and Macaela Jensen, and Madison Worke holds the salutatorian honors.

Blooming Prairie will graduate 63 seniors this year. According to Worke, 21 percent of them will immediately enter the workforce, 5 percent will enter the military, 12 percent will attend a technical college, 21 percent will enter a community college and 40 percent will enroll in a 4-year college or university.

The Blooming Prairie graduation will be held in the high school gymnasium on Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m.

Blooming Prairie Award Winners

Haley Behne
Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Ferguson
Ertl Scholarship
Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship
Katie Nelson Kindness Scholarship
Women of Today
Taylor Hagen
Full Athletic Scholarship University of Northern Iowa for Women's Basketball
Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete
Jasmine Hohenstein
Partial athletic scholarship Waldorf College Cheerleading
Stix of Fury
Stix of Fury Alex Jorgenson Memorial
Alice Myers Memorial Scholarship
Education Foundation
Magnuson Scholarships
AAUW
BPTA
Lions
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Nicole Inwards
Concordia University Faculty Scholarship
August Addison Awards
AAUW
Tessa Ivers
Jennie O Turkey Store
Farmer's Co-Op Elevator Scholarship
Magnuson Scholarships
Macaela Jensen
Gustavus Adolphus College Presidential Scholarship
Mayo Clinic Health Systems Albert Lea/Austin
JMAC Scholarship
Education Foundation
Lions
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
St.Columbanus Catholic Church Scholarship
Morgan Johnson
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
JMAC Scholarship
Magnuson Scholarships
AAUW
BP Fire Department
Lions
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
St.Columbanus Catholic Church Scholarship
Felicia Krampitz
Spray Control Scholarship
BP Fire Department
Garrett Kubik
Stix of Fury John Dibvek Memorial
Leighton Kubik
Stix of Fury
Stix of Fury Alex Jorgenson Memorial
Stix of Fury John Dibvek Memorial
Weston Myer
Arkema
Eric Kaplan Memorial
Erin Naatz
BP Fire Department
BP Ambulance
Scott Romeo
St. Cloud State University Academic Scholarship
Federated Insurance
John Rumpza
Partial athletic scholarship Winona State University Football
Winona State University Academic Scholarship
American Legion Citizenship Award
Dale Hansen Memorial Scholarship
JMAC Scholarship
Magnuson Presidential Scholarship
Lions
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Jo McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship
St.Columbanus Catholic Church Scholarship
Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete
Lindsey Schiefert
Rodney Nelson Memorial Scholarship
Farmer's Co-Op Elevator Scholarship
Magnuson Scholarships
AAUW
BP Fire Department
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Nick Srsen
Bemidji State University Academic Scholarship
Sam Swenson
Gustavus Adolphus College Dean's Scholarship
Magnuson Scholarships
Lexi Thostenson
Jennie O Turkey Store
Women of Today
Kelli Wallace
Partial athletic scholarship Waldorf College Women's Track & Field
Open Arms Depression Awareness Scholarship
Molly Walsh
Education Foundation
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Hannah Wehner
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Kyle Williamson
University of North Dakota Academic Scholarship
Cassy Witt
Bud Rinkenberger Memorial Scholarship
Blooming Prairie FFA Alumni
Katie Wolf
University of MN, Crookston Chancellor Scholar
Lyle Roberts Memorial Scholarship
Farmer's Co-Op Elevator Scholarship
Ingvalson/Ford
Blooming Prairie FFA Alumni
Merry Lane 4H Scholarship
Madison Worke
Partial athletic scholarship Winona State University Women's Basketball
Winona State University Academic Scholarship
Winona State University Alumni Scholarship
MASMS Scholarship
American Legion Citizenship Award
Dale Hansen Memorial Scholarship
JMAC Scholarship
Prairie Manor Health Care Scholarship
Rodney Nelson Memorial Scholarship
Education Foundation
Magnuson Scholarships
BPTA
Lions
Mac McFarlin Harriet Srsen-Ressler Blossom Scholarship
Connie Njos-Gilbertson Award
Blooming Prairie Letter Club Outstanding Senior Athlete

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR THE CLASS OF 2015 was $601,800

Did You Know?
A moment in Blossoms history

Three district championships and a state playoff berth in football highlighted a very successful 1987-88 sports school year in Blooming Prairie High School history. Both golf teams and the track team took home the district titles.

After placing first in one invitational and second in two others, the track boys captured the conference title and then continued on to the district first place as well. No one individual shone on this squad, although Jason Kestner tied the school and the district record in the pole vault. Tim Jensen, Dirk Daude, David Moser, Scott Jakobson, Chris Wondra, Geoff Peterson, Aaron Reichl and Joel Ingvalson also helped make Coach Dan Jacobusse's first year as the head coach a roaring success.

The boys golf team's only blemish on the record was a tie with Kasson-Mantorville in a 13-0-1 season. The conference and district champions had Aaron Ressler, Jason Linse, Chad Christianson, Jim Hanson, Matt Christian and Eric Shelton lead the way. The girls set a new 18-hole record with a 188 in their march to the conference and district titles. Amy Bishop, Debie Wead (MVP), Jenny Butler, Jenny Malecha, Traci Henefield, Heather Trom and Sara Nahlovsky all golfed for the girls.

The football team went undefeated in the fall of 1987 until the state playoff quarterfinals, when Kasson-Mantorville defeated the Blossoms, 27-8. The conference champs had five All-Conference picks, and had Mark Benson, Tim Jensen, Chris Wondra, David Wradislavsky, Doug Busho, Lance Peterson, Terrie Amundsen, Rodney Krell and Mike McCornack on the team.

Volleyball finished its season 4-16 (Amy Bishop, Sara Nahlovsky, Amy Pirkl and co-captains Kari Kittleson and Darla Doocy), the boys basketball team compiled an 11-12 record (Anthony Williamson, Rodney Pesch, Mike Ressler, All-Conference Tim Jensen, Pete Gantriis, Doug Busho and Jeremy Doerhoefer), and the basketball girls went 9-12 (Michelle Peterson, Glenda Paape, Debie Wead, All-Conference Traci Henefield and Heidi VanRavenhorst).

Lonnie Lembke won the conference and district titles, as did Jason Kestner, Lembke had a 21-3-1 mark and Kestner was 19-6. The team finished 8-7 in dual meets, and Brad Prokopec, Brian and Chad Green, Rodney Krell and Tony Glynn all had winning records. A conference title for just the second time in school history marked a winning season for the baseball team. Steve Glynn made the All-Conference team, and Pat Benson and Jeremy Doerhoefer were named All-District. Matt Kubista, Anthony Williamson, Derek Cobban, Chris Shelton and David Wradislovsky all helped the team to an 11-7 record.

Holli Anderson set a school and district record in the discus throw to help the track girls to a third place in the district meet. Heidi VanRavenhorst, Sonja Peterson, Shawn Severson, Dawn Knutson, Nancy Goodnature, Jody Krell and Jennifer Linse all competed in track. The softball team completed an 8-10 season in a banner year for BPHS sports.

By LEMAR NELSON

Menus

Seniors Menu

May 26: Taco Salad, Melon Wedge, Batter Bun, Molasses Cookie

May 27: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Asparagus, Carrot Raisin Salad, Orange Wedge

May 28: Meat Lasagna, Mixed Greens, French Bread, Pudding

May 29: Shredded Turkey/Bun, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Pickles, Melon Cup

BP School Breakfast Menu

May 26: Fruit Yogurt w/Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 27: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 28: WG Cinnamon Dipper w/Icing Cup, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 29: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch Menu

May 26: Pulled Pork on WG Bun, BBQ Sauce, Deli Sub, Baked Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 27: Chicken Nuggets, Whole Wheat Bread, Turkey BLT Flatbread, Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 28: Italian Lasagna, Garlic Toast, Hot Ham on WG Bun, Green Peas, Broccoli Florets, Pepper Medley, Choice of Fruit

May 29: LAST DAY! Picnic in the Park

BP Middle & High School Lunch Menu

May 26: Meatballs & Gravy with Noodles, Whole Wheat Bread, Garbanzo Beans, Romaine Lettuce, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 27: Turkey BLT Flatbread Sandwich, Apple Waldorf Salad, Corn, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 28: Italian Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Cauliflower, Broccoli Florets, Pinto Beans, Choice of Fruit

May 29: Deli Sub w/fixings, Roasted Broccoli, Matchstick Carrots, Romaine Lettuce, Sliced Radishes, Choice of Fruit

Medford School Breakfast Menu

May 26: Ultimate Breakfast Round OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 27: Breakfast Burrito W/ Salsa OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 28: Pancakes, Sausage Patty OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 29: Blueberry Bread Cheese Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

EDA FUNDS

Continued from Page 5C

and food establishments within the city limits.

Each sign costs $400, but the city hopes to get some grant dollars from Steele County to help pick up some of that cost.

Council members Sexton and Merritt commented that they would rather see more specific business signs or a Medford Downtown District sign than the generic signs.

"Can't the business owners that want this help come up with a way to pay for this? If you are a business you should put some skin in the game," Sexton said.

City Administrator Andy Welti commented that originally some businesses had expressed interest in getting a sign for their business, but that interest fell through.

New Fire Department Equipment

The city council also approved the purchase of new helmets as well as a trench box, a trailer to haul and store the trench box, trench box training and traffic control equipment.

The city plans to purchase 27 helmets at $300 a piece totaling $8,100. To help with the cost, the city plans to use the recently received $2,500 CenterPoint Energy grant.

The trench box, along with all the respective equipment, will total $14,716. Trench boxes are used to protect workers from soil cave ins or collapses while they are working on underground utilities.

"Most importantly we save a life. I really think this is long overdo so I strongly encourage you to approve this," Welti said.

To help offset the cost, the city also recently received a safety grant from OSHA and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry in the amount of $6,500.

Merritt voiced his concern of where the city was going to store all of the new equipment.

"I don't have a problem buying something like this; it is a piece of equipment that will be utilized. What I have a problem with is where are we going to store all this stuff that we are buying?" Merritt asked. "It is going to sit outside and get snowed on, rained on… this thing could grow feet and walk out of here one night."

Council member Keith Maas agreed with Merritt and added that he is not sure if the trailer is a necessity.

"I am all for safety, but I don't know about the enclosed trailer. I don't know that we need to have a trailer just to store the trench box. In my mind, a trench box does not need to be housed in a building," Maas said.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



File photo

Motorcycle engines will be revving up preparing for various benefits this summer. The Geneva Cancer Run 2015 will kick off activities on June 13. Several other bike benefits will be held throughout the summer in various communities.

J&H LIQUORS
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SUMMER EVENTS

BEAN BAGS: MAY 21 - AUG 13.
THUR. @7 P.M.

STREET DANCE JULY 3RD
8 P.M. - MIDNIGHT
THE BLUE RINGERS: 8 P.M.
$5 COVERCHARGE.
21 AND OVER ONLY

JULY 4TH BAR & OFF-SALE WILL BE OPEN

RIDE FOR A CAUSE
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 26:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
May 27:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
June 1:
7 p.m. BPWT General Mtg, Lutheran Church
J**une 2:**
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
June 3:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club

Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884
• Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
• Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - SPAGHETTI BAKE WITH GARLIC BREAD #2 - PULLED BBQ CHICKEN SUB WITH COLE SLAW AND CHIPS
LUNCH SPECIAL (5/28 & 5/29): PHILLY SANDWICH AND CHIPS

Ellendale/Geneva

May 26:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
May 28:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
7:30 p.m. Ellendale City Council Mtg (2nd & 4th Thurs), Training/Mtg Rm
June 1:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
June 2:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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In brief

Geneva Cancer Run on June 13

Geneva Cancer Run 2015 is scheduled for June 13, starting and ending in Geneva.

Riders will register at the Geneva Bar & Grill at 10 a.m. and depart at 11 a.m.

The event includes a donation of $10 per rider, food and live and silent auctions. Two bands will play at 7 p.m.

Owatonna

May 26:
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR
May 27:
McKinley PTO Ice Cream Social
11:30 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Sacred Heart Church
May 28:
Lincoln Ice Cream Social
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
June 1:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
1 p.m. Woman's Club bridge group, SeniorPlace
June 2:
Wilson, Washington Awards Program
5 p.m. Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7 p.m. City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
June 3:
Willow Creek Awards Program

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Medford

May 28:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 29:
Medford Schl Graduation
June 1:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
June 2:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
June 3:
7 p.m. Medford Park Board

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In brief

Blossom Blast set

The 2nd Annual Blossom Blast Rock 'n Roll Run is slated for 6 p.m., May 29 at Blooming Prairie's Central Park. It will include a 5K fun run and walk.

Check in is at 5 p.m.

The event also includes Kona Ice, limbo and hula hoop contests, Rock 'n Roll Costume Contest and dinner available for purchase.

SPOT LIGHT

Moonlighters Exchange Club hosting Police Officer of the Year banquet May 28

The Moonlighters Exchange Club will host the Owatonna Police Officer of the Year recognition banquet on Thursday, May 28, at the VFW at 135 Oakdale Street.

The event starts with a social at 6 p.m. The dinner and program honoring Officer Zackary Shumaker starts at 6:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Al Batt.

Tickets are available at Kottke Jewelers, VFW, Law Enforcement Center or any Moonlighters Exchange Club member.

Other counties

Mower
May 26
Austin PS no school
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
2 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brownsdale
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
6 p.m. Pinterest Craft Club, Austin Public Library
May 27
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Community Cntr, LeRoy
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
2 p.m. Odd Bits of Mower County's History, Mower County Senior Center
May 28:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, United Methodist Church, Dexter (Mower Co)
10:30 a.m. Storytime - CANCELLED UNTIL JUNE 11 Austin Public Library
12 p.m. Lunchbox History Series: Slavery, Suffrage, and Segregation in Minnesota, Mower County Historical Society
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
5:30 p.m. Watercolor Journaling, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6:30 p.m. Human Rights Commission Film Showing, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
May 29:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
LeRoy-Ostrander Last Student Day
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Mower Co
10 a.m. StoryTime! :) Grand Meadow Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
5:30 p.m. Summer Kick Off Concert, Downtown Austin
6:30 p.m. Chateau Raceway: Points Night
May 30:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market
9 a.m. Spring Plant Sale, Mower County Senior Center
May 31:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
6:45 a.m. 4th Annual Darren Dash, Veteran's Pavilion, Austin
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
2 p.m. Riverland Community College Jubilee Jam
June 1:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Corcoran Center, Austin
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
7 p.m. Brownsdale City Countil Mtg
7 p.m. Young Adult Book Club, Austin Public Library
June 2:
Accio Books! Austin Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Corcoranfs Center, Austin
1 p.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Cotillion Social Dance Club, Austin Country Club

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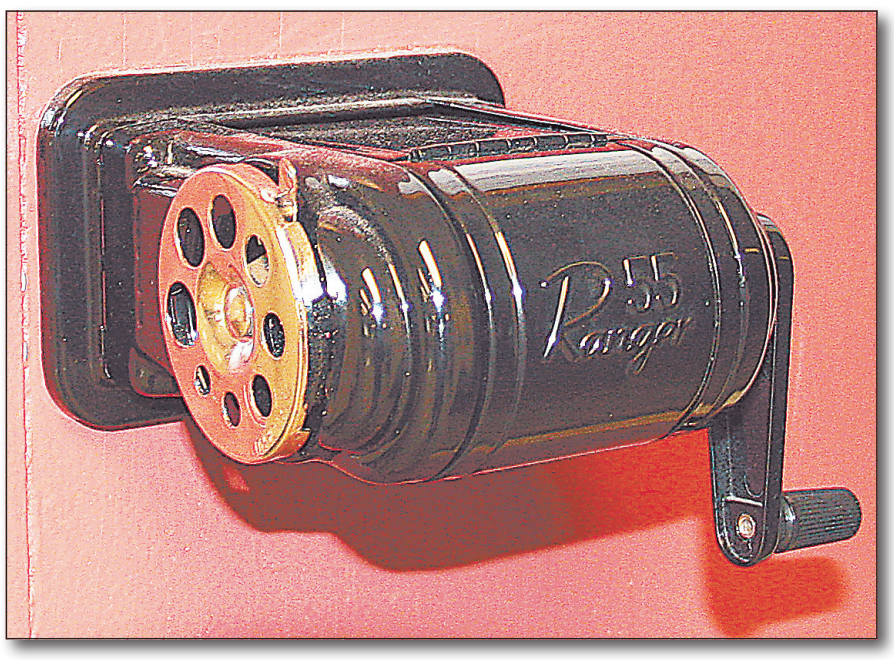


Technology has changed the classroom considerably during Mary Malherek's career, but pencil sharpeners remain a common sight.



A mariachi doll that Mary Malherek picked up years ago during a trip to Mexico hangs at the front of her classroom.



Mary Malherek's classroom is conveniently located next to the library at Blooming Prairie High School. Her last day is the same as students' — May 29.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRIAN SANDFORD | CORRESPONDENT

Retiring teacher's long career ends May 29



Mary Malherek works with student Haley Behne in Blooming Prairie High School's library in April. Shown at the far left is Lindsey Schiefert.

Mary Malherek has seen seismic shifts in technology, educational trends and Blooming Prairie itself since moving here in 1976.

The one constant was the English teacher and librarian's classroom career, which began in 1971. That will change May 29, the last day of the school year for Blooming Prairie students and the last year ever for Malherek, who is retiring.

She said she'd considered retiring last year, but it didn't feel right. This year, it does. She also said she's in her mid-60s, making her older than most teachers are when they end their careers.

Malherek began her teaching career in 1971 at Marion High School in Owatonna, a Catholic school that closed two years later. She went on to teach at Queen of Angels in Austin and served as the public librarian in Blooming Prairie in the mid-1980s. She began teaching at Blooming Prairie High School in 1988.

"Blooming Prairie was an idyllic town when we first moved here," she said of her husband and her. "What was utterly wonderful about living in Blooming Prairie was that you could do everything in Blooming Prairie and never leave the town."

Back then, she said, the town had grocery stores, clothing stores and more small restaurants. The arrival of big-box stores in nearby, larger towns has helped change that, Malherek added.

"Blooming Prairie actually had its own land bank at one time," she said. "What a community. It still is, I think, healthier and more prosperous than most small towns. We weathered … change better than most."

Her desire to become a teacher was at least partly inspired by her mother, who taught eight grades at once in rural schools near Waterville during World War II. Malherek spent her early years in Waterville, then moved to nearby Janesville at age 5 or so. She got her master's degree in school library media at Mankato State University and also attended the College of Saint Theresa in Winona.

What will she do now? She's not sure yet, but she knows she'll miss the day-to-day elements of teaching.

"I get excited about something I've taught for many years, over and over," Malherek said. "I still learn more and more and more from a text. I'm excited to pass that on."

She'll also miss interacting with students.

"They'll always surprise you," she said. "They give you hope in the fact that you can't help but be amazed at some of the things they come up with."

Malherek said educational methods have changed through the years, and not always for the better. She bemoans what she calls an overemphasis on testing and drilling now.

"Students need time in the day to work with their hands, (with) art, music, good literature, history … They don't need drill and practice to fulfill a goal that happens one day a year," she said. "It seems not the purpose of educating a whole child to be a citizen, to be a thinking adult."

"(Students) always surprise you. They give you hope in the fact that you can't help but be amazed at some of the things they come up with."

~ Mary Malherek
Retiring Blooming Prairie High School
English teacher and librarian

Spanning generations

Malherek runs into former students often — and has taught some of their children.

Amy Simon worked under Malherek on the school yearbook while in high school in 1998-2000. Fifteen years later, her son Payton is in eighth grade and is in Malherek's class.

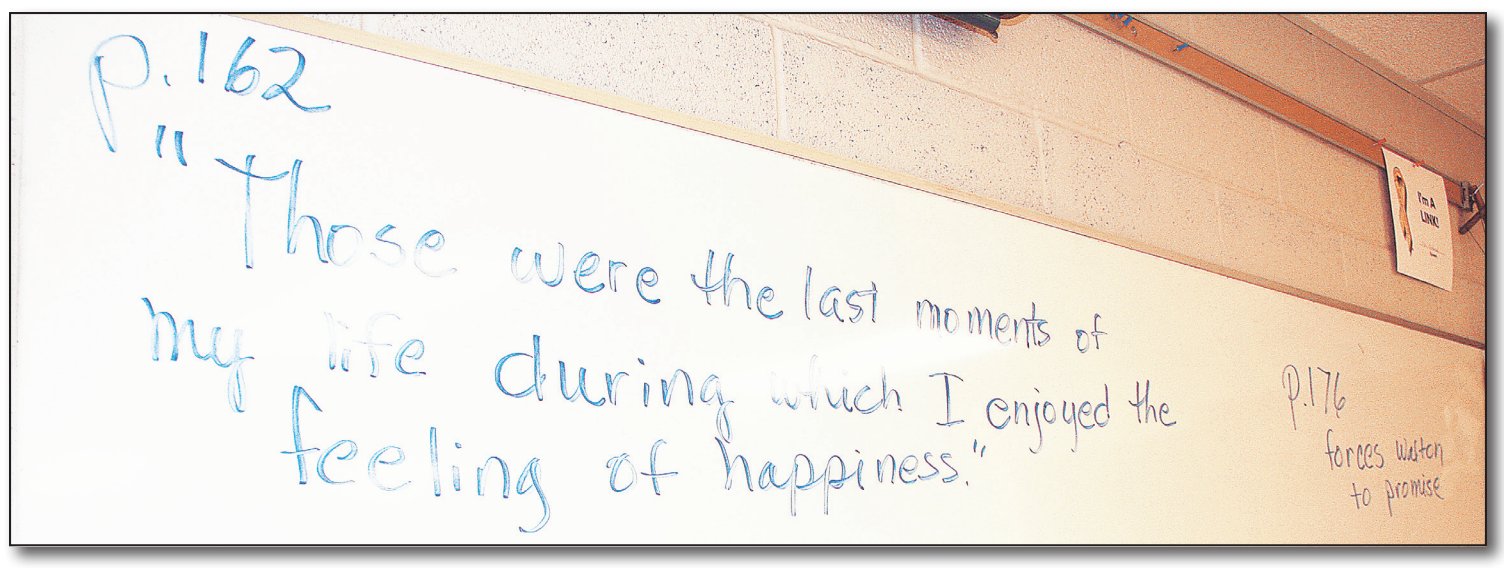
Simon said Malherek seems to be the same teacher now as back then, and that she gives students space to practice good time management. She also was happy when she learned Malherek would be her son's teacher.

"It wasn't strange. It was exciting," she said. "I really respected Mary. I still do; she was always very kind to me — very helpful and supportive."





Above left, books line the walls in a room where Mary Malherek spends much of her time — the school library. Above right is the bell that sits in Malherek's classroom. Below are writings on the board at the front of her classroom.



Congratulations
Owatonna Seniors
Class of 2015

OHS students read about old selves

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Now that Owatonna seniors are close to graduation, they are opening letters about who they used to be and who they are now. Not from their grandparents, teachers or parents, but from themselves from over three years ago.

During their freshman year, Owatonna High School students were asked to write a letter to their future self that they will open up as graduating seniors.

School Counselor Vicki Berdan is in charge of giving out the assignment and says the assignment started before she was hired 14 years ago.

"The thing I love about it is that they are really excited about it because it is about them. They read those letters and they laugh and find it really interesting," Berdan said. "The amount of growth as individuals that they have experienced from the time they are in ninth grade to when they are seniors is amazing."

There is no right or wrong way to write the letter and there are no formatting or length requirements. Students are simply asked to write about whatever they want and given topic suggestions such as their interests now and what they think they will be in four years, who their friends are now and if they think that will change, who or what is most important to them and their goals for their future.

After the letter is complete, students put it in an envelope, seal it and write their name, the date the letter was written and their graduation date. The letter is then held onto by the student's advisor and not looked at until it is back in the senior's hands.

Berdan recalled a senior who wrote a letter to himself and put a $1 bill in the envelope. The student's family ended up moving away and his senior year he came back to visit the school just so he could get his letter and $1 bill back.

"It is such a significant way to see how much they have grown in those 3 ½ years. Just think about the next 3 ½ years ahead of you, if you have grown this much in the past stretch of time, where are you going to be in the future," Berdan said. "It is exciting to think that there are so many experiences, opportunities and things that will happen in their life that will really stretch them and make them grow as a person."

When Andrea Bothun was a freshman she thought the assignment was a cool idea, but thought the letter would get lost and she wouldn't get to read it again. She was pleasantly surprised.

"It was a really cool experience to be able to open them after the four years and see how much you've grown as a person," she said.

Bothun wrote about the people she had met in the first few weeks of school, the friends she had and what she wanted to do after she graduated high school.

"I was shocked in a sense…oh my gosh why did I write this? How did I think that was a thing?" she said. "It has definitely changed a lot. The career I thought I was going to have completely changed."

Instead of being a pediatric nurse, Bothun now wants to go into psychology. She was also surprised by how her friend group had changed and the amount of activities she is in now versus as a freshman.

Her advice to an incoming freshman about the assignment is "Write about everything in your life right now. Put down what you look like, who your friends are, what your hopes, dreams and goals are, what you want to accomplish… it is crazy how much it does change."

When Andrew Abbas first got the assignment he laughed.

"When I first got it I thought it was a joke. I'm not even going to remember what I write in here so it really doesn't matter what I put down," he said. "I took some things seriously into it, but some of the questions they had down I really didn't care about."

Looking back on the assignment his thoughts have changed.

"As a senior I was really surprised with what I wrote down as a freshman and how the mindset changed. As a senior you are much more mature than a freshman. It was valuable seeing the change in four years because you never know what is going to happen in your life," he said.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley

Owatonna High School seniors Andrew Abbas, Andrea Bothun and Sydney Brekke were all surprised with how much they had changed as a person from their freshman year to their senior year after reading their letters.

Abbas wrote about his career aspirations of being a dentist, his friends, his favorite teachers, his interests and goals and all of his crushes.

Instead of being a dentist, he now wants to be a nurse or nurse practitioner; instead of having a couple friends he now has a large group of friends and he no longer has a lot of crushes.

"I got a reality of what can happen over time. You never know what is going to happen in your life to impact and change the path that you choose," Abbas said. "As a freshman you are new to the school and you don't know much about the world and all the jobs that are out there, but then four years later you have all these experiences and events that happen that you really narrow the choice of what you want to do with your life."

His advice to an incoming freshman about the assignment is to "Actually take it seriously and answer all of the questions because you will be more satisfied when you are a senior to read it and see how nerdy you were or how much you've changed."


Andrew Abbas


Randi Abbe


Hamdi Abdi


Kaltun Abdi


Fouziah Ahmed


Kaylea Ahrens


Allison Falken


Alondra Rodriguez


Noah Amundson


Erica Anderson


Ethan Anderson


Karen Anderson


Matthew Anderson


Megan Andrist


Hachin Aragon


Jessica Beckman


Julian Bednar


Rachael Belina

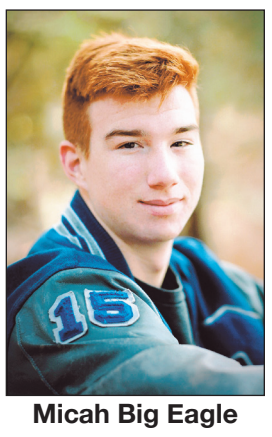

Abagail Bendorf


Haley Benjamin


Monique Bentley


Monisha Bentley


Maggie Biegert

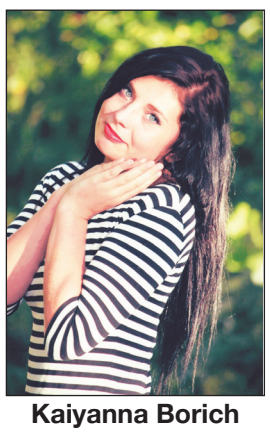

Micah Big Eagle


Tatelyn Blazek


Haley Block


Larissa Blong


Andrea Bolthun


Kaiyanna Borich


Kacy Borwege


Daniel Boubin


Braulio Martinez


Sydney Brekke


Courtney Bremer

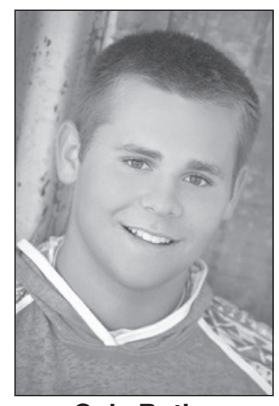

Brianna Harman


Tyler Brogren


Elisabeth Buck


Joao Guilherme Bueno


Maline Bungum


Cole Butler


Ben Callen


Lucas Campo

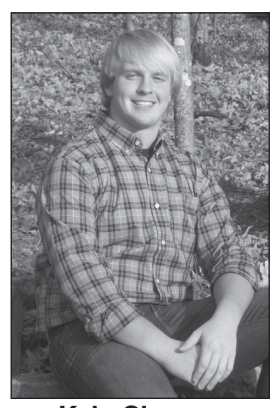

Paige Carlson


Zuzet Carreon


Cheyanne Folmon


Maria Chicos


Nate Clark


Kyle Clausen


Danielle Copp


Ethan Cords

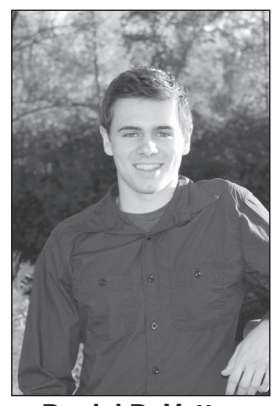

Alyssa Crum


Rebecca Crume



Kendra Cummins


Fardowsa Dahir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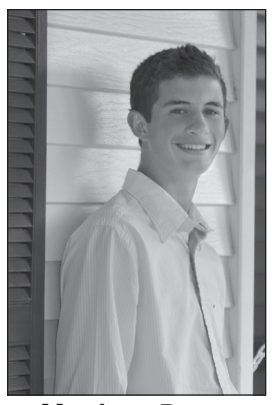
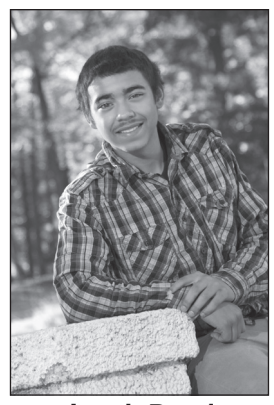
Owen Davis

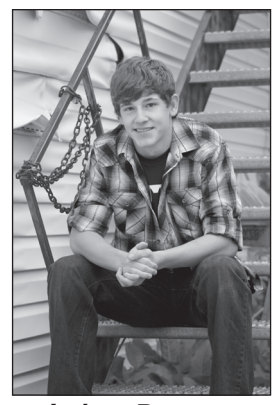

Matthew Deetz

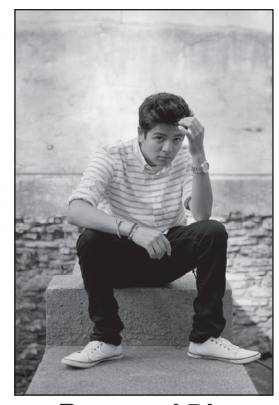

Cindy Delamare


Jonah Deml



Jacob Deml


Jathan Dettmer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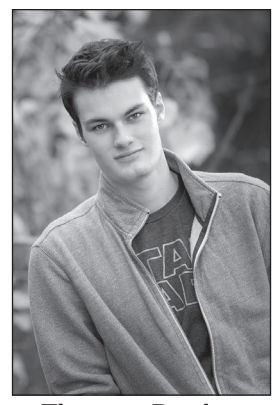
Lindsay Dirks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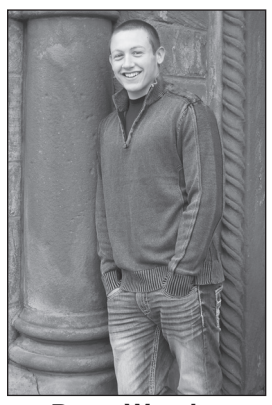
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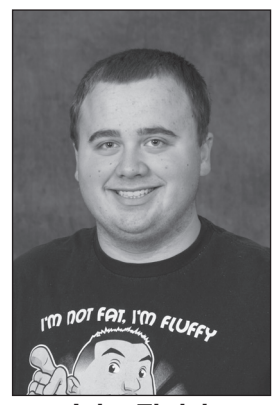
Michael Duerr


Kathryn Dufrene


Anna Edel



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Emily Dahlin


Emily M


Connor Engrav

Edgar Esquivel

Emmanuel Esquivel

Aaron Evans

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Mohamed Fakrudin

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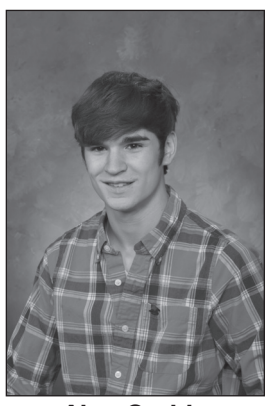
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Taylor Gaveske


Jared Goerdt


Alexander Granowksi


Alex Green

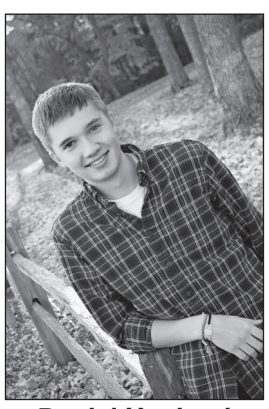

Nicole Gregg


Tatjana Grenier


Jasmin Guevara


Madeleine Haberman


Colton Hafstad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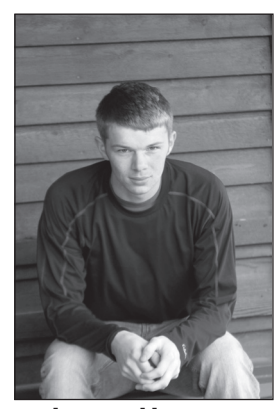
Abagail Hansen


Diane Hansen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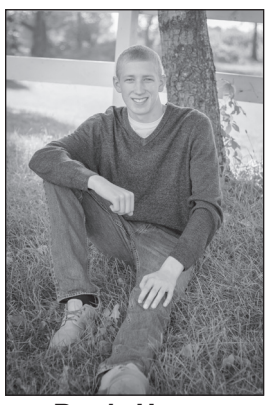
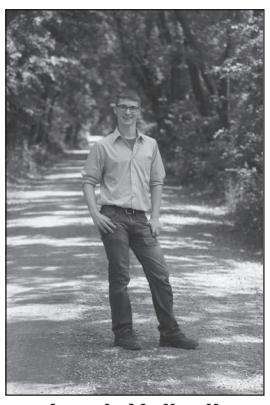
Jake Harrison


Kurt Haugen


Brady Heany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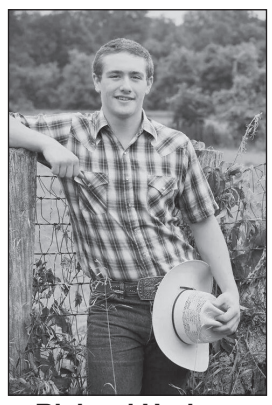
David Herndez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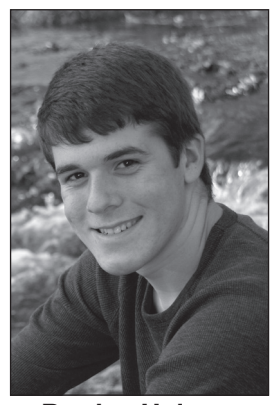
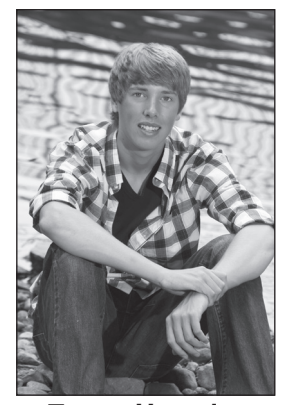

Braden Holmes


Amber Holte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Brook Hondl


Damian HortopRocha

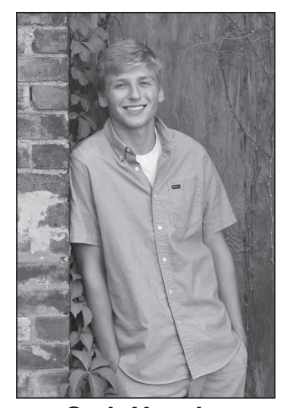

Jacob Howe

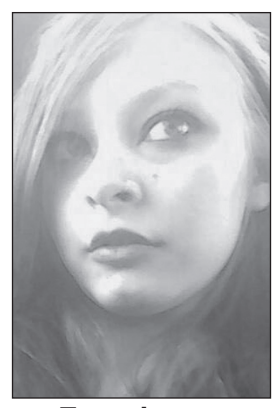

Emma Howell


Jamee Hrdlichka


Ashley Hudson


Brianna HuntingtonCords


Seth Huseby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Alisha Jarvis


Cameron Jensen


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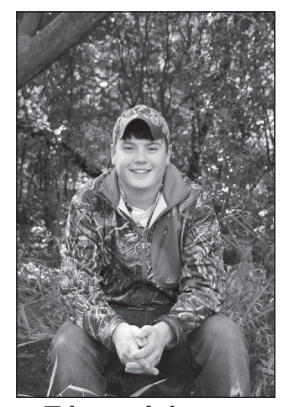
Laura Johnson


TeJae Johnson


Tristan Johnson


Peter Jones

Mariah Jorgensen

Kristin Just

Brianna Kadlec

Zach Karsten

Sydney Kasper

Kylie Kath

Kayla Kniefel

Krista Kniefel

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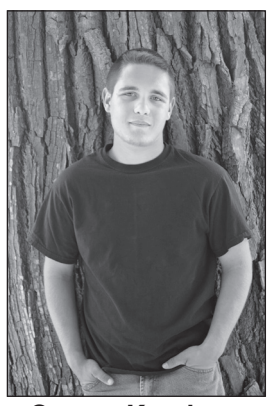
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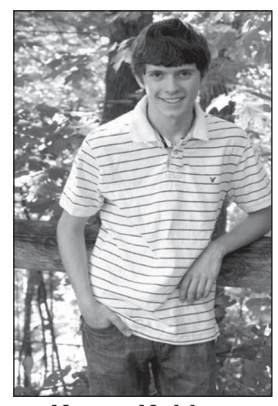
Alexis Kubista


Jordan Kubista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Levi Kubista


Samantha Laatsch

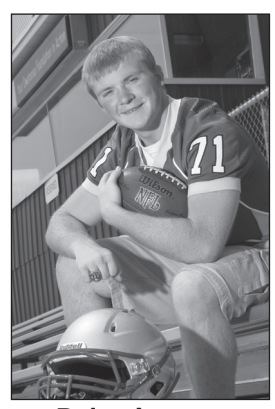

Qahir Lakha


Patrick Lammars



Connor Langer


Gabrielle Larson-McCluskey


Dylan Lattery


Erin Lau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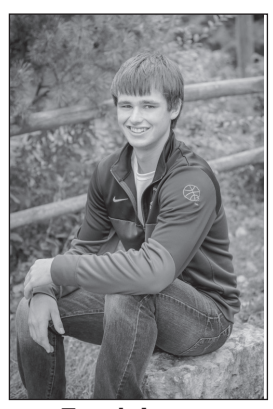
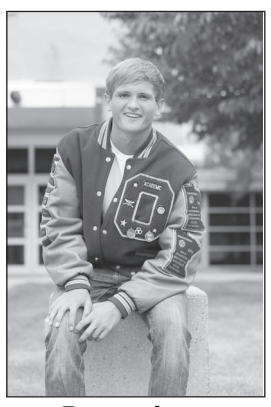

Frank Layne


Leah Rieck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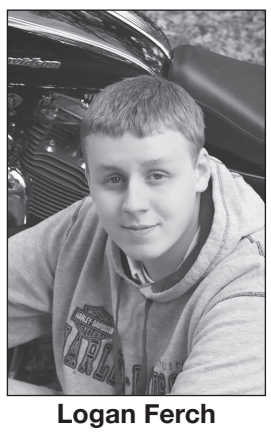
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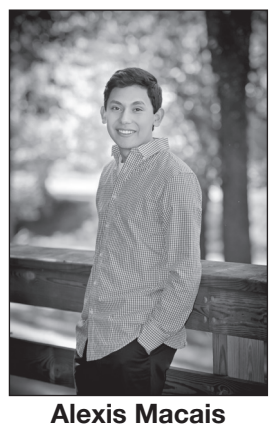
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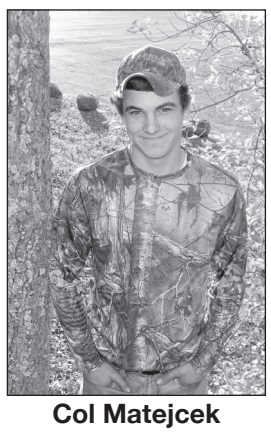
Morgan Malo


Carlee Malueg


Fabilo Marquez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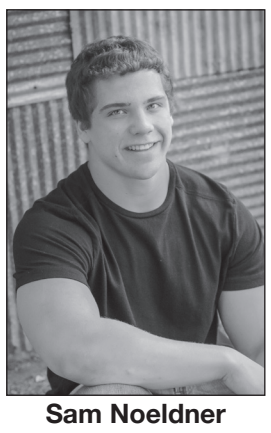
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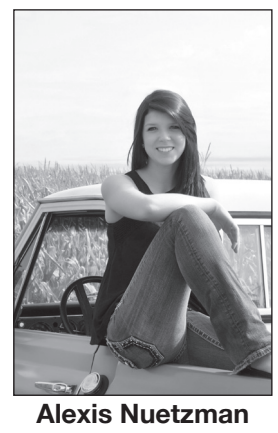
Nora Rubish


Meagan Nowaroak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Ochoa

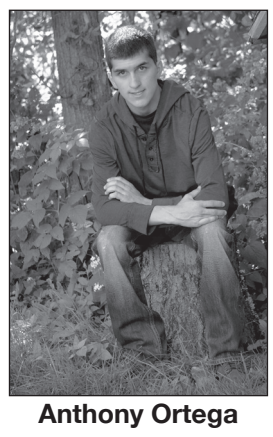

Barameer Okumu


Olivia Oland


Hannah Olson


Martha Oman


Brianna Ong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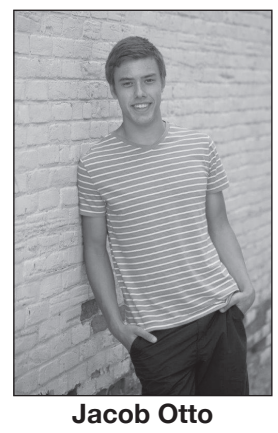
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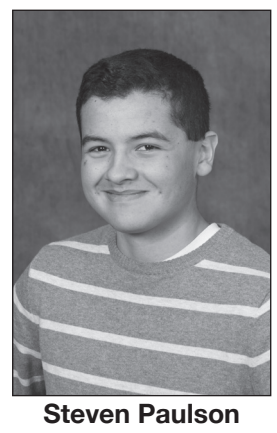
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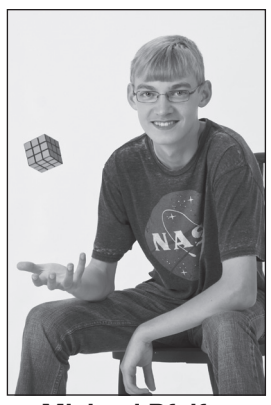
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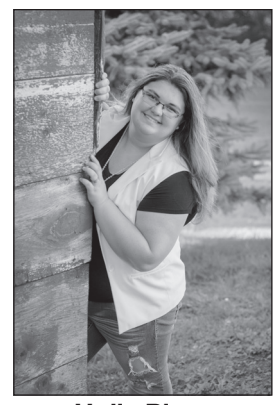
Jasmine Piepho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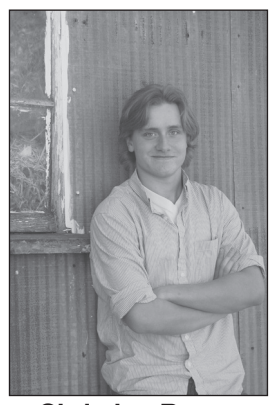
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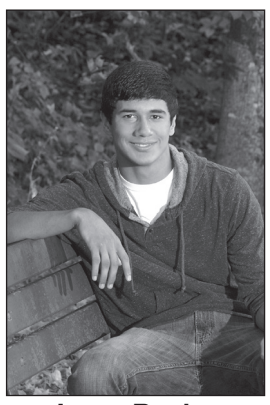
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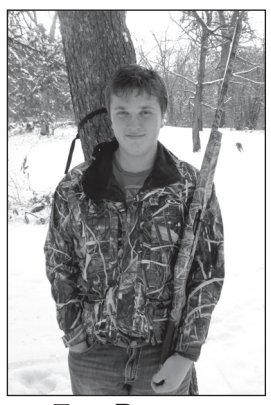
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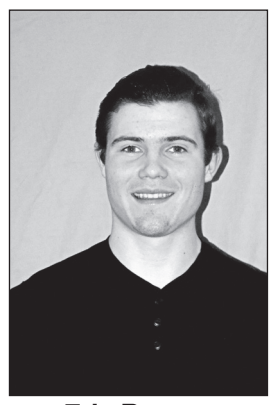
Rosa Ruiz Acevedo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Albert Rysavy


Margaret Sager

Ifrah Saleban

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Bailey Sanford

Nathan Schull

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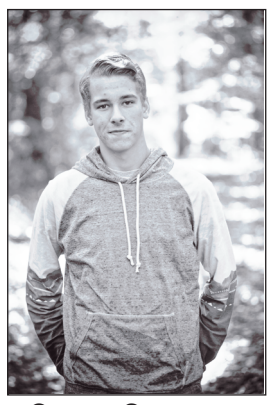

Grgory Summers

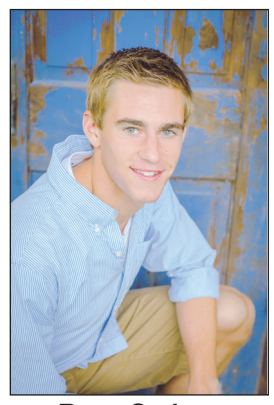

Kalley Soukup


Katherine Speiker


Laura St. Martin


Jesse Starks

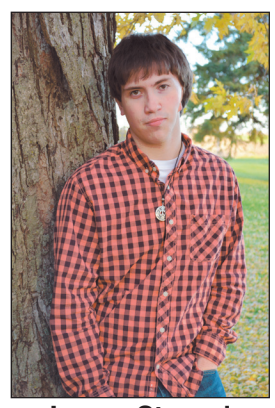

Tim Starman

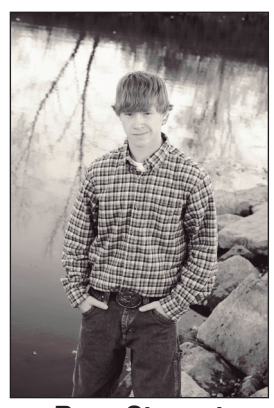

Ryan Steiger


Justin Stein


Brady Steinhorst


Kody Stenzel


Logan Stenzel


Ryan Stewart


Brittney Stockwell

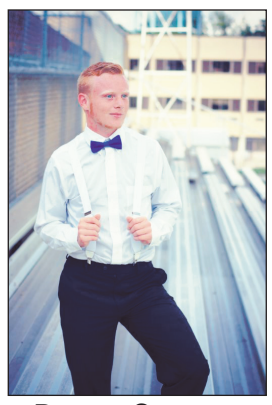

Justin Storm


Kaisha Stricklin



Yann Stritt


Ashley Stumpf


Damon Summer


Alexandra Svoboda


Cassandra Symes


Justin Tacheny

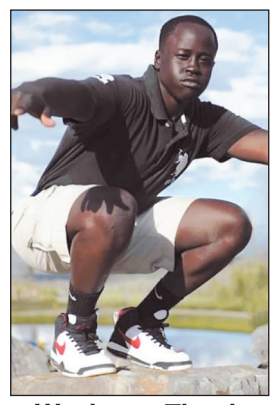

Maiah Tellijohn


Elijah Terry


Alyssa Thevenot


Brodie Thiede


Natalie Thomas


Wechtuor Thuok


Monica Torrez


Aaron Tryhus


Brandon Underdahl


Usher

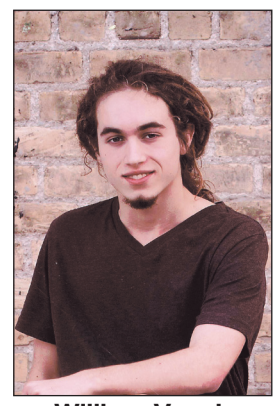

Hannah Valen


Haylee VanEngelenhoven


Nalee Vang


Joe VanReeth


Ashley Vasquez


William Veach


Noah Veencamp


Maria Versteeg

Sintia Vielma

Mady Vieths

Brody Voss

Bailey Waldhauser

Mikayla Wall

Brooke Wanous

Jackie Warehime

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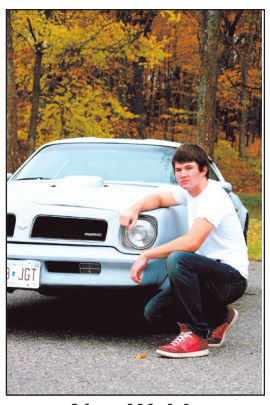
Alex Weide


Claire Wells


Dillan Wendtland


Michala White


Jordan Wickman


Elizabeth Wiebke


Sara Wiggins


Abby Wilker


Tonya Wolff


Amy Wood


Wright


Jacob Zabel


Shannon Zwanziger


Alannys Zwieg-Probst


Senior Kayla Kniefel (left), junior Sammy Bishop and senior Krista Kniefel pose after the grand march.


Girls Softball Captains: Jasmine Piepho, Sydney Kasper, Morgan Malo and Kathyrn DuFrene.



Boys Track Captains: Qahir Lakha, Jesse Starks, Jacob Zabel. Matt Kingland not pictured.

We'd like to congratulate all the graduates in Steele County on your accomplishments.

Enjoy the ride your future brings!



Blooming Prairie Bus Company

Owatonna Bus Company

Medford Bus Company

72 Blooming Prairie Elementary bring Sleeping Beauty to life

By Howard Lestrud
Staff Writer

Seventy-two aspiring young actors and actresses from the Blooming Prairie Elementary School appeared on stage in two performances of Sleeping Beauty on Friday night, May 15 and Saturday afternoon, May 16.

The production was presented at Blooming Prairiew High School by the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre and the Blooming Prairie Parents Teachers Organization.

Nicole Bishop of the Blooming Prairie PTO said the production represented the fifth Prairie Fire theatre offering in Blooming Prairie. More than 250 attended each performance.

Two touring directors, Lauren Longyear and Gregory Stowers led the Blooming Prairie production. The theatre group held tryouts on Monday, May 11 and staged rehearsals on separate days leading up to the live performances on Friday and Saturday.

Performers were decked out in original costumes and those in leading roles were "miked" with special microphones.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre (or PFCT) is a professional touring theatre company based in Barrett, Minnesota and has been bringing a theatrical experience to communities across the upper Midwest since 1987. Prairie Fire tours a variety of original musical adaptations of classic tales.

Prairie Fire Children's Theatre sends two professional Actors/Directors to a community for a one-week residency. Local children fill the roles, and PFCT provides everything needed to do the show. After a week of rehearsing, the cast will perform the play twice on the weekend.

Prairie Fire also has a touring program for junior and high schools. The theatrical group is available for workshop residencies. Prairie Fire has won the Minnesota Alliance of the Arts in Educational Programming award.

Following each Blooming Prairie performance, touring directors Lauren and Gregory thanked all parents, PTO members, teachers and parent volunteers, actors and community people who made the play a success. Special thanks were given to U.S. Bank, Touch of Charm, Studio J, Kari Bottin and to school custodians.

The Sleeping Beauty production included 14 scenes. Leading actors were Kiya Thompson, Emily Miller, Charlie Heimerman and Luke Larkoski.

The movie crew included Bradley Simon, Reese Millam, Jeffery Easton, Rylie Cisneros, Mitchell Fiebiger, Maggie Bruns, Ashleigh Alwes, Mikaylah Gunderson and Mackenzie Madsen.

The production staff featured Laurn Longyear, Isaiah Vorobey, Madison Thurnau, Melanie Winzenburg, Kolby Vigeland and Rose Michaud.

Chorus girls included Abbey Braaten, Allison Krohnberg, Micalyn Trihus, Bobbie Bruns, Halle Strunk, Taylor Wurst, Lauren Schammel, Olivia Johnson, Bailey Brown, Asha Lighthizer , Grace Krejci, Sophie Thomas, Brianna Hensrud, Leah Thorson, Madi Lea, Haven Carlson, Josie Lorenz, Danielle Pena, Anna Kittelson, Teagan Sutter, Marquette Millam, Hailey Hensrud, Anna Reese and Hanna Hamersma.

Henchmen were: Gregory Stowers, Brady Kittelson, Mason Simon, Cole Wangen, Elijah Skillestad, Alex Lea, Cooper Cooke, Jaxon Harberts, Sam Michaud, Carter Bishop, Joseph Christians, Jonathan Grant, Jack Bruns, Breckin Cochlin, Spencer Hoogenraad, Mackenzie Grunklee, Hailey Schumacher, Hanna Freese and Myah Getchell.

The well-dressed sheep were: Shanna Halverson, Lily Schammel, Layla Lembke, Zoey Alwes, Mallory Pena, Catelyn Bartlett, Jamie Reinke, Ella Smith, Brianna Deplitch, Cameron Blume, Aubrie Brandt and Rachel Winzenburg.

The technical crew consisted of Maren Forystek, Alex Piller, Christopher Naatz, Ethan Grant, Adrianna Bermea and Blake Christianson.

Read more about the Prairie Fire Theatre at prairiefirechildrens theatre.com. Other productions by the Prairie Fire Theatre for the winter/ s;print 2015 include Alladin, Peter Pan, Pinocchio and Snow White.



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie Elementary School student Charlie Heimerman takes time out from a Sleeping Beauty rehearsal to pose for photographers. Two performances of the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre and Blooming Prairie PTO production were staged Friday night, May 15 and Saturday afternoon, May 16.



Following the performance of Sleeping Beauty, cast members who portrayed sheep were allowed to make some silly faces for the camera.



Three of the chorus girls from the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production at the Blooming Prairie High School post for the camera prior to opening night on Friday, May 15. Shown from left to right are: Bobbi Bruns, Marquette Millam and Josie Lorenz.



Lead actors in Sleeping Beauty posed for the cameras following the opening night performance at the Blooming Prairie High School Friday, May 15. Lying on the stage floor is Charlie Heimerman (Eugene). Standing, left to right, are: Emily Miller (Mallory), Luke Larkoski (Colin) and Kiya Thompson (Rose).



The cast of Sleeping Beauty was introduced by traveling tour directors Lauren Longyear and Gregory Showers to the audience at the Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production at the Blooming Prairie High School. More than 250 attended each of the two performances.

Medford School recognizes its students' achievements



Bailey Rogotzke and Trevor Grems are given certificates from the Sanborn family for the $250 Janna Sanborn Memorial Scholarship during Medford School's awards ceremony on Thursday, May 21.

Staff photos taken by Shannon Kinley



Aly Noble is given a certificate from English teacher Sara Olson for the $1,000 scholarship from the Medford Fire Department during Medford School's awards ceremony on Thursday, May 21.

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

The Medford Scholarship Committee presented over $16,000 in scholarships to the 2015 graduating class at Medford School's awards ceremony on Thursday, May 21.

High School Principal Chris Ovrebo gave a brief introduction.

"We are excited to recognize all of the accomplishments of our students with us here today. Some of you have been working very hard to get yourselves ready for today and as a result of your hard work, there are scholarships and awards here waiting for you," Ovrebo said. "We are proud of each and every one of you and what you are doing is what makes Medford High School such a great place to be and a great place to go to school."

High School counselor Sara Routh introduced the scholarship presentations. During the presentations scholarship winners were presented a certificate from a teacher, or representatives from the scholarship donors.

"We had 24 applicants apply this year. The competition was outstanding because this senior class is hardworking and exceeds the high expectations they set for themselves," Routh said. "Selecting scholarship recipients was incredibly difficult because each student deserves to be recognized for their accomplishments at Medford High School. This year's senior class has received a total of over $150,000 in scholarships awards."

Each scholarship not only has the general criteria such as students must be of good character and demonstrate consistent effort in academic, extra curricular, volunteer and work experiences, but other specific criteria.

Scholarships were awarded from various families, organizations and businesses from Medford and the surrounding communities as well as colleges and universities.

Ovrebo then announced all of the academic awards including pins and letters. Students become eligible for academic honors for the first time during their sophomore year. If the student has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above by the end of the first semester for that academic year, they receive a pin. If the student has not lettered before, they also receive a letter. If students continue to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 during their junior and senior year they receive an additional pin for each consecutive year.

Students were then recognized for their participation in student clubs and activities including the Business Professionals of America, FFA, Trap Shooting Club, Knowledge Bowl, NHS, S.A.D.D, Speech Team and Student Council.

Lastly students were recognized for their accomplishments in athletics. Each athlete or fine arts participant that maintained a 3.0 GPA or above was given a certificate from the Minnesota State High School League. The MSHSL Triple A Award, which honors high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the fine arts, was awarded to Katie Chester and Lucas Cronin

Medford head coaches voted Trevor Grems and Cassidy Kavitz the Senior Athletes of the Year.

Ovrebo wrapped up the ceremony and commented, "We are very proud of all the things everybody has done and we look forward to many more accomplishments in the future."



Katie Ivance is given a certificate from English teacher Sara Olson for the $250 1st United Bank Scholarship during Medford School's awards ceremony on Thursday, May 21.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE MONTH

Customer Service



The team is shown from left to right: Standing -- Sarah Esplan, Amber Brandt, Brooke Ericksen, Carrie Braaten, Kristin Robbins, Tami Korpi, Kari Forystek, Kelly LaMotte and Amanda Schiefert. Seated -- Rick Swenson, Michael Clayton and Todd Taylor.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AT ITS BEST IS OFFERED BY MINIMIZER

Minimizer's growth comes from a combination of innovative products, fearless marketing, production excellence… and caring customer service before and after the sale.

That customer service comes from men and women from this area who communicate many times a day that the firm they work for cares about the people who use Minimizer products.

Customer Service Manager Rick Swenson leads the team of 12 individuals who work in the customer service unit at Minimizer's administration building on the north end of Blooming Prairie.

A new call-out center was recently created, empowering two new customer service representatives, Kelly LaMotte and Todd Taylor, to focus on calling customers and distributors to see if Minimizer has met all of their needs.

Minimizer was founded 31 years ago when founder Dick Kruckeberg invented a better fender for heavy trucks and trailers. From that first fender product, the firm continued to grow exponentially by introducing new products in the heavy truck industry.

The firm now has almost 900 locations around the U.S., Canada and Mexico that inventory Minimizer products and over 2,000 dealers in total. This network of aftermarket distributors depend on the Minimizer customer service team to help them give expert advice to the tens of thousands of trucking professionals who actually use Minimizer products.

"We are the voice of the company and work with our distributors and dealers to take care of their daily needs," Swenson said. "We are definitely a customer service leader – we're known for that support in the heavy truck aftermarket industry," Swenson added.

Steve Stich, owner of Wheelco in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and one of those distributors who counts on Minimizer's customer service team, says: "They make customer service its focal point. We love the support, and I know that's one reason why its so easy to sell their products." Stich said.

Dealer Joel Raney, manager of the Global Division of Raney's Truck Center of Ocala, Florida, agrees. "It's just fun to call into Minimizer. The team cares … these guys just rock."

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