

STEELE COUNTY Times

\$1

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

Area turkey flock devastated

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The massive bird flu outbreak that has wiped out millions of turkeys across the state has found its into Steele County, the first county in southeastern Minnesota to end up with the deadly virus.

Last Wednesday the USDA confirmed that H5N2 avian influenza struck a single turkey

operation in Steele County. Though officials will not identify the operation or where it is located, sources have told the Times it is in Merton Township, which is in the far northeastern corner of the county east of Medford.

The detection caused the infected flock to go under quarantine and commercial flocks within a 10-kilometer control area were put under surveillance

by state and federal officials.

The entire flock of 96,700 turkeys on the Steele County farm was euthanized as a precaution, according to Erica Gunderson of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health. As a result, the operator will be out of commission for about two months before being allowed to raise more turkeys, she said.

One of the tell tale signs of infected poultry, Gunderson said,

is when the flock becomes really quiet. Poultry are typically very vocal in a healthy environment. Other indicators include animals stop eating or drinking and paralysis and other nervous signs.

Officials still haven't determined the exact cause for the widespread outbreak.

Gunderson said officials use

OUTBREAK

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BIRD FLU OUTBREAK



72 farms
19 counties
1 Steele County operation
4 million turkeys infected

Fortune strikes couple

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Blooming Prairie residents Pete and Mary Kittelson brought the popular television game show, Wheel of Fortune, to town Thursday night, April 30, as they were big winners.

Family and friends of the Kittelsons watched Pete and Mary as contestants on a previously tape recorded episode. The Kittelsons were contestants in January and sworn to secrecy as to what their winnings totaled.

The secret was out as the game show program featuring Pete and Mary aired at 6:30 p.m., Thursday. A public viewing in Blooming Prairie at The Cue Company was attended by Pete and Mary and by family and friends. The airing of the show was also the first time Pete and Mary had seen their appearance.

"We told people if they wanted a good chuckle to come and watch the show with us," Mary laughed.

Pete and Mary won \$13,654 in cash and prizes.

The Kittelsons were sworn to secrecy after taping their show last Jan. 15. "We told people that we were still at our jobs the next day, so that should tell you something about what we won,"



Mary said.

Pete works for Central Valley Co-op in Blooming Prairie, driving a fuel truck. Mary is community services director for Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Blooming Prairie.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," Pete reflected.

Pete and Mary competed during "Show Your Disney Side" week. The famous "Wheel of Fortune" set was transformed to represent the iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle and Cinderella Castle.

Disney-loving contestants solved some clever Disney-themed puzzles as they competed for dream vacations. Pat Sajak and Vanna White revealed their own Disney Sides throughout the week with experiences taped at the Disney Parks.

Wheel of Fortune ranks as the longest-running syndicated game show in the United States, with over 6,000 episodes aired. TV Guide named it the "top-rated syndicated series" in a 2008 article, and in 2013, the magazine ranked it at #2 in its list of the 60 greatest game shows ever.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE
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Mary and Pete Kittelson of Blooming Prairie were contestants on the April 30 edition of Wheel of Fortune.

Submitted photo

A settlement averts trial for former mayor

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The theft trial for the former Ellendale mayor has been averted after a settlement was reached Friday afternoon.

Roger Swearingen, 66, entered into a continuance for dismissal based on several conditions. Those conditions include no new violations, pay \$1,600 restitution to the American Legion club, 80 hours of community service within six months and pay court fees of \$81.

If all of the conditions are met favorably, the charges against Swearingen would be dismissed in May 2017. He was scheduled to go to trial on May 4.

Swearingen was charged with three counts of theft last July after authorities accused him of taking money from the community's veteran's memorial fund.



Swearingen

At the time, he told the Times, "It's not true, but I guess I will have to prove it."

Assistant county attorney Christy Hornmann said such an agreement is common for misdemeanor cases, but Swearingen's case had a few more conditions than most.

She said officials from the American Legion had input into the agreement prior to last week's hearing. Swearingen has taken care of the legion's restitution already, according to Hornmann.

Swearingen was mayor at the time of the alleged incident. He lost his bid for re-election last fall after the charges had been filed.

BEEFING UP SECURITY

County approves adding more deputies

More deputies will be joining the Steele County Sheriff's Office to increase security at the courthouse.

That was the unanimous decision of the Steele County Board April 28 in response to the sheriff's request to beef up his force. The county plans to hire two additional deputies, raising the sheriff's office operating strength to 23 sworn officers.

The county doesn't typically add personnel midway through the year as its budget was already in place for 2015 without the request. However, Sheriff Lon Thiele approached the board after judges, attorneys, probation officers and others have expressed concerns

MORE DEPUTIES
Continued on Page 3A

Vietnam Conflict: 40 years later

Area vets getting well-deserved recognition

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A hero's tribute was given at the Blooming Prairie Servicemens Club on Wednesday, April 29 to those who served during the Vietnam era.

A free ham supper was served to the veterans and to their spouses, families and friends. A short program followed the supper with a presentation given on Vietnam history by Steve Wencl. Local veterans of-

fered some observations about their service during this era.

The Vietnam War, often called the Vietnam Conflict, was a very unpopular war with many of the returning veterans not being honored as heroes. Protests were dominant during the 1960s and early 1970s.

The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the war and the 40th anniversary of the end of the war.

Thirty-five Vietnam era veterans, spouses and friends attended a welcome home

hastened by the unpopularity of the war. Merle McNutt, the oldest member of the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, set the table for the evening by delivering a short prayer as chaplain. McNutt served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He also put the final punctuation on the evening with a closing prayer.

Keith Holman, Blooming Prairie busi-

HONORING VETS
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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Vietnam veteran Ken Vermilyea holds a display of his medals earned in Vietnam. His wife Elaine put together the display. He was a crew chief on helicopter missions.

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Opinion

Our view

Sobering lesson for teenagers



Life is all about making the right choices. That’s the message that rang out clearly last Wednesday morning in Medford as county emergency workers performed a mock car crash for high school students just in time for the prom and graduation seasons.

Led by the Steele County Sheriff’s Office, the crash was staged in the school parking lot as students looked in despair on as six of their fellow classmates were involved in an alcohol-related accident. Two them died and several others severely injured. One of the drivers was intoxicated.

The mock crash produced chilling imagery and the message is as timely as ever.

There is a lesson for teens from all over the area to take from this demonstration—drinking and driving can have deadly consequences. Teenagers often think they are invincible, but as last week’s mock crash pointed out, things can happen in a brief instant and lives can be changed forever.

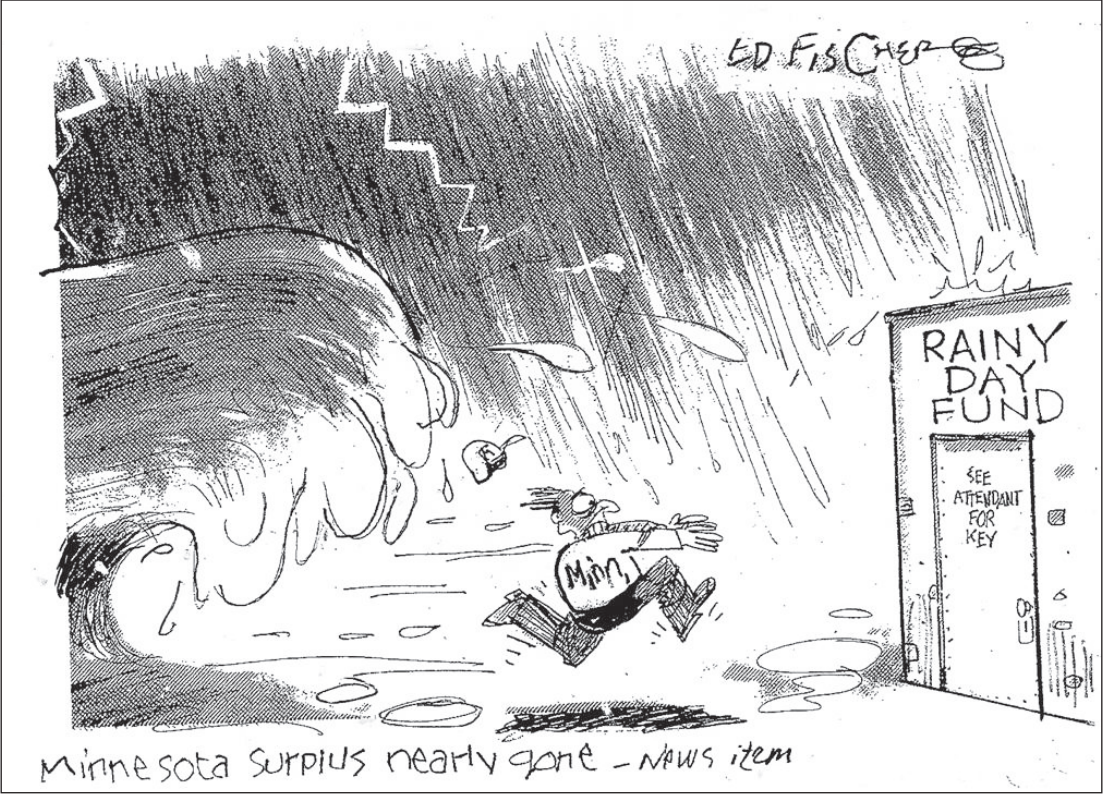
One student commented how the most impactful part of the demonstration was when the local funeral home showed up with a hearse and took a student away in a body bag.

We want to commend Sheriff Lon Thiele for bringing this valuable lesson to at least some teens in the county. The sheriff began this eye opening demonstration back in 2011 and plans to run it every three or four years. Last year it was cancelled because of inclement weather.

Mock car crashes are one of the most powerful tools available to law enforcement to drive home the message to teens about how risky driving behaviors can have deadly consequences. Graphic mock crashes have value.

The sheriff’s office teamed up with other community partners to make this happen, including the Medford Fire Department, State Patrol, Gold Cross Ambulance and Medford Funeral Home. It is impressive to see all of these organizations working together to make a difference in the lives of our children.

It’s important for all of us to embrace life and realize that our poor choices behind the wheel whether it’s drunk driving, distracted driving or failing to buckle up can have a life changing impact not only for ourselves, but for others as well. After all, life is about making the right choices.



Positive actions in a deranged society

It doesn’t take much to figure out that the world is changing around us, and not always in a positive way.

I like to consider myself a “half full glass” kind of person and not dwell on the negative aspects of life. But sometimes it becomes important to focus on the negative things in an effort to create something more positive.

There seems to be a dramatic increase in mentally unstable people who are taking out their aggressions in ways. Mentally deranged people are often resorting to school shootings, less than desirable encounters with police officers, violence in government buildings and basically disrupting the good life most of us want to enjoy.

Last week the Steele County Board had to make a decision it rather would not have wanted to make. Commissioners added \$160,000 per year to its already stretched budget to put two new deputies in the courthouse. The sheriff said the time has come for the county to enhance its security before something drastically goes wrong. The safety of court personnel as well as the general public is at stake.

Over the past few years, there have been shootings at the courthouses in Cook and Hennepin counties as well as a more recent attack at a city council meeting in the Twin Cities suburb of New Hope. For those who think rural Minnesota is



HOT
PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

immune from this problem, think again. Cook County is a small area in the northeastern part of Minnesota along the north shore of Lake Superior that serves a population of only 4,500 people.

Recently the Ellendale City Council faced a choice of whether to cut its police service to the community. In the end, the council made the correct decision in keeping sheriff’s deputies with providing police protection. There is no price tag that can be measured on public safety.

The fact is we live in a changed society. There are incredible stressors facing many families and individuals, forcing some to act out in ways that make us cringe with anger, disbelief and anxiety.

The decisions of the Ellendale council to maintain police protection and the Steele board

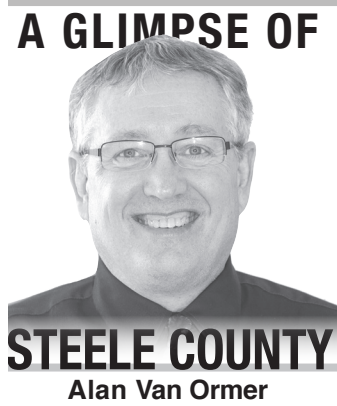
to add more deputies will create a sense of security for many people and allow us to sleep better at night knowing government officials are trying to do their best for our own good. It’s unfortunate we need these extra layers of protection, but we live in a crazed world of evil doers.

It’s important for us to recognize the awesome work our police officers do on a daily basis. Next week will be National Police Week, which is a great time for us to thank our public safety warriors. They truly should be our heroes more than any sports figure or movie star.

We have lost three officers in Steele and Dodge counties over the years fighting to keep us safe. They include police chiefs in Blooming Prairie and Claremont and an officer in Hayfield.

In two weeks, the Times will publish a special tribute to public safety in which we honor all those who maintain public safety for our communities. Look for this special section in the May 19 edition featuring not only police, but also firefighters, paramedics and EMS workers.

Just remember that positivity can come out of negativity as evidenced by some recent actions in our area. It gives us some hope that we can rely on calmness and peace to prevail and triumph over evil as public safety heroes go in hot pursuit of keeping us safe.



A GLIMPSE OF
STEELE COUNTY
Alan Van Ormer

Keeping up with issues, breaking news

There is a lot of controversial issues and breaking news going on in Steele County or close to Steele County in the case of the feedlot dilemma in Westfield Township.

I’ve worked at larger city newspapers, and at times have been inundated with tough issues and decisions that boards and others have had to make. I have also been involved in covering disaster stories.

Here in Steele County, take the public works building. That started in 2010 after a devastating flood that rocked the area. Now in 2015, the Steele County Board of Commissioners is starting to move forward.

The feedlot story has been in the news for a few months now and is not going away. On Monday, Westfield Township was expected to make a decision on whether or not to handle zoning issues themselves.

Now the H5N2 (Avian Influenza) has hit one of our own here in Steele County. I’m sure that story will be on the minds of many over the next few weeks.

Just take today’s issue. You can read about the Avian flu hitting Steele County and a former Blooming Prairie resident that has had a gender reassignment. Then of course there is the on-going issue of the county public works building and another story about a county highway worker’s grievance issue.

The point is that as a weekly newspaper, our staff continues to keep on top of all of these issues and other breaking news that hits our area in a timely manner. It can be a chore at times, but we believe it is important to keep our readers aware of these issues and challenges.

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

April 28 I went to the county committee of the whole meeting. My name for it is Committee In the Hole.

A union steward presented a county employee who was put on paid leave for a couple of feeble reasons last Dec. 23. One beef the county had was about not filling three potholes on the shoulder of the road. The other was about a comment made in the break room by two employees on their own time. One said he hoped they didn’t hire the woman and the other one agreed. Do we not have freedom of speech? They were discussing the final two choices to replace Tom Shea.

Later the board went into yet another closed session. I was in the entry way talking to two guys. Tom Shea came out and told me I have some credibility and if I supported

the two county shop workers I would lose all of my credibility. I informed him I have a lot of credibility – not just some. He told me I didn’t know everything so I questioned hadn’t the county presented their side. He said because of confidentiality. He asked why I don’t like him. It isn’t him personally – it is the action he and the old commissioners have taken which end up hurting all of the taxpayers that I don’t like. He has always complied by giving me public information when I requested it but that is required under the Freedom of Information Act.

The conversation continued on and I gave him examples of how the mistakes made have cost taxpayers multi millions of dollars log and will continue to do so for years to come. Private industry would not tolerate these kinds of costly mistakes. I told him people in leadership roles have done far more

egregious acts and have had no consequences for their actions. The one county employee was terminated for saying he hoped they didn’t hire the woman. The other one is waiting for an outcome. This could have been handled so much better. I say we spared no expense to waste money.

I told Tom I didn’t appreciate taxpayers paying for his retirement party ads and cake. He said he paid for his party at the county club but he knew nothing about the other party. I told him it isn’t too late – he can still pay the nearly \$1,000.00 cost yet. I’m a fiscal conservative and I care about our citizens.

Marlene Nelson
Owatonna

Letter to the Editor:

While the Twin Cities is trying to get all of Minnesota

to pay for yet another light rail line (now estimated to cost over \$2 billion dollars for only 16 miles), the senate has voted for the largest gas tax increase in Minnesota history. Sixteen cents a gallon at current prices, and it could go closer to 25 cents per gallon if (or when) gas prices go back up over \$3 a gallon.

So while the metro builds trains that are never full and have to be continuously subsidized by the taxpayers, southern Minnesota is still waiting for Highway 14, called one of the most dangerous two lane roads in the state, to be finished.

Please call or email Sen. Vicki Jensen and ask her why she wants us to pay for metro light rail instead of finally finishing Highway 14.

Dave Thul,
Owatonna

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DEADLINES

News: Noon Fridays.
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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

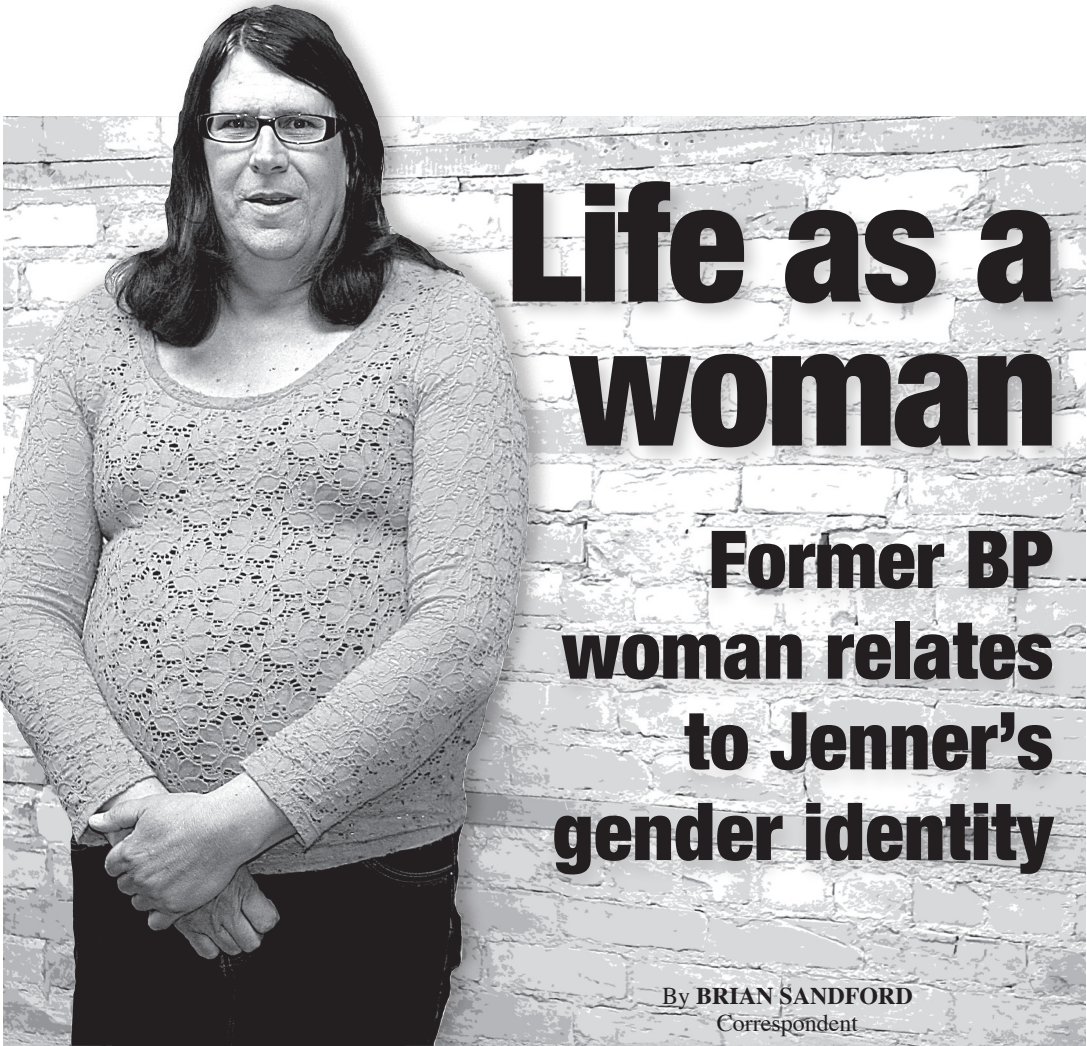
ETHICS

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

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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower\$38
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Out of state \$42

Second Front Page



Life as a woman

Former BP woman relates to Jenner's gender identity

By **BRIAN SANDFORD**
Correspondent

Olympic champion Bruce Jenner's gender identity has been in the national spotlight since he announced on "20/20" last month, "For all intents and purposes, I'm a woman."

Jenner said that as a child he'd dress up in female family members' clothing, then carefully place the clothing back in the dressers or closets where he'd found it to ensure he wasn't caught.

Jenner's decades-long secret resonates with Austin's Rebecca Campbell, who did the same thing growing up. Campbell was a stay-at-home father in Blooming Prairie from 1991-94 when he — now she — resumed wearing women's clothing for the first time since the early 1970s.

"I was trying to look for work and was coming to the Cities," she said. "I would have an interview, then go somewhere and dress. I was using (interviews) as an excuse to go dress."

Campbell, like Jenner, has been married and is attracted to women. Both now also identify as women; Campbell has been taking female hormones for years and changed her name about a year ago from Brian to Rebecca.

Jenner's gender-identity announcement to the world was calculated. Campbell's wasn't.

In April 2011, Campbell was in the Twin Cities watching a Minnesota Golden Gophers game and posted a Facebook picture of herself wearing women's clothing. She accidentally posted it in a place visible to everyone, angering two of

her five children.

One of the daughters who were upset said she wouldn't have a problem if Campbell were gay or having a sex-change procedure, Campbell said, prompting her to research gender reassignment for the first time.

She said that until then, she hadn't known what the word "transgender" meant. The only person she'd ever heard of

My whole demeanor had changed. I didn't notice it, but other people did.

~Rebecca Campbell

who'd undergone gender reassignment was tennis star Renee Richards, in the mid-1970s.

Campbell learned that the first steps toward becoming female were finding a doctor to prescribe hormones, as well as letting her hair grow.

"So in March of 2012, I told my supervisor on a Wednesday that on Friday, I was going to start wearing women's clothes," she said. "So the first assumption (from men in the workplace) was, 'Brian's gay. I wonder if he's going to start hitting on me.'"

That year, Campbell was able to participate in a University of Minnesota human-sexuality program.

"I had a couple of visits with a therapist, and at the end of the

second, she'd already put down 'gender-identity disorder' right in my files," she said.

Campbell began taking Spironolactone, a testosterone blocker. She soon graduated to estrogen patches and began weekly estrogen self-injections in 2013.

She noticed changes in her body but didn't feel a chemical change in her brain until last May.

"People noticed I'd become calmer, less aggressive, not so obstinate (and) standoffish," Campbell said. "My whole demeanor had changed. I didn't notice it, but other people did."

She likened the process to being a girl going through puberty in a 56-year-old man's body.

Campbell, who grew up in South St. Paul, acknowledges that rural Minnesota isn't as open-minded about her manner of dress as the Twin Cities, where she attends weekly support group sessions for the transgendered. But she added that she loves the region, as well as small-town life.

She doesn't wear dresses, just women's jeans and women's T-shirts.

"That's what I've always been comfortable in," she said.

Campbell remains hurt by some family members' negative reaction but has gained strength through her support group.

"When you decide to transition, you know if you get information there's a possibility you can lose all your family, all your friends, you'll never work another day in your life, you can become homeless," she said.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Continued from Page 1A

The program has also come to gain a worldwide following with 60 international adaptations. The syndicated series' 32nd season premiered on Sept. 15, 2014.

Mary shared some interesting statistics about Wheel of Fortune. She said she and Pete were told that over 1 million people a year audition for the show, 10,000 annually get chosen for the show and 600 actually make it to the show each year.

Pete and Mary were placed in the long-time married couples category for the competition. The Kittelsons will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in July of this year.

The entire process of trying out for Wheel of Fortune ac-

tually began about a year ago when Mary's bowling friends, Judy Esplan, Becky Noble and Carol Heimerman joined Mary on an adventure trip, nothing to do with bowling, she said.

Judy informed Mary that the Wheelmobile of Wheel of Fortune was coming to Minnesota and one of the locations was Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The four women registered for an audition. Mary's name was chosen after a second audition, which involved a practice round of Wheel of Fortune. She was told that she would be notified if she were to be selected.

Several months passed and Mary received an e-mail in September, informing her that the show was looking for couples. "Because I know Pete is

such a good sport, I registered him and explained to him over supper that we would audition in October at the St. Paul Hotel," Mary said.

Pete and Mary's audition lasted three hours. No word was heard until the week before Christmas when Pete answered a phone call from Wheel of Fortune organizers. He was told that show taping would be on Jan. 15. "You know what big trouble I would be in if I said no," Pete told the Wheel of Fortune contact.

Taping of the show was prefaced by five hours of instructions, Mary said. "We also had to agree not to talk about any of the outcomes until the show aired," Mary said.

HONORING VETS

Continued from Page 1A

nessman who served in Vietnam, was master of ceremonies for the evening.

It was an emotional evening for many of the veterans, Joe Wacek, Blooming Prairie, included. He served in the 10th Transportation Company, 48th Group in Long Bend, Saigon. Wacek paid tribute to Sgt. William Sykora, one of his service mates who was killed April 27, 1968 in Vietnam. Wacek, proudly displaying a tattoo on his right arm dedicated to Sykora, said he visits Sykora's grave every year on April 27.

Wacek introduced Sykora's sister Ramona Ptacek and said she was accompanied by her two daughters, Sykora's nices Jodi and Jackiann.

Wacek recited names of Steele County soldiers killed in Vietnam. They are: Lee H. Harra, Owatonna, Jan. 30, 1969; Larry R. Kelm, Owatonna, Aug. 25, 1966; Sydney W. Klemmer, Owatonna, May 6, 1968; Clyde M. Lee, Blooming Prairie, Dec. 4, 1967; Dale L. Otto, Ellendale, May 14, 1967; Curtis E. Ringhofer, Owatonna, May 13, 1970; John R. Schrom, Owatonna, Nov. 3, 1968; William J. Seykora, Owatonna, April 27, 1968; Raymond P. Spindler, Medford, Aug. 24, 1968; Walter O. Tramel, Owatonna, Sept. 18, 1965; David A. Wencil, Owatonna, Nov. 3, 1968 and John G. Widen, Owa-

tonna, May 6, 1970.

"We fought a war we were told to fight," veteran Holman spoke.

Wacek referred to the cost of the Vietnam War in terms of casualties, 58,000 lives lost and thousands suffering from wounds. The state of Minnesota counted 1,077 deaths and 42 missing in action or prisoners of war.

"To all of those who came tonight, welcome home, God Bless and Amen," Wacek said.

Ken Vermilyea told the audience about losing three of his school mates from Elkton in Vietnam. Vermilyea served as a crew chief on a gun ship in Vietnam. He said he still gets together regularly with three of his service men but when they meet, they do not discuss the war just their families.

Marine Robert Padilla of Owatonna told the crowd that he served in Vietnam in 1969-70. He thanked the organizers on Wednesday's event and paid tribute to his fellow veterans. He left the evening event in tears.

Jim Ruzek, who grew up in Blooming Prairie, congratulated all veterans in attendance. "We just feel good to be back and be whole," he said.

Steve Garness told about his experiences as an ammo bearer. He said he wrestled at 127 pounds in school and after

MORE DEPUTIES

Continued from Page 1A

their safety in the courthouse.

There have been several high profile shootings in government buildings, including courthouses, around the state in recent years.

Bringing on two more deputies will cost the county around \$80,000 this year, as it will be only a partial year. In subse-

quent years, the additional personnel will run about \$160,000 per year.

"Unfortunately, times have changed to where we need to address courthouse needs to another level," Thiele said. "It's never easy when you put more money into the budget, but you have to provide public safety."

carrying around ammunition in Vietnam, his weight dipped to under 100 pounds.

Dan Richards of Ellendale reflected on his time in Vietnam "patching up" the wounded. He urged everyone to visit the Vietnam display at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

The evening closed with Dale Hanson and Tom Peterson leading the crowd in singing "God Bless America."



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Vietnam veteran Joe Wacek of Blooming Prairie shows a tattoo dedicated to a fellow serviceman and best friend William Seykora who was killed in Vietnam in 1968. Wacek visits Seykora's grave every April 27.

Bird flu strikes Steele County turkey operation

OUTBREAK

Continued from Page 1A

a method called foaming to kill the infected flocks. "Foaming is used for mass euthanasia and is supported by the American Veterinary Association," she said. "It is the primary way to depopulate a large, large turkey flock," she added.

State and federal officials have been using the foaming method for all the infected flocks across the state since the outbreak began last month. So far, nearly 4 million turkeys have been infected on 72 farms in 19 counties.

The USDA works with flock owners to develop a flock plan, which includes appraisal and indemnity agreements for depopulation of poultry that remain on the premises. After depopulation occurs, all turkey carcasses are composted inside of the barns. The composting temperature is about 130 degrees, Gunderson said. She added the process takes about one month to complete.

Bird flu is a virus that infects domestic poultry, such as turkeys, chickens, quail and geese. Influenza in poultry is not a food safety or public health issue, officials said. The Minnesota Department of Health reports that no human infections with this strain of the virus have been detected in Minnesota or elsewhere in the U.S.

Last week's outbreak caused Steele County officials to immediately activate a crisis plan, county

administrator Laura Elvebak said. Emergency management director Mike Johnson coordinated the local effort with help from the USDA and the animal board, who are the lead agencies in the investigation.

"We're trying to be proactive and reduce the impact," Elvebak told the Times. "We want to minimize the exposure," she said.

Within the control zone around the infected flocks, officials work to identify all premises with commercial and backyard poultry. Backyard flocks are placed under quarantine and cannot move poultry on or off premises. These flocks must complete two rounds of surveillance testing, all of which must be negative before quarantines can be lifted.

Commercial flocks undergo surveillance in accordance with USDA protocols. All commercial poultry producers in the control area also comply with stringent biosecurity and permitting protocols in order to move poultry or products off of their farms.

There are 10 large turkey farms in Steele County with about 416,487 turkeys, according to the

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

A small hobby farmer who raises chickens in rural Rice County found himself in the middle of the massive bird flu outbreak last week.

On Thursday, Henry Smits had a pair of investigators from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health show up at his farm donning white hazmat suits to test his chickens for the H5N2 virus that has wiped out nearly 4 million turkeys across the state. Smits lives within a 10-kilometer control area around the infected flock in Steele County's Merton Township.

Once the outbreak was de-

tected in Steele County, state and federal officials began surveillance of all flocks in the immediate area to make sure they were free of the virus.

At Smits' farm, officials randomly tested four chickens by taking cotton swabs from them. As of press time Monday, Smits had not heard back anything on the test results, but he was optimistic.

"They told me if I didn't have any chicken deaths, I probably don't have a problem," Smits said, who has a small flock of about 70 chickens on his farm. He admitted he was a little surprised to learn of the outbreak hitting his neighborhood. Though he did not know whose farm had

been hit, he is aware of a couple large turkey operations nearby.

Smits welcomed the visit from the state and federal officials. "They're just covering their bases and doing their due diligence, which they should," he said.

Even though he only has a small hobby farm, Smits understands the plight facing many poultry operators around the state. "It's hurting the turkey industry," he said. "It's costing some hard working farmers a lot of money."

Despite the financial devastation facing many, Smits finds relief in knowing that the bird flu isn't being transmitted to humans.

USDA. In Dodge County, there are 11 large producers with about 343,816 turkeys.

The massive outbreak prompted Gov. Mark Dayton to declare a Peacetime State of Emergency. Under the plan, the Minnesota Emergency Op-

erations Plan was activated to support the USDA and animal board to coordinate response efforts across the state.

Anyone with questions about the bird flu should contact a special hotline at 888-702-9963.

Public Safety

May is Drug Court month

Did you know that May is national Drug Court Month? “Drug Court” refers to specialized court programs that address chemically-addicted criminal offenders through intensive community-based monitoring.

These specialty courts have now branched off into sub-specialties addressing domestic violence, family dependency, mental health, DWI offenses, and Veterans. Nationwide, there are more than 2,700 Drug Court and another 1,122 specialty or “problem-solving” courts, with courts operating in each of the 50 states and U.S. territories.

Drug Courts are one of the most rigorously studied and evaluated aspects of the criminal justice system. In 2013, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) published the “Adult Drug Court Best Practices Standards: Vol. I,” which set forth the state-of-the-art research and best practices for developing and maintaining Drug Court programs.

The verdict is in on Drug Courts: They Work. Nationwide data shows that Drug Courts both reduce crime and save public resources. Even the most rigorous and conservative stud-

CASE IN POINT



Daniel McIntosh

ies have shown that Drug Courts reduce crime as much as 45 percent more than traditional sentencing options. In addition, nationwide data shows that for every \$1 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone – this is directly tied to Drug Court participants simply committing far fewer crimes than they had previously. When other societal costs, such as reduced victimization and reduced healthcare costs, are factored in, Drug Courts can save up to \$27 for every dollar of investment.

In Minnesota there are approximately 60 Drug Court/specialty court programs. Similar to the nationwide data, evaluation of Minnesota’s Drug Courts has

also shown great success and great promise. For example, Drug Court participants have a 32 percent lower rate of recidivism than similar offenders – even four years after the conviction that brought them into Drug Court. This translates into significant local and state savings based on avoided arrests and incarceration with Drug Court participants serving less than half of the days incarcerated than the non-Drug Court participant group.

Locally, the Steele Waseca Drug Court (SWDC) is still in its first year of existence after opening in July of 2014. The SWDC Mission is stated as: “The Steele-Waseca Drug Court collaboratively reduces crime, increases public safety, lowers recidivism, rehabilitates offenders, and re-integrates them into the community with the means to become contributing members of society.”

This program brings together a multidisciplinary team including a judge, County Attorney, defense attorney, chemical dependency and mental health treatment providers, law enforcement, and probation personnel to maintain contact with

participants, sanction violations of program rules, and incent program accomplishments.

Prior to entry into the SWDC, the participants have generally lived chaotic lives in which chemical dependency and mental illness have led to numerous arrests, incarcerations, child protection interventions, and lost opportunities.

Even with participants for whom jail, prison, and traditional probation have not worked, the SWDC is seeing great results and promise in the participants. Whether by obtaining employment, pursuing education, reuniting with children, repairing damaged relationships, or helping to mentor others, SWDC participants are on the road to recovery and re-establishing their lives.

This year’s Drug Court month arrives amid broader conversations about criminal justice reform. The Steele – Waseca Drug Court will seek to continually improve its work to break the cycle of criminal activity and produce societal and economic benefits for our communities.

Daniel McIntosh is the Steele County attorney. He writes a column periodically.

Hotel manager suspected of raping teenager

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A local hotel manager is accused of having sex with a juvenile while working at the hotel, according to charges filed against the man.

Matthew David Swenson, 33, of Owatonna, has been charged in Steele County District Court with three felony counts of criminal sexual conduct. The charges stem from an incident that allegedly took place at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna April 25.

Owatonna Police responded to a residence for a sexual assault report. When an officer arrived, a 15-year-old girl was hysterical and crying. The victim told police she was working at the Holiday Inn when her manager raped her in one of the rooms.

According to the complaint, Swenson allegedly lured the victim into a room by making up a bogus noise complaint to investigate in the hotel. Once they got



Swenson

into a room, Swenson is accused of kissing the victim, who told him repeatedly to stop. Swenson then undressed the victim and had sexual intercourse with her, the complaint said. During the incident, the victim laid on the bed with her eyes closed, crying and begging him to stop. The complaint alleges Swenson continued and laughed at her.

The victim told police that Swenson has been flirting with her since she started working at the hotel.

Police confirmed that Swenson had a room that was out of service for him to sleep in. He

SWENSON

Continued on Page 6A

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

April 24

Traffic. At 12:58 p.m., police made a traffic stop and issued a citation.

April 25

Phone Call. Police answered a phone call at 9:36 p.m.

April 26

Child Protection. Officers took two child protection reports in the city at 1:58 p.m. and 7:26 p.m.

Owatonna Police

April 24

Property Damage. Officer took a report of a motor vehicle crash at Bridge St. W. and State Ave. NW at 12:19 p.m. No one was injured.

Crash. Police responded to another motor vehicle crash at Cedar Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 12:27 p.m. There were no injuries reported.

Assault. At 12:40 p.m., officer took an assault report in the 200 block of Spruce Ave. NE.

Accident. A motor vehicle crash was reported at 4:17 p.m. in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW. No injuries were reported.

Warrant. An adult was arrested on a warrant in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 8:07 p.m.

April 25

Hit and Run. Police investigated a hit and run crash resulting in property damage in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W. at 9:25 p.m.

Criminal Sexual. Officer handled a criminal sexual conduct complaint on April 25 at 11:30 p.m.

April 26

DWI. Officers arrested an adult for DWI in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:13 a.m.

Drunkenness. At 1:18 a.m., officers responded to a public drunkenness call in the 500 block of South

St. E. Police arrested an adult man.

Theft. Police took a theft report in the 200 block of 24th St. NE at 9:19 a.m.

Burglary. At 6:52 p.m., a burglary was reported in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE.

Alarm. Officer responded to an alarm in the 200 block of Linden Ave. NE at 9:17 p.m.

April 27

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:04 a.m.

Death. Officers handled a death investigation on Richard Place SE at 6:07 a.m.

Theft. A citizen reported a theft in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 7:51 a.m.

Fight. At 3:33 p.m., officers responded to a fight call in the 500 block of 15th St. NE.

Crash. A property damage crash was reported in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:57 p.m.

April 28

Domestic. At 12:40 a.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of 21st St. NW. An adult man was arrested.

Vandalism. Officer took a property damage report in the 200 block of 13th St. NE at 8:44 a.m.

Shoplifter. Police handled a shoplifting report in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 12:48 p.m.

Traffic. An adult was arrested at 7:05 p.m. following a traffic stop in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

April 29

Thefts. Officer took several theft reports throughout the day, including the 1400 block of Greenleaf Road SE at 6:31 a.m., on Strand Drive NW at 8:52 a.m., the 100 block of Mill St. E. at 4:48 p.m. and the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 5:34 p.m.

OFF Violation. At 7:31 p.m., officer took a report of a restraining order violation.

Warrant. An adult was arrested on a warrant in the 1200 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 11:51 a.m.

DWI. Police arrested an adult for drunken driving at Harriet Ave. SE and Phelps St. E. at 9:38 p.m.

April 30

Parking. Police handled a parking complaint in the 100 block of Lincoln Ave. S. at 2:10 p.m.

Traffic. Officer stopped a vehicle at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 4:10 p.m. A citation was issued.

Burglary. At 4:54 p.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 300 block of South St. E.

Crashes. Police responded to two motor vehicle crashes. The first one was in the 200 block of Broadway St. E. at 5:08 p.m. and the second one was at 26th St. NW and County Road 45 N. at 5:45 p.m. No injuries were reported in either crash.

Warrant. A juvenile was arrested on a warrant in the 700 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 3:02 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff

April 23

Runaway. Deputy took a runaway report in Medford at 8:21 p.m. The runaway was later located.

Runaway. The sheriff’s office took another report of a runaway at 11:15 p.m. in Owatonna. The runaway was located a short time later.

April 24

Traffic. At 5:45 p.m., deputy stopped a vehicle at County Road 45 S. and Highway 14 E.

Medical. Deputies handled a medical situation in the detention center at 10:06 p.m.

April 25

Drunken Driving. Deputy stopped a vehicle at 128th St. SE and 64th Ave. SE at 10:51 p.m. The adult driver was arrested for DWI.

April 26

Crash. A property damage crash was reported on County Road 45 S. at Highway 14 E. at 12:08 a.m.

April 27

Theft. A citizen reported a theft in the 4100 block of 168th St. SE at 11:02 a.m.

DWI. Deputy stopped a vehicle at Highway 14 E and mile marker 181 at 10:19 p.m. The adult driver was taken into custody for drunken

driving. Deputy utilized use of force during the arrest.

April 28

Theft. At 9:05 a.m., deputy took a theft report at 89th Ave. SE and 93rd St. SE.

Rollover. The sheriff’s office and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to a rollover at 69th St. NE and Kenyon Road at 4:25 p.m. Several were reported to be injured.

April 29

Warrant. Deputy made a warrant arrest on an adult in the 1800 block of 44th Ave. SE at 9:15 p.m.

April 30

Disturbance. A loud party was reported in the 3100 block of 168th St. SE at 7:15 a.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 27 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Minnesota DNR

Alexandria M. Jones-Orr, 26, Owatonna, was convicted of felony burglary. She was sentenced to 17 days in local confinement, 3 years probation and a \$381 fine.

Keith J. Martin, 35, Owatonna, was convicted of felony discharge of a firearm. Martin was sentenced to 3 days jail time, 3 years probation and \$1081 in fines.

Jess A. Decoux, 18, Faribault, Drug possession, \$131.

MN State Patrol - Rochester

Aaron L. Albertson, 22, Brainerd, driving after revocation, \$281; Damon S. Anderson, 23, West Des Moines, speeding, \$131; Connie J. Bach, 62, Mapleton, speeding, \$121; Nyabuny C. Chut, 37, Mankato, speeding, no driver’s license, \$161; Daniel J. Crowley, 48, Austin, speeding, \$121; Deshon S. Epps, 36, Waterloo. Driving after

suspension, \$281; Keith O. Johnson, 49, New Richland, seat belt, \$106;

Marquita A. Landis, 20, violation of permit, no proof of insurance, \$331; Ngoc Le, 52, Robbinsdale, speeding, \$221; Cresse T. McCarren, 21, Owatonna, drug possession, \$181; Paul Melendrez Jr., 50, Waseca, driving after cancellation, \$281;

Nicholaus D. Miller, 33, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Gary A. Pappas, 57, Faribault, driving while intoxicated, 90 days jail time, \$1,006, 3 year probation, electronic home monitoring for 30 days, Ignition interlock program;

Tesa A. Reno, 23, Little Falls, Operating under influence of controlled substance, 17 days jail time, \$649.98, Cannot enter bars or liquor stores, attend MADD impact panel, 3 year probation; Marcia J. Schlingmann, 50, Jeffers, Uninsured vehicle, \$281; Phillip A. Scott, 30, Moose Lake, no proof of insurance, \$131; Dana T. Spiekermann, 65, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106.

Owatonna Police Department

Siro L. Amerson Aitkin, 18, Faribault, theft, \$276; Jeremiah J. Bauer, 28, Owatonna, driving while intoxicated, 34 days jail time, \$156, 1 year probation; Donald P. Buesing, 62, Granite Falls, speeding, \$121;

Nathan E. Graff, 22, Owatonna, drug possession, driving while intoxicated, 3 days jail time, \$1,006, 5 years probation, cannot enter bars or liquor stores, attend MADD impact panel; Joel R. Ignaszewski, 50, Claremont, driving after cancellation, \$281;

Zachary D. Keller, 27, Owatonna, driving while intoxicated, 2 days jail time, 2 years probation, electronic home monitoring; Carl K. Kletschka, 36, Owatonna, driving after suspension, \$281; Jesse M. Knutson, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Krystal R. Laroque, driving without license, \$181;

Joalle M. Pautsch, 61, Good

Thunder shoplifting, \$81, probation; Bradley J. Richards, 29, Owatonna, driving after revocation, \$281;

Chris A. Rivas, 19, Waseca, driving after revocation, \$381; Danielle K. Sanow, 26, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Daniel J. Stockwell, stolen property, 78 days jail time, \$480, cannot enter bars or liquor stores, random testing; John G. Stoltz, 45, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Antonio G. Vielma, 20, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$81; Carrie L. Wallin, 35, Owatonna, no proof of insurance, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

Doris Brautigan, 61, Brooklyn, New York, speeding, \$221; Librada Z. Eliva, 49, Waterville, speeding, \$141; Jerry W. Ericson Jr., 34, Salt Lake City, Utah, speeding, \$131; Kristoffer D. Ferch, 41, Waseca, speeding, \$141;

Jeanne K. Fisher, 54, Kenyon, speeding, \$141; Brandon R. Grunwald, 30, Shakopee, driving while intoxicated, 2 days jail time, \$1,006, 2 years probation, cannot enter bars or liquor stores, Ismael S. Haro Serrano, 59, Austin, speeding, \$141; Katie M. Johnson, 32, Waseca, drug possession, \$131;

Kelsey A. Kozirolek, 23, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey J. Mohlke, 35, Pine Island, speeding, \$141; Eli A. Ojedarios, 59, Owatonna, driving after cancellation, \$281; Thomas P. Pierce, 54, Andover, speeding, \$141; Robert H. Quaale, 69, Owatonna, driving after cancellation, \$81;

Salazar S. Rivera, 36, Waseca, speeding, \$141; John A. Rokke, 66, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Steven C. Schulz, 52, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Aaron W. Skolte, 39, Owatonna, speeding, driving after revocation, \$321; Melissa K. Smith, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Bryan R. Stiernagle, 52, Brooklyn Park,

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued on Page 6A

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.
The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

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

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

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

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



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Blooming Prairie native Paulson recalls Vietnam service

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

It has been 50 years since the Vietnam War started and 40 years since it ended.

Blooming Prairie native Gordon Paulson, 84, was on a mission for God as a Naval chaplain while serving at the only military hospital in Vietnam staffed with orthopedic surgeons. Paulson was assigned to a Naval Hospital in Da Nang on March 9, 1966, just over a year after the first troops were deployed in Vietnam. He was 35 at the time.

Paulson currently resides in Norfolk, Virginia, with wife, Ruth. He grew up on a farm just northwest of Blooming Prairie. His remembrances of service in Vietnam are many and they are crystal clear almost 50 years later.

Paulson has not forgotten his Blooming Prairie roots and keeps in contact with family and friends still residing in the Blooming Prairie area. A good friend and fellow 1948 Blooming Prairie graduate, Eugene Krell, recently contacted The

Times about his friend, Gordon Paulson. He brought in a newspaper clipping on Paulson who had just been featured in a newspaper series published in The Virginian-Pilot.

Krell and others regard Paulson and other Vietnam service men and women as heroes. That was not always the case with those who served in Vietnam.

The Vietnam War was a very controversial war and had many political under tones. “At the time, it seemed very necessary,” Paulson said. “Once you are in the military, you do the job you were asked to do. Whether the war was legitimate or not, I had a mission to bring spiritual comfort and assistance to the people who were brought on active duty.”

On his assignment as a chaplain at a military hospital in Da Nang, Paulson saw some gravely wounded soldiers and Vietnamese children come in as casualties of the war. He recalls hearing the buzz of rescue helicopters overhead, approaching the military hospital.

The helicopters approached

the hospital at a fast rate indicating they were carrying seriously injured victims, Paulson said.

Paulson specifically recalls meeting a helicopter carrying four young children who were wounded. He said he could see his own daughters’ faces in those who were wounded.

Admitting that he saw many seriously wounded individuals at the Vietnam hospital, Paulson said his ministry was “very rewarding” because he was able to provide help and assurance to many who were either single, double, triple or even quadruple amputees.

Paulson, who attained the rank comparable to that of captain, left Vietnam in 1967 and three years latter, reported to graduate school in Berkeley, California. Anti-war sentiment was at its peak this collegiate city. “I would not wear my uniform or park my car on city streets,” Paulson recalls.

He said he has always tried not to let politics get between him and the ministry he was sworn to perform. “I tried to disassociate myself because once you take a

stand, people see you other than a minister,” Paulson said.

Paulson’s military service actually started several years after he finished seminary at Bethel College and served churches in St. Paul, Hopkins and Harlan, Iowa. His naval career started in 1958. He was a part of an amphibious squadron in San Diego. That squadron made a Cuban crisis run in 1962. “It was a very tense time,” Paulson recollects.

His service continued and included time in the Western Pacific, more service time in San

Diego, service time at Camp Lejeune, NC, an assignment in Vietnam and a transfer to the Armed Forces staff College in Norfolk. He also served in Guam and in Okinawa. In his latter years of service, he started a Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation with 110 trained volunteers working for him. He transferred to a naval hospital in Portsmouth, VA and was chief of pastoral care for three years and then command chaplain for the Marine Air Corps in Beaufort, SC.

Paulson’s naval career officially ended with retirement in 1988.

Asked to compare the war in Vietnam with other wars, Paulson said the war in Vietnam was the first time that wounded could be transported by helicopter from the battlefield to a military hospital in less than an hour. “This was not true of Korea or the Second World War,” Paulson said.

“Many people we saved in Vietnam would have died in World War II,” Paulson believes.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Blooming Prairie native Gordon Paulson, a 30-year U.S. Navy veteran, is shown today in front of a photo of him praying over a critically injured soldier at the Da Nang, Vietnam Hospital in 1966. The 84-year-old Paulson, a captain, served as chaplain for 27 years.

The secret is out: Pete and Mary are going to Disneyland

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Five televisions at The Cue Company sports bar in Blooming Prairie were not focused on the highly watched National Football League draft on Thursday night, April 30, They were focused on Pete and Mary Kittelson’s appearance on Wheel of Fortune.

More than 150 fans, many who claimed to be Wheel fanatics, came to watch the show with Pete and Mary. The Kittelsons, of course, knew what the results were but had not seen a video of the show.

The Kittelsons’ grandson was asked the day before the showing if he was excited for Thursday night. “Yes, I love the draft,” he replied. “How about grandma?” Mary responded.

The Kittelsons were sworn to secrecy after the Jan. 15, 2015 taping of the show and could not tell the results. If the word got out, their prizes could have been taken away. “They’re not talking,” said Mary’s mother, Phyllis Dandelet.

Both Pete and Mary circulated the sports bar before the 6:30 p.m. showing and shared their experiences of being game show contestants. They did not reveal their winnings, however, which did amount to \$13,654.

The viewing at the Cue Company was similar to a Sunday afternoon when football fans are cheering on, either the Minnesota Vikings or the Green Bay Packers.

Cheers echoed through the establishment as the game show commenced and continued. The Kittelsons solved two puzzles. One was: “A truly Unbelievable Vacation.” The other was: “Captain of the Ship.”

“What do you think?” Mary asked Pete as they watched themselves on TV. “I’ll be glad when it’s over,” Pete said.

Both Pete and Mary admitted to wishing their fellow contestants would go bankrupt so they could continue their quest of prizes.

Pete took some good-natured ribbing from two of his brothers during the night. “Buy me a beer,” commanded

older brother Jim. “You must have taken a class in public speaking,” teased brother Rick, referring to Pete’s smooth introduction of a couple from Blooming Prairie, the Kittelsons.

As part of their winnings, the Kittelsons won a trip to Disneyland. They said they will take their son Matt, his wife Ranell and their three children, Anna, 12; Drew, 11 and Brady, 8.

“It’s over,” Cheri Krejci congratulated Pete after the show. “This is great for Blooming Prairie,” said another Wheel of Fortune fan.

The media came for the event, too, two television stations and two newspapers. Snacks were also provided before the show and were provided free by The Cue Company.

“What do you think of being a celebrity?” Pete was asked. “That’s not me,” he said.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Mary and Pete Kittelson watched Wheel of Fortune on Thursday night, April 30 with about 150 of their family and friends. The Kittelsons were contestants on a program that was taped on Jan. 15 and aired last Thursday night. Mary and Pete earned \$13,654 for their efforts, including a trip to Disneyland.

B.P. Cancer Group

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News/Public Safety

Man accused of spitting at deputy

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A Blooming Prairie man faces a felony assault charge for allegedly assaulting a sheriff’s deputy with his bodily fluids.

Stephen Mark Beede, 42, has been charged with fourth-degree assault on a peace officer after an incident in Owatonna April 26. In addition, he also faces two other charges.

A Steele County sheriff’s deputy responded to a call of a man laying on the side of the road in the 500 block of South Street in Owatonna. The deputy determined the man was highly intoxicated.

The complaint said Beede became agitated and began yelling at the officers because he didn’t know what they wanted and that he had not done anything wrong. Beede allegedly made multiple obscene comments as he lay on the grass. Officers requested him to lower his voice several times, but he did not comply.

After multiple loud outbursts from Beede, officers decided he should be taken to Detox. As officers attempted to take him into custody, he began to resist, the complaint alleges.

When Beede was turned over onto his left side, he asked again what he did wrong and then snorted and spit in the deputy’s face.

The assault charge covers a person who intentionally throws or transfers bodily fluids or feces at or onto an officer.

Beede faces three years in prison and a \$6,000 fine. He has also been charged with obstructing legal process and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Police capture bottle-wielding suspect

A man is facing felony assault charges for allegedly charging at and injuring another person with a beer bottle.

Isiah Perez, 39, faces a second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon charge in connection with an incident at Reggie’s Brewhouse in Owatonna April 28.

Police responded to the bar in the early morning hours where they found a man whose face was dripping blood and had blood all over his clothes and shoes. Officers learned the victim left Reggie’s and was on the patio area in the rear.

While the victim was standing outside, Perez allegedly hit him in the face with a beer bottle, according to police. Perez is also suspected of pushing the victim into the wall and punching him.

Perez was located a short distance from the bar and arrested.



Officers reviewed surveillance video from the bar area and Perez can be seen exiting the bar with a bottle in his hand, police said. He is also seen swinging the bottle and then with a broken bottle in his hand.

Gophers Coach Jerry Kill breaks bread with Norwegians

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Staffer Howard Lestrud and Frontier Communications General Manager Darrell Hansen recently attended a function featuring University of Minnesota football Coach Jerry Kill as the headline speaker).

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

He’s clad in cowboy boots, blue jeans and a white shirt with a maroon and gold emblem attached to it.

“That’s who I am,” said Jerry Kill, University of Minnesota head football coach. Coach Kill was the featured speaker at a gathering of 500 Norwegian males who are part of a Norwegian social club, Norske Torske Klubben of St. Paul. The club meets monthly to socialize and eat torsk, often called “a poor man’s lobster.”

Kill, who is in demand nationally as a speaker, chose to meet with the Norwegians on the recommendation of his defensive coach, Tracy Claeys. Coach Claeys was guest of honor at a Norske Torske dinner last year.

“You won’t see anybody sing the National Anthem better than these guys,” Claeys told Kill. Coach Kill was impressed and told his listeners that “our country would be a better place if we saw more of this” inspiring patriotism.

Kill is entering his fifth year as head Gophers football coach. His team was 8-5 overall last season and 5-3, good for second in the West division of the Big 10. He was named Big 10 Coach of the Year last year.

Don’t expect to hear a glossy speech from Coach Kill. He doesn’t use 100-dollar words but instead, he talks from the heart. His strong Kansas accent is also



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
University of Minnesota head football Coach Jerry Kill spoke to 500 men at a Norske Torske Klubben dinner recently at the Prom Center in Oakdale. Kill earned a standing ovation with his promise to teach and educate kids on and off the football field.

dominant during his talks and press conferences. He said he lived a simple life style, growing up in Kansas.

Kill says he his father taught him some “very strong principles” which emphasize hard work. “Don’t cheat the system and be the best,” Kill said he learned.

Education is most important to Kill in molding his players to be first class citizens. “Don’t screw it up,” Kill says he tells his players.

“The reason I am standing up here is because of the way I was raised,” Kill told his intent listeners. “Don’t forget where you come from,” he emphasized. He also passed credit to his success to his wife of 32 years, Rebecca.

Kill had a message during his presentation and it was to admit that he has had a blessed career. “At times the road has been rough but I am a lucky guy,” he said.

Coach Kill made no mention of his epileptic seizures that have haunted his career at

times but it was highlighted at an awards banquet a few nights previous when someone said Kill had gone the last 18 months, seizure free.

Building a powerful, competitive football program has been a goal of Kill’s and he says the team “did some good things” last year. “We haven’t built the house yet but brick by brick, we are working on it,” he said.

The largest applause of the day came from the audience responding to Kill’s claim that academics is most important in working with the Golden Gopher young athletes. “We have got lots of kids back in school,” he remarked.

Kill acknowledged he is a “hard-nosed guy.” He said students must have a plan. “Even if you play pro football, you have to have a plan afterward,” he said.

Changing the culture at the University of Minnesota has been a priority for Kill. “You have to bring good kids in and this will rub off on others,” he

claims.

Kill said recruiting has been respectable the past four years. “The team with the best players usually wins; it’s not because of the coaching,” Kill said. He did praise his coaching staff, however, saying his staff is the longest tenured coaching staff in college football.

“You are successful because of the people you surround yourself with,” Kill said. “I am so proud of my players,” he said. He said many of them have come from single parent homes and no money. “Football is their shot; we had one man who lived in seven different homes his senior year.”

Football is a courageous game and it can be life saving, Kill believes. “They won’t count my wins and losses on my tombstone; it’s about how the kids turn out.”

Some exciting times are ahead for Gopher football, Kill promised. He said the team opens with powerful TCU and it will play four primetime television games.

Coach Kill fielded several questions after his talk and said coaching has changed in how coaches handle brain concussions. “It no doubt has affected how you coach” in respect to blocking and tackling techniques, he said. “Kids are so much bigger, stronger and faster,” he said.

Coach Kill excused himself, saying he had to return to a football camp being led for inner city kids. “Maybe, we can save one of their lives,” he said.

No one can describe Coach Kill better than himself. “Some call me unique and some say I am wired differently. I am persistent in teaching and educating kids.”

SWENSON

Continued from Page 4A

told officers that he has allowed employees to use rooms to lay down if they are not feeling well during their shifts.

Swenson told police that the victim came into the room to lay

down after her shift was over, but denied that he ever came in there with her.

Another manager at the hotel later told police that Swenson had shown a naked photograph

of himself to the victim about a month prior to the alleged rape.

Swenson had been employed as a guest relations manager. He is currently locked up in the county jail on \$50,000 bail with

conditions or \$75,000 without conditions. His next court date will be May 11.

If convicted, Swenson faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$40,000 fine.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

speeding, \$141;

Jay M. Sullivan, 16, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Todd M. Taylor, 47, Clarks Grove, harassment, 5 days jail time, \$131, probation.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office responded to 228 complaints during the week of April 22-28.

Some of them included:

April 22
Burglary. Deputy responded to a burglary on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 2:28 a.m. The victim reported someone broke into the residence.

Medical. A medical emergency was reported on 250th Ave. in West Concord at 1:29 p.m. An elderly man was vomiting. West Concord Ambulance responded.

Stolen Vehicle. At 1:46 p.m., a citizen in Dodge Center reported a stolen vehicle.

April 23
Crash. A motor vehicle crash was reported at 7:01 a.m. on Highway 30 near Blooming Prairie. A car ran off the road and a man had a possible head injury.

Tobacco. Grade school aged kids were reported to be smoking in the trailer court on 9th St. SE in Hayfield at 4:33 p.m.

Vandalism. A man reported property damage on W. Main St. in Claremont at 8:25 p.m. The windows on a vehicle had been broken out.

April 24
Suspicion. A woman reported a suspicious vehicle on 595th St. by Claremont at 4:23 a.m.

Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of Highway St. W. in Dodge Center at 12:24 p.m. The victim had an electrical cord cut and removed from his trailer.

Vandalism. The sheriff’s office discovered vandalism at the impound lot in Dodge Center at 9:03 p.m.

Domestic. At 11:56 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on 2nd St. W. in Claremont. A man was arrested and taken to jail.

April 25
Juvenile. Deputy handled a juvenile complaint in Claremont at 6:14 p.m.

Fire Alarm. Hayfield Fire responded to an alarm at 10:57 p.m.

Drunkness. Claremont Pub reported a man was drunk and refused to leave the premises at 11:38 p.m. When deputies arrived, the man had left the area.

April 26
Traffic. Deputy stopped a vehicle in the 11800 block of 750th St. by Blooming Prairie and issued a citation for speeding at 9:44 a.m.

Burglary. A man reported a past action burglary on 655th St. by Claremont at 12:13 p.m.

Burglary. Deputy took a report of a past action burglary in Claremont at 3:40 p.m.

Fire. A grass fire in the ditch was reported east of Wasioja at 5:40 p.m.

Suspicion. Deputy checked out with a suspicious vehicle in Creek Park in Dodge Center at 10:23 p.m.

April 27
Medical. The sheriff’s office and Hayfield Ambulance responded to a medical emergency in Hayfield at 12:26 a.m. An elderly man had troubles with his appendix.

Theft. A man reported a theft on 585th St. by Claremont at 10:17 a.m. He had some damage to property and items stolen.

Abandoned. The sheriff’s office came across an abandoned vehicle on 200th Ave. in Dodge Center at 5:19 p.m.

April 28
Alarm. Deputy responded to an alarm on Front St. W. in Claremont at 7:24 a.m.

Fraud. At 9:02 a.m., a business on 170th Ave. in Dodge Center reported fraudulent check activity.

Traffic Hazard. A caller reported a car door laying in the traffic lane on County Road 22 at CR 9 at 9:09 a.m. Deputies responded to remove the item.

Suspicion. Claremont City Hall reported a person on a green bicycle

was trying to pick up scrap metal behind the city shop at 10:20 a.m.

Extra Patrol. A caller requested extra patrol for the Claremont post office at 2:54 p.m. The caller heard a man sits in the post office drinking beer.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

Dodge County Sheriff’s Office

Drew E. Baker, 27, Rochester, driving after suspension, \$280; Laura M. Bollum, 35, Kasson, expired registration, \$110; Norma Cardenas, 37, Mantorville, driving after revocation, \$280;

Justin G. Dahl, 25, Winona, no valid license, \$180; Abigail C. Eidschink, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Rylee C. Franko, 19, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120;

Shelby N. Herold, 19, West Concord, drug possession, \$180; John T. Knudsen, 55, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$140; Raymond J. Malsom, 75, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Samuel W. Michog, 23, Rochester, speeding, \$120;

Toni M. Midrup, 48, Hastings, speeding, \$120; Jordan T. Seljeseth, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Jonathan D. Severs, 35, Northfield, speeding, \$140; Chase T. Westpahl, 18, Kasson, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Aaron A. Folkert, 41, Mantorville, driving while intoxicated, \$705, 2 year probation; Gregory J. Weber, 45, Mantorville, failure to signal, \$275.

Minnesota State Patrol – Rochester

Drew E. Baker, 27, Rochester, driving after revocation, \$280; Paul Crux, 42, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Jacy A. Jacobson, 17, Grand

Meadow, speeding, \$130;

Tandy J. Juell, 24, Redwood Falls, oversize load, \$180; Levi M. Kaiser, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$120; John B. Lejeune, 57, Oska-loosa, Iowa, no permit, oversize load, \$280; Nicholas T. Leuthardt, 33, West Concord, speeding, \$130;

Kimber L. McGowan, 26, West Concord, speeding, \$130; Dylan R. Olson, 22, Rochester, uninsured vehicle, \$980; Shala L. Sanson, 26, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Shane S. Schimek, 36, seat belt, \$105; Sonja C. Shompson, 39, Kasson, speeding, \$120;

Carl D. Zomok, 55, Kasson, failure to stop, \$130; Jamie L. Avery, 37, Hayfield, driving after revocation, \$300; Matthew J. Roberts, 25, Wells, speeding, \$140.

Steele Arrests

Steele Arrests

Blooming Prairie Police

Zachary Charles Herdina, 22, arrested at 8:06 p.m. April 17, DWI, held for court.

Owatonna Police

Cody James Allen Altepeter, 21, arrested at 9:07 p.m. April 16, felony apprehension and detention order, held for court.

Thomas James Weatherly, 56, arrested at 2:09 p.m. April 17, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Gary Christopher Lee, 44, arrested at 1:09 a.m. April 19, DWI, held for court.

Joseph Jacob Wallin, 18, arrested at 11:09 a.m. April 19, financial transaction card fraud and possession of Paraphernalia, held for court.

Sunday Paul Puot, 19, arrested at 2:26 a.m. April 21, felony aggravated robbery, assault and minor consumption, held for court.

Mark Henry Ammann, 31, arrest-

ed at 5:05 p.m. April 22, restraining order violation, held for court.

Isaac Allen Bartlett, 23, arrested at 11 p.m. April 23, assault and domestic assault, held for court.

Kylen Gordon Engbard, 31, arrested at 11:53 p.m. April 23, felony cancelled license, fleeing in a motor vehicle, controlled substance, possession of Paraphernalia and no insurance, held for court.

Randall Darrel Jones, 41, arrested at 3:15 a.m. April 25 for an arrest and detain order from probation, held for court.

Stephen Mark Beede, 42, arrested at 1:56 a.m. April 26 for assault on a peace officer and obstructing legal process, held for court.

Victoria Lea Wilder, 35, arrested at 1:30 a.m. on April 26, 3rd degree DWI criminal vehicular operation, hold for court.

Matthew David Swenson, 43, arrested at 1 a.m. on April 26, 1st degree criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

Isiah Yoel Perez, 39, arrested at 1:15 a.m. on April 27, 2nd degree assault, held for court.

Brandon Tremayne Bray, 37, arrested at 3:50 p.m. April 28, false info to police, no insurance and fraudulent use of plates, held for court.

Joshua Nathan Temple, 32, arrested at 12:16 p.m. April 29, 2nd degree sale controlled substance, held for court.

Robert James Schirmer, 49, arrested at 3:31 p.m. April 29, warrant arrest, \$240,000 bail.

Andrew John Kramer, 34, arrested at 4:20 a.m. April 30, 2nd degree assault, terroristic threats and damage to property, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Kylen Gordon Engbard, 31, arrested at 4:30 p.m. April 21, cancelled license, held for court.

Alexandria Taylor Gibbons, 24, arrested at 8:13 p.m. April 21, warrant arrest, body only.

Charity Ann Braulik, 35, arrested at 10:45 p.m. April 21, probation warrant arrest, body only.

Marcia Jean Schlingmann, 50,

arrested at 3:08 p.m. April 22, revoked license, no insurance, displaying cancelled plates warrant arrest, held for court.

Drew David Meyer, 30, arrested at 10:37 a.m. April 23, DWI warrant arrest, body only.

Austin Michael Chytracek, 19, arrested at 10:19 a.m. April 29, complaint warrant, \$50,000 bail.

Owatonna Fire

April 18
Waste Fire. Fire fighters responded to an outside waste fire in the 100 block of Grove Ave. NE at 3:42 p.m.

April 21
Fire. At 6:23 p.m., a building fire occurred in the 300 block of Arglen Dr. NW.

April 23
Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with no injuries in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 7:39 a.m.

Building Fire. Fire personnel were called to a building fire in the 6700 block of 52nd Ave. NW at 7:42 p.m.

Wiring. Owatonna Fire responded to the 700 block of Rose St. E. for defective and worn wiring at 10:33 p.m.

April 25
Medical. The fire department assisted Gold Cross Ambulance with a medical emergency in the 3000 block of Hoffman Drive at 1:25 p.m.

April 27
Fire. Fire responded to a smoke or odor removal call at 11:55 p.m. in the 1900 block of Whitetail Run Drive.

April 28
Injury Crash. Fire Rescue assisted police and paramedics with a motor vehicle crash with injuries on Kenyon Road at 4:27 p.m.

April 30
Grass Fire. Fire responded to a grass fire on 18th Street SW at 8:41 p.m.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 3, 2005

Albert Lea Police Officer Andy Johnson and his canine partner, Neiko, were one of three drug dogs on hand Friday morning to sweep the high school in the annual attempt to locate any illegal substances. Blooming Prairie Police Officer Mark Lang and his dog, Crux, also participated, as did a Steele County deputy and his canine partner. No drugs were found during the 15-minute lockdown.

Dawn Mansager, daughter of Tom and Lynn Mansager of Hollandale and Joel Ingvalson, son of Bob and Loretta Ingvalson of Waltham, announce their engagement. Dawn is a 1996 graduate of

Albert Lea High School. Joel graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1990.

The Blossom baseball team fell back into a losing mode when WEM rolled to an 11-1 five inning win over the locals at Waterville Tuesday, April 26. The early 1-0 lead vaporized quickly as the Bucs scored 10 runs in the third and fourth innings to put the Blossoms to rout.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 2, 1995

Virgil Dale Christianson, 62, of Medford, died at his home on April 19, 1995. Mr. Christianson was born to Selmer and Ella Christianson in Freeborn County, on October 26, 1932. He was

baptized and confirmed at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. He attended Austin High School and went to Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa.

The Blossom girls had two strong showings in invitational meets a week ago. They finished third in the five-team Zumbrota-Mazeppa Invitational on Tuesday, Apr. 25, after taking second in the Waseca six-team meet on Thursday, Apr. 20. Senior Wendy Balzer piled up four individual firsts and anchored a winning relay team in the two meets.

Meg Wencil is the happy owner of a new quilt after having won the St. Columbanus quilt raffle. Meg has entered the drawing for many years, and was completely surprised and delighted to have won.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, and
Vryle Krejci, Editors
May 6, 1965

The annual Junior - Senior Prom will be held on Friday evening of this week. May 7, starting at 9:00 o'clock, in the Blooming Prairie High School gymnasium. The junior class is carrying out the theme, "Moonlight and Roses," under the supervision of Merlin Iverson and Donald Narveson, their advisors.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department was summoned to Lark Supper Club about 9:15 p.m., Monday of this week when a deep fat fryer became overheated. Only slight smoke damage resulted.

Mrs. Alvin Clausen, Union news correspondent for the Times, is a patient at the Owatonna City Hospital, where she was taken last Friday after becoming violently ill. Mrs. Clausen will be unable to write her column until she has recovered.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson,
Editor and Publisher
May 2, 1940

Extensive remodeling of Ruzek's recreation Parlor is almost completed. The pool tables have been moved to the part of the building formerly occupied by the candy counter and bar. The bar and candy counter have been moved to the east side of the building, and a new, modern horseshoe lunch

counter has been constructed to take care of the large and increasing volume of business.

Funeral services were held for John S. Dennis Wednesday morning at 8:30 at his late home, south of Oakland and at 9:00 o'clock at St. Augustine's church. Burial was made at St. Columbanus cemetery in Blooming Prairie.

Mrs. L. O. Lewis and Miss Hannah Lunde accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Albert Story to Milwaukee, Wis. recently. They also visited relatives in Janesville and at Stoughton, Wis. They were accompanied home by Miss Ardella Storry, R. N. who has been on the nurse's staff at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, the last of two years.



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Dear Savvy Senior,

What tips can you offer for tracking down a lost pension from a previous employer?

About to Retire

Dear About,

It's not unusual for a worker to lose track of a pension benefit. Perhaps you left an employer long ago and forgot that you left behind a pension. Or maybe you worked for a company that changed owners or went belly up many years ago, and you figured the pen-

sion went with it.

Today, millions of dollars in benefits are sitting in pension plans across the U.S. or with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal government agency, waiting to be claimed by their rightful owners. The average unclaimed benefit with PBGC is about \$6,500.

To help you look for a pension, here are some steps to take and some free resources that can help you search if your previous employer has gone out

of business, relocated, changed owners or merged with another firm.

Contact Employer

If you think you have a pension and the company you worked for still is in business, your first step is to call the human resources department and ask how to contact the pension plan administrator. Ask the administrator whether you have a pension, how much it is worth and how to claim it. Depending on how complete the administrator's records are, you may need to show proof that you once worked for the company and that you are pension eligible.

Your old income tax returns and W-2 forms from the years you worked at the company will help you here. If you haven't saved your old tax returns from these years, you can get a copy of your earnings record from the Social Security Administration, which will show how

much you were paid each calendar year by each employer.

Call 800-772-1213, and ask for Form SSA-7050, "Request for Social Security Earnings Information," or you can download it at ssa.gov/online/ssa-7050.pdf. The SSA charges a \$136 for this information.

Some other old forms that can help you prove pension eligibility are summary plan descriptions that you should have received from your employer when you worked there, and any individual benefit statements that you received during your employment.

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.



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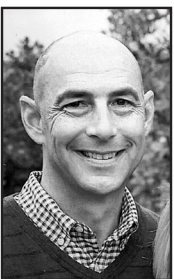
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Community

Obituary

Thomas Remker, 46, Owatonna

Thomas P. Remker, 46, of Owatonna, died Monday, April 27, 2015, at his home of natural causes. He was born June 16, 1968, in Rochester, the son of Robert and Judy (Tollefson) Remker. Thomas graduated with the class of 1986 from Blooming Prairie High School where he was very active in sports. He then attended college in Albert Lea. Thomas married Dawn Hinz on



Sept. 4, 1993, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. After marriage the couple made their home in Owatonna where Tom worked for Schmidt-Goodman in Rochester. The couple later moved to Rochester and back to Owatonna in 1997, when Tom worked for IKON out of Rochester and Minneapolis. Thomas was currently employed with Noble RV in Owatonna.

Tom enjoyed his children's sports, fishing, golfing, tennis and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife Dawn Remker of Owatonna; children Samantha (fiancé Jon Blazek) Hinz of Burnsville, Tillman Remker of Rochester, Jonah Remker of Owatonna and Nicholas Remker of Owatonna; and his parents Robert and Judy Remker of Blooming Prairie. He is also survived by his siblings Joanne Brian of Pleasantville, California, Kris

(Scott) Ohm of Blooming Prairie, Rob (Donna) Remker of Eagan, Jenny (Ryan) Heimerman of Blooming Prairie and Amy Baldwin of Blooming Prairie; and several nieces and nephews. Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home on Wednesday April 29, 2015. Interment will be in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna.

Menus

Seniors Menu
May 5: Chicken Pasta Salad, Cuke Salad, Peach Halves, Dinner Roll, Baked Coconut Custard
May 6: Country Style BBQ Ribs, Scallop Potatoes, Italian Blend Veggies, Dinner Roll, Frozen Yogurt
May 7: Meatloaf, Red Potatoes, Coleslaw, Pumpkin Pie
May 8: Fruity Chicken Salad, Melon, Batter Bun, Crème Puff
May 11: Chicken Broccoli Bake, Buttered Beets, P/A Orange Fruit Cup, Pudding
May 12: Beef Tips over Mashed Potatoes, Oriental Blend Veggies, Mixed Greens Salad, Chocolate Cherry Bar
May 13: Crab Salad, ALT: Chef Salad, Melon Wedge, Dinner Roll, Cream Puff

May 11: WG Apple Bosco Stick, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 12: Fruit Yogurt w/Granham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk
May 13: WG Strawberry Cereal Bar, Vegetable Selection, Choice of Fruit / Juice, Milk

BP Elementary School Lunch Menu
May 5: Roast Pork and Gravy, Dinner Rolls, Chef Salad, Dinner Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Choice of Fruit
May 6: Chicken Patty on WG Bun, Turkey Sub, Sweet Peas, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 7: BBQ Rib on a WG Bun, Salsa Chicken Bowl-chicken, bean, rice, chips, Cuban Carrot Salad (HOM), Cauliflower, Romaine Lettuce, Choice of

Fruit
May 8: Pizza Parlor Cheese Pizza, Fish Filet on a Bun, Steamed Broccoli, Cole Slaw, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 11: WG French Toast Sticks, Syrup, Sausage, Hot Turkey on a WG Bun, Breakfast Potato, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 12: Cheeseburger on WG Bun, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Sweet Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
May 13: Beef Soft Tacos w/fixings, Mexican Rice, Taco Salad, Mexican Brown Rice, Refried Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Shredded Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit

BP Middle & High School Lunch Menu
May 5: Roast Pork & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Cinnamon Roll, Corn, Broccoli Florets,

Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit
May 6: Turkey Ranch Wrap, Sweet Peas, Sliced Radishes, Sweet Potatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 7: Salsa Chicken Bowl-chicken, rice, beans, tortilla chips, Cuban Carrot Salad (HOM), Cauliflower, Black Bean, Choice of Fruit
May 8: Fish Filet on a Bun, French Fries, Tartar Sauce, Broccoli Florets, Cole Slaw, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit
May 11: WG French Toast, Syrup, Yogurt Parfait with Granola, WG French Toast, Syrup, Yogurt Parfait with Granola
May 12: Deli Sub w/fixings, Baby Carrots, Broccoli Florets, Cauliflower, Choice of Fruit
May 13: Beef Soft Tacos w/fixings, Refried Beans, Shredded Romaine, Black Beans, Cherry Tomatoes, Choice of Fruit



Did You Know? A moment in Blossoms history

The sports scene in the 1997-98 school year at Blooming Prairie High School showed a real variety of successes and disappointments. While most teams muddled through average or below average seasons, the girls golf won the conference and the sub-section tournaments. Lisa Meshke returned to the state meet and claimed the runner-up title in her division. Despite a 5-7 season record, the boys took second in the conference and the sub-section. In addition to Meshke's excellent performance, Megan Schwartz, Sarah Lindquist, Janelle Iacovino and Kari Olson also played a big part in the Blossom success. Schwartz was named MVP and All-Conference, as were Meshke, Iacovino, Olson and Lindquist. MVP Tony Lea, Nick Nelson, Jason Harber, Joe Morgan and Aaron Anderson led the boys. A 2-12 volleyball team found Jana Peterson an

All-Conference pick and Katie Skala the MVP. Beth Noble, Katrina Olivo, Tricia Keefe and Ranell Goette also contributed to the team. The football team compiled a 1-7 record, with Luke Winzenburg, Jason Johnson, Tony Lea, Ryan Schwake and Ryan Ashton some of the players on that team. Cross-country girls ran first in the conference and second in the sub-section, with Serena Schewe the MVP and a state meet qualifier. Andrea Wonderlich, Jenny Jacobusse and Kristin Olson also ran for the girls, and Andy Hjelman, Brad Nelson, Gary Tashima and Bruce Paape led the boys to a conference title as well. The boys finished first in four meets and second in three. Nick Balzer, Lee Trotman, Robert Salinas, Luke Winzenburg and Andy Wondra all wrestled to a 3-20 season. Andrea Banton led the basketball girls to a 16-8 season mark, with a win over Mont-

gomery-Lonsdale in the sub-section, before a loss to WEM. Kristin Olson, Katie Skala and Jana Peterson earned All-Conference honors. MVP Pat Boyd led the basketball boys to a 9-14 mark, with Ryan Schwake, Tony Lea, Anthony Sorenson and Aaron Stangl all on the team. Angie Peterson earned MVP honors for the softball team, with Katie Skala an All-Conference pick. Sally Blume, Tricia Keefe and Missy Avery also played on the 8-11 team. They defeated Triton, before losing to NRHEG in the sub-section. The baseball team also went 8-11 for the season, with Bryan Kramer, Ryan Schwake, Pat Boyd and Anthony Sorenson leading the team. The track girls ran second in the conference and second in the sub-section. Serena Schewe qualified for state in the 800-meter run, and Maren Peterson and Andrea Wonderlich also had great seasons. The track boys also took second in both the conference and sub-section, and Nick Balzer and the 4x800-meter relay team set new school records. Six tracksters earned All-Conference honors, and another school year made new memories.

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Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May 5
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May 6
Nathan Piller, Adam Bishop, Sara Hoveland, Irene Sheppard, Laura Peterson
May 7
Lyndon Johnson, Erik Vigeland, Charlie Heimerman, Logan Underwood, Meghan Butler, Gemini Johnson
May 8
Scott Swenson, Vi Iversen, Gary Dallman, Norma Amundson, Mandy Doocy
May 9
Riley Nelson, Vivian Ulrich, Levi Skillestad, Jeff Erickson, Paul Dhaemers, Rebecca Ingvalsonw
May 10
Jason Manges, Arden Anderson, Lisa Kubista, Rosalie Shaw Kerrigan, Deanne Harshbarger
May 11
Natasha Smith, Joann Borchert, Art Erickson

Anniversaries

May 5
Todd and DD Machin
Bud and Ruby Miller
May 6
Brian and Sara Hoveland
May 7
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Manges
May 9
Alan and Judy Schafer
May 10
Eddie and Nelda Haberman
Sean and Kristian Robbins
May 11
Thomas and Shirley Schneiderit

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who passed away
March 3, 2004
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eight years ago.
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Area Church Spotlight



Zion Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Pastor's Corner

Honoring our mothers on Mother's Day

Next weekend we honor and salute the most unique person in our lives: Our Mothers.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. Two other US Presidents had also weighed in on motherhood previously; George Washington once said, "All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her." Abraham Lincoln spoke similar words when he said, "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother."

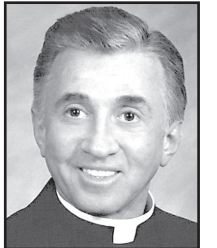
There is no other human relationship quite like that of a mother and her child(ren). We spend nine months within their body during which time tremendous biological and emotional bonding takes place. That bond remains in place from birth to death. One of the first words we mutter is "mommy" one of the last is "Mother". There is no measuring the tremendous impact mothers have on their children. So we honor our mothers for their resolute sacrificial love

for their children, for the tremendous impact they have on their children and for their intimate relationship with us from birth to death.

True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. In the Gospel Jesus commands us to practice this type of sacrificial and selfless love as he practiced. In his farewell discourse he teaches us to: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On this Mother's Day, let us gratefully admit the fact that we cannot return in the same measure all the love that our mothers have given us. Therefore, let us thank our mothers today by lavishing our love on them if they are alive and offering our prayers for them if they have gone for their eternal reward.

The Rev. Steve Peterson
St. Columbanus Catholic Church
Blooming Prairie



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Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 676-5696

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Interim Pastor David Hurr
(507) 633-9331

10:30 a.m. Sundays
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com

Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Broadcast 8:30 KOWZ, 100.9FM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
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www.goodshepherdowatonna.com

Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemerowatonna.org

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
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Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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www.trinityhayfield.org

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Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Steve Peterson
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Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday
Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
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57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
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Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
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Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday
Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

More sports

It was another busy week in high school sports, as all the teams begin winding down to conference and section playoffs. Both the baseball and softball teams had several games, and the track teams and golfers kept equally busy. Probably the top news, however, had to be the record-breaking 3,200 run mark turned in by Alec Ille a little over a week ago. Ille set a record that Ron (not Randy as I indicated in last week’s column) Kruckeberg had held since 1985.

Ille, who is just a freshman, ran the course in 10:05.64, almost two seconds faster than Kruckeberg’s time, and it wouldn’t surprise me at all that, barring injury, he will get his time under 10 minutes before he graduates. A big tip of the hat to Ille for a great accomplishment.

A few other individuals, Cole Sunde and Taylor Hagen, just to name two, had a good week in track. Tommy Braaten and Taylor Christianson still are putting up some big scores in golf, and the baseball and softball teams pretty much split their action. Both teams won one game, while losing two, and both continue to have rather up and down years. This week sees plenty of action once again, weather permitting.

Miscellaneous

As far as I have heard, the community survived another prom weekend with nothing more than good memories of the annual event. This was the every other year schedule for the river trip to Stillwater, and that, plus the grand march earlier at the high school, went off without any problem. I recall when I was an administrator, prom weekend was always a stressful time, as everyone worried about the safety of the students. That is why I always breathe just a little easier when reports of nothing-untoward happening reach me.

A date to put on the calendar is the second annual Sons of the American Legion roast pork sandwich feed and silent auction. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May16, at the local Servicemen’s Club, and it is planned to be bigger and better than last year.

The only charge is a free will donation, with the profits going towards projects for the Sons of the American Legion and a Veterans Memorial now in the planning stage. Details of the feed and the silent auction items can be found in another article in this issue of the Times.

As Mary Kittelson remarked before she and Pete appeared on the game show Wheel of Fortune, “We didn’t become millionaires.” That was true, but they certainly acquitted themselves quite well in that popular show. I was a little worried at first when that one couple had a real streak of luck with the wheel, but their solution for that gave them the trip to Disneyland and the other cash they accumulated put them in second place for the night with over \$13,000. Well done to the Kittelsons for a once-in-a lifetime experience. The community is proud of them.

A big tip of the hat this week to BPHS junior Kalyn Naatz, who placed second in the state in dairy handling at the annual FFA convention She has been an active member of the local FFA chapter, as well as having an active role in her local 4-H club, and the honor is well deserved.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued on Page 3B

MEDFORD BASEBALL

Tigers slip to 8-3 after 7-0 start; coach says team hasn’t peaked

Following their first loss of the season, the Medford boys won their eighth game of the season; the most single season wins in the four years that Jon Chappuis has coached.

The Medford boys made quick work of Maple River, 10-running the team in 6 innings. But three days later, the Medford boys fell again, this

time to United South Central by a score of 5-2.

The Tigers had defeated USC by the same score earlier in the season, but Medford Coach Jon Chappuis wasn’t surprised by the loss.

“USC has a strong tradition of winning baseball games,” Chappuis said in an email, adding that USC had just come off

a sweep of New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva. “They are playing their best ball.”

Chappuis said what concerned him more than the loss were the errors he saw from his team.

“Every game in the Gopher Conference will be close, because it is a very competitive conference,” said Chappuis.

The Tigers followed their loss with a double-header against Bethlehem Academy, a team they haven’t defeated in over four years.

Medford came out strong in the first game, defeating the Cardinals 6-5. In an eight-inning second game, the scored was tied 11-11 after seven innings of play. In the top of the

eighth, the Cardinals scored five. Loading the bases, the Tigers had a shot to make a run for it, but were only able to bring in a single run, losing 16-12.

Once again, Chappuis said errors made the difference in the game.

MEDFORD

Continued on Page 4B

OWATONNA SPORTS

Going...going...GONE



Staff photo by James Knoop

Corky’s Softball Tournament attracts hundreds of athletes

The 36th annual softball tournament brought athletes from all over the U.S. and Canda for three days of softball games, a home run derby, food, drinks and other entertainment at the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna.

MEDFORD SOFTBALL

Girls find second win after two-week drought

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor



Staff photo by James Knoop

Kori Dodge bats in a run during the first inning against Bethlehem Academy on Thursday, April 30. The Tigers lost 22-6 against the Cardinals.

After a two-week drought, the Tigers won their second game of the season, defeating Glenville-Emmons 8-6.

With the pattern of losing games the last 3-4 innings, the Tigers once again found themselves down 4-0 after three innings of play. Unlike those games, this is when the girls started getting hits.

The Tigers scored three in the top of the fourth, four in the fifth and one in the sixth to nab the 8-6 victory.

“We got down on ourselves in the third inning, but we were able to fight back and get the win,” said Coach Julie VanLangen. “Everyone played a part in the comeback. We didn’t have any big hits. We played station-to-station softball (and) drove in the runs home by getting singles.”

After five straight losses, VanLangen said it was fun to see the “fight back in the girls.”

Rachel Boudreau batted a perfect 2-2 for the game, batting in two runs. She was also hit by a pitch. Steph Choudek also had two RBIs off two hits. Katie Chester went 1-3 with one RBI and a walk. Kori Dodge and Ashley Schauer both went 2-4, and Dodge scored twice. Aly Noble went 1-4 and scored one run.

“This was a fun win and a good confidence booster going into next week,” said VanLangen.

In their three games prior, Medford lost 20-7 against St. Clair, 22-5 against Bethlehem Academy and 8-4 against Lyle/Austin Pacelli.

The Tigers were scheduled to play at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 4, at Janeville-Waldorf-Pemberton.

Huskies boys still searching for first win

Girls 5-2 after loss

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Boys lacrosse

With his team 0-8 this season, Coach Scott Seykora has one message for his team — don’t quit.

“We can’t quit on ourselves, and we can’t quit on each other,” said Seykora. “It is a grueling season, and we have had a lot of games in a short period of time.”

Seykora pointed out that May has fewer games, giving the team time to regroup and practice.

“We are definitely making strides this season from our first game. (I) encouraged them to keep working hard and keep improving with every practice and game.”

Though the Huskies are still winless, the last four games proved much closer than the first four, as Owatonna has lost by only 3-4 points, as opposed to losing by 10-plus earlier in the season.

“The defense has been playing better and is allowing (fewer) goals,” said Seykora.

The Huskies have continued to struggle offensively, however, averaging short of four points a game. The team’s highest scoring game came in a 12-9 losing effort at home against St. Paul on Thursday, April 23.

“Our offensive production is coming around, but we are not capitalizing on all our scoring opportunities,” said Seykora.

“We have had some dropped balls in scoring situations and are missing the net on some shots.”

After a week off, the Huskies will host two teams: Minnehaha on May 7 and Rochester Century on May 14. For Seykora, offense will be the key in those games.

“We haven’t reached the double digits this season, so that is a goal of ours. We need to get more offense going and keep working on possessing the ball.”

The game against Minnehaha will begin at 7 p.m., with the JV playing Shattuck-St. Mary’s at 5:30 p.m.

Girls lacrosse

After beginning the season 4-0, the girls lacrosse team dropped two of their last three, falling to 5-2. The first loss came at Bloomington Kennedy in a 12-6 final score.

The girls got back on track in Rochester, defeating Rochester John Marshall/Lourdes 8-2. In a home game against Farmington on Saturday, May 2, the girls led the Tigers 3-1 going into the second period, but an onslaught of goals from the Tigers added eight to their score. The Huskies scored another three, but fell short of their opponent, losing 9-6.

The girls stay at home this week in a matchup against Rochester Mayo on Tuesday, May 5. The girls defeated the Spartans 15-4 earlier in the season. The girls will then travel to Northfield next Tuesday, May 12, to take on the Raiders.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Freshman Braeden Meier takes the ball on offense against the Rochester John Marshall Rockets on Thursday, April 30. The Huskies lost 6-2 in the matchup.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Mixed bag with junior varsity play

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

The Blooming Prairie junior varsity team continued to lose games, but against Randolph Tuesday, April 28, the Blossoms showed progress and continue to play hard.

The Rockets won the contest 15-6, after the locals had tied the game at five in the third. Randolph then held BP to one run, while adding 11 of their own.

The Blossoms scored the four runs in the third on a walk singles by Jack Abbe and Brad Staska, and consecutive doubles from Collin Lerum and Max Romeo. Randolph had 16 runs, eight hits, two errors; BP had six runs, 11 hits and three errors. The Blossoms walked 10 Rocket hitters.

As Coach Heath Lembke commented, after the Bethlehem Academy contest, “It was the same old song and dance. Walks and errors killed any chances we had of winning.”

B. A. defeated the Blossoms, 9-5 Monday, April 27, at Faribault.

The Cardinals scored six runs in the first inning on three walks, a double and two Blossom errors. They added a run in the second, but BP counted four runs in the fourth to close the gap. A walk, a hit batter, an error and a single from Jack Abbe for two runs, and Brad Staska’s double to deep center scored two more runs.

B.A. added two unearned runs in the fourth themselves, and the Blossoms counted a run in the sixth on singles by Payton Simon and Abbe, and a sacrifice fly from Seth Peterson. A strikeout ended the game.

“We are a very young team,” concluded Coach Lembke, “with four starters (being) only eighth-graders and the others freshmen. Our problem is putting together a whole game, and when we do that, we may win again.”

Abbe and Staska both had two hits in the game. The team is now 1-5-1 for the season.

Both the junior varsity and junior high baseball teams had games a week ago, with the JV team losing to WEM and NRHEG and the junior high teams splitting a doubleheader with WEM.

The JV lost to the Bucs 4-1 in a shortened game Monday, April 20, and then dropped a wild 17-15 contest to the Panthers on Thursday, April 23.

NRHEG scored six unearned runs in the first inning against the Blossoms and led 10-4 in the third. BP tied the game with six runs in the bottom of that inning. Max Romeo and Ethan Arett had singles, Nick Thompson stroked a two-run double, and two walks, three errors, and a hit batter accounted for the runs.

The Panthers scored seven runs in the next three innings for a 17-10 lead, but the Blossoms fought back again. Trail- ing by four runs in the bottom of the seventh, walks to Timmy Wolf, Arett and Jack Abbe loaded the bases. Thompson lined a two RBI single to center, and the tying run was on first when a strikeout snuffed out the last hopes for the locals.

NRHEG had 17 runs, seven hits, three errors; BP had 15 runs, seven hits, nine errors. As Lembke commented, “The story of the game was the number of errors the boys made.”

Both junior high teams won over Bethlehem Academy Tuesday, April 28. The seventh grade defeated the Cardinals 11-4, while the eighth grade won, 10-7. Zach Archer pitched the seventh grade game, and the Blossoms pounded out 17 hits in the victory. Kaden Thomas had three hits and six other locals had two hits each.

The eighth grade trailed 7-2 at one time in its game, but fought back and won the game in the last two innings. Trenton Swenson had two hits, including a triple; Ian Wayne and Preston Rieken had two hits, including doubles; and Luke Freese and Karson Vigeland also had two singles.

In earlier games, the sev-

enth-grade got a great job all around, as the team defeated WEM 13-2, behind Kaden Thomas’ pitching. He walked only three and struck out two.

Jarrett Larson and Thomas both had three hits, and Trenton Swenson, Karson Vigeland, Gabe Hagen and Dylan Nirk all added two hits. Vigeland had a triple and Nirk a double among the hits.

The eighth grade lost to the Bucs 4-1, despite a good pitching performance from Dylan Nirk.

As Coach Corey Johnson remarked, “Nirk pitched a great game, with seven strikeouts and only three walks, but we made some errors behind him, and we didn’t swing the bats very good in this game.”

Nirk had two hits, but Preston Rieken, Ian Wayne and Isaac Hansen each had a single for the only other BP hits.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Students coordinate community 5K run

When Blooming Prairie students Evan Doerhoefer, Alison Pryor and Leah Schiefert were assigned a final project for History, they thought outside the box — a community 5K run.

Of the many options for final projects, the three tenth-graders chose the “fundraiser” option. The three chose to work together.

“We’re all runners,” said Doerhoefer, who runs both cross-country and track and field. Pryor also runs both sports and Schiefert runs track and field.

After choosing a project, the three needed to come up with a goal.

“The purpose of it is to raise money for the Children’s Heart Link charity,” said Pryor. “That’s where the registration fee will be going.”

Pryor said the three looked at various charities, but Children’s Heart Link stood out the most.

The run is scheduled to begin

at 9 a.m. on Thursday, May 23 in the Blooming Prairie High School parking lot.

The three students have coordinated the event by themselves and will be posting flyers across Blooming Prairie this week.

“We know people like the 4th of July run a lot, so we thought this would be a good thing for the community,” said Pryor.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



ETHAN STRUNK

Junior Ethan Strunk hit a bases-loaded home run in the fourth inning of the second game in a doubleheader last week. That blow enabled the locals to split the pair of games with Maple River and finish the week with a 4-7 overall record.

Strunk has been hitting the ball well lately, as he had a pair of hits in an earlier game a week ago. Strunk has been playing regularly all season, after not getting much playing time a year ago.



ALISON PRYOR

Alison Pryor ran a leg in a winning relay last week in the BP invite, and she finished second in the 3,200 run. She has been running well in the 3,200 all season and also contributes to the relay teams.

Her times in the distance races have been dropping all year, and she continues to work hard and be a leader, even though she is just a sophomore.

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Blossoms defeat Maple River; lose 4 in tough week

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

An offense that could not generate runs doomed the Blooming Prairie baseball team to an 8-0 defeat by Randolph on the

home diamond Tuesday, April 28. The loss dropped the locals to 3-6 overall and 2-4 in the conference.

Randolph scored three runs in the second and three in the third to take a 6-0 lead after three in-

nings. Two walks, two errors and a double counted the first three runs; a single, a walk, a hit batter and another error plated the third inning runs. The final two runs scored in the seventh on a single, double and sacrifice fly.

“The biggest thing in this game,” commented Coach Matt Kittelson, “is that we just didn’t hit well at all. We had too many strikeouts and too many were called third strikes. We have to do better than that.”

BP had only five hits in the game, two of them from Riley Olson and a double from Ethan Strunk. Scott Romeo pitched the whole game, giving up just five earned runs, with two walks and seven strikeouts. Randolph had eight runs, 11 hits and no errors. BP had zero runs, five hits and three errors.

In a game played the previous night, April 27, Bethlem Academy defeated the Blossoms 6-2, holding the locals scoreless until the bottom of the fifth inning. The Cardinals led 4-0 at that point, scoring two runs in the first and two more in the top of the fifth. A walk, a stolen base, two singles and a sacrifice fly got the runs home in the first and two singles, a sacrifice, stolen base and an error plated the two runs in the fifth.

BP counted its runs on two walks and singles from Sam Swenson and John Rumpza. B.A. had six runs, eight hits and no errors; BP had two runs, six hits and one error. Six different players had a hit each for the Blossoms, and Olson pitched all seven innings for the locals.



Sam Swenson throws the runner out at first against Triton on Friday, May 1. The Blossoms lost 22-8.



Ethan Arett tags out the runner stealing second against Randolph on Tuesday, April 28.

Staff photos by James Knoop

Softball in hectic streak; drop below .500

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Eagles overpower BP

A seven-run third inning dashed the Blooming Prairies girls softball hopes, as Maple River routed BP 14-1 in five innings at Mapleton Thursday, April 30. The loss dropped the Blossoms below .500 at 4-5 for the season.

The locals counted a run in the second inning on McKenna Hein’s triple and a base hit for Abby Wayne. The Eagles responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning and then put the game away with the seven-run third inning. The explosion included two walks, five hits and two BP errors.

“Defensively, we did what we tend to do at times,” commented Coach Ali Mach, “which is to make a couple of errors that lead to big innings for the opposition. We didn’t hit the ball very well either.”

Maple River pitcher Payton Berkner allowed only three other hits after the Blossom score to get the easy win. Elly Strunk gave up 12 hits to the home team and 11 earned runs. She walked five and struck out two batters. Maple River had 14 runs, 12 hits and no errors; BP had one run, five hits and three errors. Hein had two of the five BP hits.

Girls win in eight

It took an extra inning, but the Blossom softball team climbed back to .500 with an 11-9 victory at Randolph Tuesday, April 28. Down 7-2 after four innings, the locals came back with four

runs in the fifth a single run in the sixth to tie the game at 7-7, and four more in the top of the extra inning to win it.

“The girls really hit the ball well today,” remarked Mach, “and we were able to hang in there defensively. We had 19 hits in this game, which was huge in gaining the win.”

The home team scored three runs in the second on two walks, two errors and a double, and they added two more runs in each of the next two innings. Three walks, a hit batter and single counted the third inning runs, and another hit batter, fielder’s choice, single and one more error plated the fourth inning runs.

After a walk and three singles scored two runs in the fourth, BP put up a four-spot in the fifth. After a walk was followed by singles from Madison Worke and Bria Baldwin, Elly Strunk doubled home two runs and Kalyn Naatz and Abby Wayne added RBI base hits. Bria Baldwin, Anika Nowlan and Hein all singled to tie the score in the sixth.

In the top of the eighth, the Blossoms strung together singles from Baldwin, Nowlan and Naatz, Strunk’s second double of the game and a base hit by Worke. The winners would need all four runs, as the Rockets counted two runs in the bottom of the inning and had a runner on second when two groundouts preserved the win.

BP had 11 runs, 19 hits, four errors; Randolph had nine runs, seven hits and no errors. Strunk walked six and struck out six, and she led the attack with three hits, including two doubles and two RBIs. Baldwin and

Naatz also had three hits each, and Hein, Worke, Nowlan and Wayne each added two hits.

BP loses two in Austin

The hectic pace for the team began on Saturday, April 25, when the team lost two games in the Austin Elks Invitational. Playing without sophomore pitcher Elly Strunk, Pine Island blanked the Blossoms 10-0 in five innings, and Austin followed that up with a 15-4 six-inning victory in the second game.

Those losses marked the first time in nine seasons that a BP team had lost three games in a row and 10 years ago that the team had been under .500. Madison Worke pitched the first four innings of the Pine Island game, with sophomore Jasmine Anderson throwing the last frame.

After leading 3-0 in the third, the Panthers put the game away with seven runs in the fourth and fifth innings. Anika Nowlan and Bria Baldwin had the only two hits for BP. A couple of errors and a couple of other mental mistakes didn’t help the Blossom cause as Worke gave up eight runs, only five of which were earned.

Against Austin, the locals scored three runs in the third inning, but the Packers already led 9-0, after scoring six runs in the second. BP’s runs came on a hit batter, singles from Kalyn Naatz and Nowlan, and a base hit from Tessa Ivers. The other run came on a walk and Naatz’s double in the fourth. Austin ended the game with three runs in the sixth. Anderson started the game for the locals, with Worke pitching the last four innings.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Eight track teams battled in a True-Team Invitational at Blooming Prairie Tuesday, April 28.

WEM took the girls’ title, while Mankato Loyola finished first for the boys. NRHEG and Maple River took runner-up spots in the respective divisions. BP placed fourth for the boys and fifth for the girls.

Senior Cole Sunde won two events individually and also ran on a winning 4x100-meter relay team. He won the 200-meter dash in 23.24, leaped 41-6 ½ in the triple jump and ran the opening leg of the relay team that also included Weston Meyers, Kevin Eischens and Anthony Nelson. The other Blossom first came from Alec Ille’s 4:40.20 time in

the 1,600-meter run.

Sunde finished second in the long jump with a leap of 20-0 ¼ and the 4x200-meter relay team of Meyers, Albert Zamarripa, Nelson and Collin Wobschall ran a 1:44.40 for second as the locals as well. BP picked up three thirds. Nelson timed a 12.07 in the 100-meter dash and leaped 19-1 in the long jump, and the 4x400-meter relay team of Marten Morem, Jesse Schewe, Elijah Baker and Ille timed 3:50.66 in that event.

Six fourths also went to the Blossoms. Mitchell Jones high jumped 5-6, Quentin Kubista pole vaulted 9-0, Baker ran the 400-meter dash in 56.74, Wobschall threw the shot 40-5, Nelson timed a 24.21 in the 200-meter run, and the 4x800-meter relay team of Schewe, Evan Doerhoefer, Baker and Ille came in fourth in that event.



Blooming Prairie’s Anthony Nelson (right) and Medford’s Trevor Gremms shoot out of the blocks in the 100-meter dash at Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, April 27. Nelson took third in the event.

Staff photo by James Knoop

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

as well as having an active role in her local 4-H club, and the honor is well deserved.

I hardly realized it, but next Sunday is Mother’s Day. My wife and I never did make too much of that particular holiday, and since I am now alone, I tend to forget about it all together. That doesn’t mean that I don’t recognize the day and give thanks to mothers everywhere. As some will tell you,

“It is mothers who really provide the glue for keeping families together.” I just think that every day should be a mother’s day, and they should be thanked on a daily basis for their care and comfort to all members of the family. Thanks, Mom. The second great race of semi-trucks took place in California, over the weekend and our two local drivers were hoping for a little better result. We will recount

the latest results next week.

Personalities gone

It has been awhile since I have written about public personalities who have died recently, but last week two of some note passed away. Probably the most well known was Vern Gagne, the famous wrestler and wrestling promoter and a former high school, college and professional athlete.

Born in Robbinsdale, he earned All-State honors in football and wrestling, was an All-Big Ten pick in football, won an NCAA title in wrestling and was drafted into the NFL. He had to make a choice between pro wrestling and football and chose wrestling, as there was more money there.

Gagne became a 16-time World Heavyweight Wrestling Champion and held the com-

bined regular world title the longest of any professional. He organized and owned the American Wrestling Association until that group folded in 1991. Gagne suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for the last few years and died in Bloomington at the age of 89 last week.

Not so well known, but a very popular character on “The Partridge Family” TV show in the early 70’s, Suzanne Crough

died last week at 52. Suzanne played Tracy Partridge on the show, which told the story of a family of five trying to start a music career as a band. The show ran from 1970 to 1974 and starred Shirley Jones and David Cassidy.

It has been a very full week for sports and other events. Think about the items discussed, and we’ll talk again.

Four Seasons Centre and Owatonna Hockey host open house

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Owatonna youth hockey players now have a new place to work on their skills year-round, as the Dryland Training Facility in Owatonna was recently completed.

On Tuesday, April 28, the Four Seasons Centre and Owatonna Hockey hosted an open house for the facility. The facility provides a dedicated training area and equipment to meet the needs of over 300 boys and girls currently in the Owatonna hockey program.

With the previous lack of space for the expanding program, the new facility will help meet the growing need.

“This is a wonderful opportunity, not only for our program, but for the children who play the game,” said Mike Jacobson, President of the Owatonna Youth Hockey Association.

“The Otto Bremer Foundation appreciates the Owa-

tonna Hockey Community’s commitment to boys and girls youth hockey in its community,” added Diane Benjamin, Grant Manager at the Otto Bremer Foundation.

“We are pleased to support the continued growth of this program.”

Supporters of the project included: Four Seasons Centre, Owatonna Youth Hockey Association, Owatonna High School Boys Hockey, Owatonna High School Girls Hockey Association, Steele County Blades Junior Hockey, Owatonna Parks and Recreation, Otto Bremer Foundation, Bremer Bank, Owatonna High School, Power Block Equipment, Mike Hanson Memorial and Youth 1st.

The Owatonna Youth Hockey Association is still accepting in-kind and monetary contributions. Those interested in donating to the project may contact Project Chairman Mike Jacobson at (507)-323-2153.



Submitted photo

A select group of those involved in the Dryland Training Facility posed for a photo during the open house on Tuesday, April 28. Left to right: Trent Nelson, Mark Hendricks, Shannon Pederson, Josh Storm, Deb Mandt, Mike Jacobson, Steve Schroht, Jim Terrones and Joel Kriesel.

MEDFORD

Continued from Page 1B



Staff photos by James Knoop

Medford basemen score off a base hit against Maple River on Friday, April 24. The Tigers won the home game 13-3, boosting their season record to 8-1.

“We didn’t have any (errors) in the first game, and we had three in the second,” said Chappuis. “The three errors accounted for some unearned runs.”

Chappuis added that landing a win against Bethlehem Academy was an important step for the team.

“Winning the first game was important. Not because of the drought, but because of the current seasons plans. We knew that we needed a split with them at a minimum, but we would have liked to have swept them.”

Despite losing three of the last five games, Chappuis isn’t worried about his team.

“The team’s confidence is fine. This team understands that in the game of baseball, sometimes you don’t win them all. This group does an excellent job of putting the work into the process — practice — and just letting the game come to them. They know that they can compete

with anyone but have to practice with focus so the game just comes to them.”

Chappuis added that he believes his players are improving every single game, something he hopes to see continue into the post season.

“The goal is to be playing (our) best baseball at the end of the season,” said Chappuis. “That is what we are working for. We want to be healthy and playing good baseball at the end.”

The 9-3 Tigers will spend this week at home, entertaining Blooming Prairie on Monday at 5 p.m., Triton on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m., Randolph on Thursday at 5 p.m., as well as hosting a tournament on Saturday against Schaeffer Academy and Bethany Academy at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively.



Senior Nick VonRuden leads off third base during a game against Maple River on Friday, April 24.

NRHEG SPORTS

Baseball and softball roundups

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Baseball

It proved a difficult week for the New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva baseball team, as the team lost three games, dropping its record to 5-5.

All three losses were to Gopher Conference teams, as the Panthers fell 10-6 against Bethlehem Academy, 5-3 in the first game of a double header against United South Central and 7-6 in the second game.

The Panthers had beat Bethlehem Academy 5-4 earlier in the season in Faribault, but fell to the Cardinals at home.

NRHEG was scheduled to play Monday, May 4, at Waterville-Elysian-Morristown at 5 p.m. The Panthers won a close

13-12 game at home against WEM earlier in the season. The next home game will take place on Tuesday, May 5, against Kenyon-Wanamingo at 5 p.m.

Softball

Opposite the baseball team, the softball girls went 3-0 last week, defeating Bethlehem Academy at home and beating USC twice on the road.

At home, the girls defeated the Cardinals 7-5. In their first game at USC, the Panthers won 4-1, and the team crushed USC in the second game 24-7. The three wins boosted the girls record to 6-2 this season.

The girls will play WEM on the road on Tuesday, May 5, at 4:30 p.m. Their next home game is Thursday, May 7, against Maple River at 5 p.m.

NRHEG SPORTS

Golfers compete at home invite

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

A four-team invitational at New Richland found BP’s Taylor Christianson earning individual medalist honors, but USC taking the team title. The host Panthers edged Maple River by two strokes for second, and BP had an incomplete score. USC had a 227 total, NRHEG, 261 and Maple River, 263.

Christianson carded a 48 for first individually, and Alexa Rudlong had her best round of the year to take second with a 52. Kylie Bullerman and Morgan Pyzik of USC placed third and fourth with 54 and 56, and Kate Koestler (USC) rounded out the top five with a 58.

For the Panthers Kylie Possin carded a 60, Kyra Possin a 66, Grace Logan a 67 and Kalie Wayne a 68. Sabrina Stanley shot a 71 for the other BP score on the NRHEG course.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE GOLF

Blooming Prairie golfs first full-team invitational at home

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

BP invite

Blooming Prairie Coach Erik Vigeland brought up a couple of junior high golfers to field a full team in the five-team invitational on the home course Monday, April 27. The Blossoms finished last, but it was encouraging to have enough golfers to count a team score.

USC won the team title by 16 strokes over Bethlehem Academy 171 to 187. Maple River and NRHEG followed with 207 and 211. BP finished fifth, just three

strokes behind the Panthers.

Individually, Ryan Pederson of USC earned medalist honors with a 37, and BP’s Tommy Braaten followed closely with a 39 for second. Nate Pederson (USC) and Luke Ford (B.A.) finished third and fourth with 40 and 41. Jake Langlie carded a 45 for NRHEG to tie for fifth.

Brody Carlson placed ninth with a 48, and eighth-grader Colton Ivers shot 60. Austin Christians and Austin Behne carded a 67 and 69 respectively for the Blossoms. The meet was played with temps in the 60s and little wind.

Dodge County Invite

Twelve area golf teams met at the Dodge Center Invitational meet on Tuesday, April 28, with Triton and Byron coming out on top.

The host Cobras carded a 304 to defeat Cannon Falls by 24 strokes for the boys’ total, and Byron shot a 410 to win the girls’ division. Blooming Prairie golfers had incomplete scores because of not having a full team.

Individually, Triton’s Jaden Thiemann took medalist honors for the boys with a 70 to beat second place Brady Becker of Hayfield by seven strokes. Three Triton

golfers finished in the next three spots, all with 78’s. Zach Otto, Austin Gillund and Ethan Otterbein placed just ahead of Keagan Koche of Kasson-Mantorville. BP’s Tommy Braaten settled for eighth place with an 80 total, and Brody Carlson and Jon Hatch shot 93 and 96, respectively.

For the girls, Alex Woken (Shattuck-St. Mary’s) finished as medalist with an 81. Madeline Pagel of Lourdes shot 87 for a distant second and Citon Gowlland of Byron placed third with a 95. Taylor Christianson shot a 103 for the Blossoms, and Alexa Rudlong carded a 106. Sabrina Stanley had a 120.

Gopher Conference

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

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

Big 9 Conference

Softball		
	Conf.	Overall
Mankato West	8-0	13-1
Mankato East	4-1	7-4
Rochester Mayo	6-2	10-5
Winona	4-2	7-6
Albert Lea	4-3	7-4
Rochester Century	4-3	6-4
Owatonna	3-4	4-5
Red Wing	2-4	4-7
Austin	2-5	2-8
Rochester JM	2-6	5-8
Faribault	1-5	3-8
Northfield	1-6	3-9

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

Boys Lacrosse		
	Conf.	Overall
Rochester Century	1-0	3-3
Rochester Mayo	1-0	2-4
Northfield	1-1	2-4
Rochester JM	1-1	2-3
Owatonna	0-2	0-8

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

BASEBALL

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

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

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

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

Winter Schedule

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
May 5... at Pine Island
May 7... vs. USC
May 8... vs. Mankato Loyola
May 9... vs. Waseca
May 12... at Kenyon-Wanamingo
May 14... vs. NRHEG

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

NRHEG
April 20... at. Medford W 32-0
April 28... vs. Faribault B.A. W 7-5
April 30... at USC W 4-1
April 30... at USC W 24-7
May 5... AT WEM
May 7... vs. Maple River
May 9... at Hayfield
May 11... vs. Medford
May 14... at Blooming Prairie
May 15... vs. Belle Plaine

Owatonna
April 20... vs. Mankato East L 16-5
April 21... vs. Red Wing W 11-0
April 23... at Rochester Mayo L 5-3
April 24... at Austin W 17-5
April 25... at Esko W 5-0
April 28... vs. Northfield L 7-5
April 30... at Faribault
May 5... vs. Albert Lea
May 7... at Mankato West
May 7... at Mankato West
May 8... vs. Farmington
May 12... at Austin
May 14... vs. Winona
May 15... at Rochester Century

TRACK AND FIELD

Blooming Prairie
May 5... at Triton
May 12... at NRHEG

May 21... at Grand Meadow
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

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

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

Owatonna
April 23... at Lakeville South (Boys)
April 24... Home Invitational (Boys)
April 28... at Rochester JM (Girls)
May 2... at Rochester Mayo (Boys)
May 5... at Lakeville North (Boys and girls)
May 12... at Faribault (Boys)
May 12... Home Invitational (Girls)
May 15... at Sillwater (Girls True Tream)
May 22... at Mankato East (Boys and girls)
May 28... at Lakeville South (Sections)
May 30... at Lakeville South (Sections)

OWATONNA GIRLS LACROSSE

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

OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

April 17... at Chaska L 12-1
April 18... vs. Hastings L 14-2
April 21... at Simley L 12-2
April 23... vs. St. paul L 12-9
April 25... at Coon Rapids L 9-6
April 28... at Northfield L 9-6
April 30... vs. Rochester JM L 6-2
May 7... vs. Shattuck-St. Mary's
May 7... vs. Minnehaha
May 14... vs. Rochester Century
May 16... at Robbinsdale Cooper
May 22... Park (Cottage Grove)

GIRLS GOLF

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

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

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

BOYS GOLF

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

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

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

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



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Owatonna Hospital wins Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace Award

Owatonna Hospital has received the Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace Award.

The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) honored innovative programs and outstanding leaders in health care at its 31st annual awards ceremony on Friday, April 24.

Seventeen awards were given for extraordinary achievement in categories ranging from advocacy on behalf of hospitals and volunteerism to innovation and improvement in patient care and patient safety.

“Each day, all across the state, hospitals are working to strengthen the health of our communities,” said MHA President and CEO Lawrence Massa in a press release. “The women and men of these innovative, high-performing hospitals have set the bar high for patient care and for meeting the needs of their communities. Thanks to their innovation, diligence and commitment, Minnesota hospitals continue to be among the best in the nation.”

Owatonna Hospital, part of Allina Health, has worked diligently to instill in its employees that they make a difference in patient care and to reinforce the significance of their work in achieving the hospital’s Vision.

Leadership and staff have worked as a team by implementing improvements that engage staff in “owning” relationship-based care and nurse-to-nurse bedside shift handoffs. The hospital has employee-led teams that create fun in the workplace and contribute to a positive work environment. And the work is paying off. Patient satisfaction scores have increased to 80.1 percent and employee satisfaction has improved from 54 percent in 2009 to 88 percent in 2013.

“This is recognition of the great team culture we have built at Owatonna Hospital. Our leaders have worked very hard to en-

gage and encourage our employees in meaningful ways that has improved our patient care quality, safety and satisfaction,” said Owatonna Hospital President Dave Albrecht.

The Best Minnesota Hospital Workplace Award is designed to honor hospitals that “go the extra mile” in enhancing employee satisfaction through basic or creative retention strategies.

Nominations described improvements made to the work environment, retention efforts currently in place and how employee work satisfaction has benefited from these improvements. Judging was based on creativity, scope and implementation of the retention strategy; demonstrable outcomes in employee retention; effectiveness in raising employee morale through a hospital morale tracking system; potential to apply these in other hospitals; and employee references of the improved work environment.

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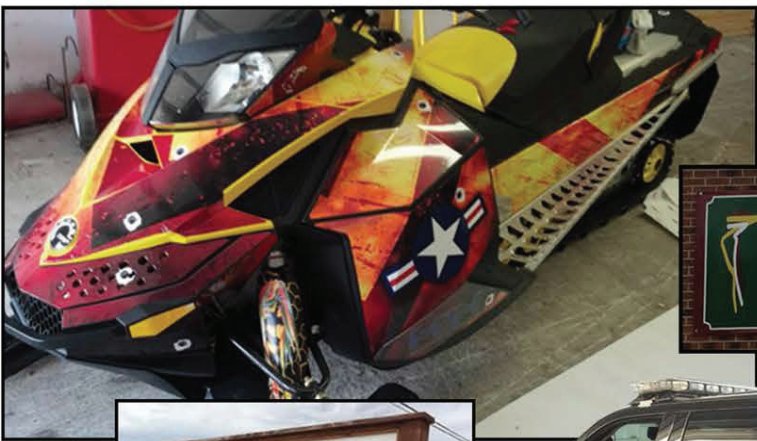
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Steele County Teachers Appreciation

Educator will miss the special moments

Teacher recognized for setting high expectations



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
NRHEG business instructor Georgia Dinneen takes a moment to address an issue during a phone conversation.

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Within the month, Georgia Dinneen will be retiring from the New Richland-Hartland-El-lendale-Geneva School District. And when she puts down her business books for the last time, she will miss the youth.

“They are just fun,” she said. “There are a lot of special moments and memories that I will miss. If you asked any teacher, I think that is what they would tell you. That is why we come to work every day is because of the kids.”

In her resignation letter to school superintendent Dr. Dennis Goodwin and members of the NRHEG School Board, Dinneen said over the past 26 years many things have changed in the school district, but the one constant has been the students.

“They are the reason we teachers come to school every day – they often teach us as much as we teach them,” she said in her resignation letter. “I’ve learned, I believe to be more patient, to accept and understand different

SPECIAL MOMENTS
Continued on Page 9B

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Kim Goblirsch was recently nominated as Medford High School’s Teacher of the Month by her colleagues for the high expectations she sets for her students in and outside of the classroom.

Goblirsch currently teaches ninth-grade English, Reading Strategies for seniors and College Now English in which seniors can earn college credit through Southwest Minnesota State University.

“She is an excellent teacher. She has very high expectations for her students. The students just really enjoy being in there and she has really engaging material,” said Secondary Principal

EDITOR’S NOTE:
The school year is winding down in Steele County schools. Today, we are honoring several of the many who have made a difference in student’s lives throughout the year. We ar featuring these educators in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.



Goblirsch

Chris Ovrebø. “She has done an excellent job of raising expectations and getting kids to meet those expectations by providing the tools to do well and be successful in those classes.”

Ovrebø added Goblirsch deserves the nomination because “she is able to get the most out of every student in the classroom. She challenges her kids every day to grow and to learn as much as possible, but she also provides the support so they meet those expectations. She doesn’t set the bar so high that it is unreachable, she sets the bar high and gets every kid over the bar.”

Goblirsch is originally from Owatonna and graduated from

Mankato State University in 2007 with a degree in English-speech education. Shortly after she graduated she took the job at Medford High School and has been there ever since.

The reason she loves her job is the students.

“They are fun to be with and I enjoy going to work everyday. I can’t fathom the thought of coming to work and hating it. I enjoy being with them and talking with them,” she said. “Moments where you can really tell that the kids are engaged and that they are truly, genuinely enjoying themselves in the classroom. Those are those moments that I know this is why I am doing this.”

Goblirsch’s favorite class to teach is the College Now English because it is not only a challenge for her, but also for the students. She also loves anything Shakespeare. The one thing she likes about Medford School District is the atmosphere.

“I like the fact that they are so close. In a lot of larger school districts you have a separated elementary and high school, but

EXPECTATIONS
Continued on Page 9B

Teachers reflect to mark PTA’s national appreciation week

By BRIAN SANDFORD
Correspondent

The National PTA’s Teacher Appreciation Week began Monday and continues through Friday. To mark the occasion, three new Blooming Prairie High School teachers reflected on their nearly completed first years on the job and how they chose education as a career field.

Sarah Oelkers

Oelkers, a science teacher, became interested in the topic while serving as a tutor at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

She said she didn’t care for science in high school, but college professors brought the subject to life by showing how well various elements of nature work together. Serving as a tutor fueled her love of interaction, she said.

Oelkers, who grew up in Hayfield, said Blooming Prairie High was a good fit partly because of her life science degree,



Oelkers

and partly because she was qualified for the job because she’d taken enough chemistry classes to teach the discipline.

She said she uses teamwork activities and hands-on projects to help ensure science doesn’t scare students.

“I tell them, I don’t want you to think you have to love science because I love science,” Oelkers said. “But I want you to understand it’s very important, and someday you may end up liking it.”



Allis

Oelkers’ biggest surprise in her first year is how well students have taken to the “Positive Zone” sign posted in her room. She told students at the beginning of the year that put-downs weren’t allowed, and “my biggest surprise is how well my students support that environment on their own.”

She added, “I’m one of those people who believe there is too much negative in the world, and I will not let my room become another negative place.”



Carter

Mackenzie Carter

Carter, a special education teacher, also grew up in Hayfield and graduated from high school a year after Oelkers. She graduated from Winona State University and hadn’t planned to teach so close to home, but she had a connection at Blooming Prairie High: her uncle Erik Vigeland, an English teacher and technology coordinator at the school.

Also, she graduated in December and needed a job at a time when few are available. Carter said the familiar faces such as Oelkers’ and her uncle’s are a comfort. She added that she worked with special education students a lot in high school, spurring her desire to continue doing so as a career.

Her biggest surprise in the past five months? How easy it is to motivate her students.

“A lot of my kids, we’re working on turning their homework in on time,” Carter said. “On Friday, if they have their homework in on time, I give them a cookie. It actually works a lot better than most things I’ve tried.”

Taylor Allis

Allis, a math teacher, grew up in Wells and graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She said her favorite teachers were all math teachers, paving the way for her career choice.

Allis is filling in for Lisa Poe, who’s on sick leave. She said Blooming Prairie appealed to

her because it “seemed like a very welcoming community. I came and visited one day, and I fell in love with the room and atmosphere of the place more than other schools. So I chose here.”

Allis said she’d expected to teach at a larger school, but the close-knit community and staff quickly won her over.

“I really like the small atmosphere and everyone kind of knowing everyone,” she said. “Your co-workers and your students, you get to know better that way.”

Allis’ biggest surprise was learning not only about her students, but about the school system.

“I didn’t think it would be that different school to school, but it totally is,” she said. “(There’s) a lot of learning as you’re going.”

Her favorite element of the job is seeing students interact.

“The relationships you build; you get to see another side of the students,” she said. “That is kind of cool.”

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News

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Continued from Page 8B

in personalities, to recognize that the teacher isn't always the expert, to be more aware of the needs and wants many of our students have and to hopefully have influenced a few of my students to work hard, be grateful and be happy."

Current NRHEG High School Principal David Bunn had Dinneen as a substitute teacher when he went through the school system. "She definitely has a huge impact on the school district," Bunn said. "Overall, she has created a positive image for our school and our students."

Dinneen, herself, also went through the school district. She graduated a New Richland-Hartland Cardinals. She received her associate degree in business at Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa. After several years of working, Dinneen received her degree at Mankato State University in business education.

She started at New Richland as a substitute teacher. She has been teaching full-time for 19 years.

"In the back of my mind I wanted to teach," she said. "I had good memories of business education classes in high school. I always liked it."

Dinneen believes she has learned much from her students. "They are better at technology than I am," she said, adding that the students have also taught her not to get so "bent out of shape" over the little stuff.

She added that the students have made her a better teacher just by being themselves and asking questions. "I try to tell the kids when on field trips and other places show the public what I already know that you are good kids. I've learned that when it is time to step up they are respectful."

As well as teaching business education,

Dinneen also has coordinated a trip to Washington, D.C. nine times since 2004.

One of the favorite places Dinneen likes to take the students to is the Holocaust Museum. "When you get on the elevator and the doors open, I have not told the kids to be quiet and respectful, but all of a sudden they are just quiet," she said. "They realize that 'wow this is amazing.'"

The students also seem to enjoy the Arlington Cemetery. "At the Arlington Cemetery, they all of a sudden realize these people died for me," she said.

One of Dinneen's favorite thing to do is plan the annual Veterans Day program and working with the local legion. She does it to honor her father, a 93-year-old World War II veteran, and her husband and son.

"This is gratitude for what these people have done," she said.

Artist exhibit running throughout May in Owatonna

The 63rd annual Steele County Art Exhibition is running May 3-31 in Owatonna. The gallery is open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

The artists who are showing works in Acrylic are Alisha Davidson, Elizabeth Frazeur, Tony Haas, Jim Killen, Reynald L. Mast and Anna Nicholson.

Watercolorists are Sandy Dinse, Maureen Fuller and Dee Teller. Oil painters are Geraldine Berg, Harvey Degen, Willie Peterson and Lynette Yencho.

Thersa Harsma will be showing a mixed media work, and Mary McCartney and Shawn McNulty will be showing works in pastel. The prints will be represented by Lavona Sherarts, Ted Sherarts and Jean Zamboni.

Clay artists include Judy Fairchild and Diane Raymond. Tom Teller will be exhibiting works in wood, and glass works are by artist Sherry Kubista. Encaustic Artist is Mary Ruth. Tyler Hanson will be showing works in colored pencil.

EXPECTATIONS

Continued from Page 8B

it is so nice having it all in one building," she said. "I think it changes the climate a little bit, especially when these seniors see the kindergarteners walk down the hall. They start to realize not only who is looking up to them but also who they could be influencing some day."

The biggest challenge she has faced in her

career is herself, as she is very critical on herself. Goblirsch was honored when she found out that she had been nominated.

"It means that I am not done learning yet. I don't consider myself mastered at anything yet and lets me know that I am headed in the right direction," Goblirsch said. "It is nice to be recognized once in a while and it reminds

me at the same time we have to remember to recognize our co-workers, teachers and students as well."

Goblirsch's hope for Medford School's future is that they can keep growing the way it has while still maintaining that small-town feel.

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Stress is the anxiety that one experiences everyday in reaction to events, both mentally and physically. It becomes a problem when one cannot relax after meeting those challenges. This stress can be hazardous to your health and well-being if not managed properly. Stress can increase symptoms of many diseases and postural difficulties as well as slow the healing process. Controlling your stress level is an important part of your health care that you can do yourself. Here are some tips for managing and reducing stress:

- Take a warm bath.
- Meditate for 15 minutes.
- Perform gentle static stretches for 15 minutes.
- Take breathing breaks. Do 4-6 deep cleansing breaths throughout the day.
- Close your eyes and daydream.
- Read a calming novel.
- Talk to a friend and unload your problems.
- Take a slow walk.
- Go see a soothing movie.
- Take up a relaxing hobby.

- Play with your pet.
- Participate in regular exercise workouts.
- Prepare for upcoming stressful situations.
- Eat more nutritious meals.
- Watch a comedy or read a funny book, and LAUGH!
- Take a stress management course or get a book on stress management
- Slow down, Say NO if you have to, and take time to enjoy the world and people around you.

Prairie Family and Sports Chiropractic, P.A., is committed to your health care needs. We offer a stress free chiropractic experience, and want to help you achieve your optimum health care status. Our office is located at 344 E. Main St., Downtown Blooming Prairie. You can call to schedule an appointment at 1-866-5Dr-Chad (toll free) or 563-2271, and our friendly staff will be more than happy to help you and answer any questions you may have. Check out our website at: www.drchad.org

Be Well - Stay Healthy - Become More Active - Become Pain Free

Open Houses Wednesday, May 6

346 8th St NW • Blooming Prairie



OPEN HOUSE 4:30-5:30
High Demand Property in a perfect Blooming Prairie location! This wonderful 3+ bed/3 bath home has lots to offer including an open floor plan, finished lower level, main floor laundry, quality construction, new siding, newer water heater
MLS ID# 4060209 - \$172,500

118 2nd St NW • Blooming Prairie



OPEN HOUSE 4:30-5:30
Room to breathe in this great 2 story home in the heart of Blooming Prairie. Enjoy an updated kitchen w/ custom cabinets, main floor bedroom, large living and dining room, new flooring, eat in kitchen and large pantry. **MLS ID# 4061968 - \$82,000**

202 6th St NW • Blooming Prairie



OPEN HOUSE 4:30-5:30
Be the first one to call this HOME! All one level new home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, master suite with 2 closets, large open floor plan, Call today to see this well built home!
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OPEN HOUSE 5:45-6:45
Updated classy 5 bedroom 3 bath home in Blooming Prairie. Outstanding amenities include master suite with marble in master bath. Refinished hardwood floors. Covered back patio. **MLS ID# 4059904 - \$147,500**

314 1st St NE • Blooming Prairie



OPEN HOUSE 5:45-6:45
Come and take a look at this nicely remodeled 4 bed/3 bath home. New roof, carpet, walls, plumbing, and fixtures. Very big yard w/brick paver patio. **MLS ID# 4058962 - \$83,500**

120 2nd St SW • Blooming Prairie



OPEN HOUSE 5:45-6:45
This beauty is back on the market with some huge improvements! A new roof within the last year, brand new garage doors Charm and character with an updated interior **MLS ID# 4061777 - \$139,900**





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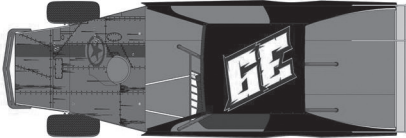
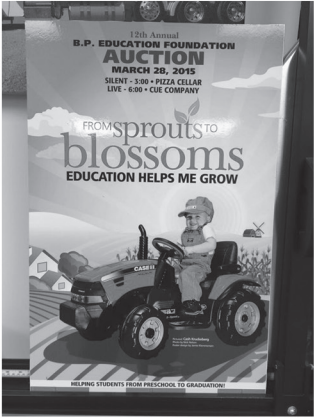
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County building being built in two phases

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A two-phased approach is being adopted to build a public works building on a new site on county-owned land on the north side of old Highway 14, also known as County Road 2, west of 28th Avenue in Owatonna.

The Steele County Board of Commissioners unanimously supported that proposal at its board meeting on April 28. Steele County Works Director and County Engineer Anita Benson, as well as Steele County Treasurer Cathy Piepho, Steele County Administrator Laura Elvebak, Steele County administrator and Steele County's Financial Advisor Bill Fahey all recommended the county construct the project in two phases to retain the \$1.5 million FEMA reimbursement.

"We've got to do this to get the ball rolling in order to get our money back from FEMA otherwise we'll lose that if we don't do it," Commissioner James Brady said.

The Board had considered other options including rebuilding on the current site and acquiring Chart property. The county commissioners had met in closed session to discuss the possible acquisition of the Chart property.

"And due to the price that was quoted to us by Chart it is not in

COUNTY BUILDING
Continued on Page 3C



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Crash with impact

Medford school student Brittney Lemke is being rescued from a motor vehicle crash by a Gold Cross paramedic and a Medford firefighter as part of a mock drill in Medford on Wednesday. For more, see Page D1 in today's issue.



Staff photo by James Knoop

Preschooler Chloe Mellen was thrilled to win the first place trophy for best-decorated bicycle at this year's first annual Car and Bike Show at Medford Public School on Sunday, May 4.

E.C.F.E. car and bike show accompanies 5th annual 5K run

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

On Sunday, May 3, Medford Early Childhood Family Education and preschool held its 5th annual 5K community walk/run and first ever car and bike show to raise money for preschool scholarships.

The full day of events, located in the Medford Public

School parking lot kicked off and 11:30 a.m. with a B.O.G.O (boy one – get one free) book fair. Gently used books could also be donated to the Lending Libraries within the Medford school and community.

At noon, the car and bike show began, during which adults could bring their classic cars and bikes for a \$10



Staff photo by James Knoop

Kids ran in the annual Fun Run, completing tasks and obstacle courses as they ran around the Medford baseball fields.

donation with a book or a \$15 donation without one. For \$1, kids could decorate their own bicycles. Bikes were voted for by placing a Tootsie Roll in a pouch on the bike. The child with the most won at the end of voting time won. This year's winner was preschooler Chloe Mellen, who was overjoyed to receive a trophy for her efforts.

At 1:45 p.m. a fun run was held for the kids, during which they ran around the ball fields, stopping at multiple stations to complete tasks such as jump roping or doing an obstacle course. At the end of the race, parents and children retreated from the

BIKE SHOW
Continued on Page 2C

Ladies shop at Owatonna's Mothers' Day Expo

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

On Saturday, May 2, ladies gathered from Owatonna and neighboring cities to shop at the Mothers' Day Expo in the event center at the Christian Family Church in Owatonna.

The event's coordinator, Holly Dodds, said this is her fifth expo and second Mothers' Day expo. The show consisted of 39 vendors from around the community, including Scentsy, Avon, Owatonna MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Edina Realty and many more.

Many of the vendors have been grandfathered in from being at Dodds previous events, but some are new. Dodds said she promotes the event on Facebook and sometimes collects business cards at vendors from other expos.

As the title of the event suggests, the expo has a fairly simple goal.

"I like events where people can come out and shop," said Dodds. "The goal is to have a nice girls day to shop for Mothers' Day — to find that gift for the special mom in your life."

Dodds also added that she worked to schedule the event on a busy weekend for Owatonna, including Corky's Softball Tournament and From the Heart's 5K and half-marathon run.

"I like to get it so people remember (they are) on the same weekend," said Dodds. "So, when the



Staff photo by James Knoop
Mother's Day Expo coordinator Holly Dodds is pleased at the turnout at the Expo.

ladies are sick of watching their husbands play (softball) they can come shop a bit. I want to keep it the same weekend to keep it a package deal for those coming from out of town."

Though Dodds largely coordinates the event on her own, she said that, as a member of MOPS, some of the other members lent a hand when she ran into a problem.

Dodds added that she is pleased with the turnouts she has seen at the expos.

"It's successful to me if the vendors want to come back," said Dodds.

County recommends shortening suspension for highway employee

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Ten days was is being recommended cut off of a 30-day suspension for a Steele County highway employee during Tuesday's Steele County Board of Commissioners meeting.

County Commissioner John Glynn recommended denying the 10-day suspension and accepting the 20-day suspension. The commissioners unanimously voted for the recommendation.

The Step 4 Grievance provides the County board 15 working days to provide a written response to the employee. The employee and the union "may refer the grievance to arbitration within seven working days after the employee and the Union's receipt of the Employer's written answer in Step 4.

According to Sheila Pokorny with AFSCME Council 65, the first 10-day suspension allegedly stems from statements that the highway worker made during a course of employees being disciplined on or about April 2014. It was associated with a group of three potholes that were not filled within a shoulder.

"The discipline was punitive and not corrective over what someone recollected or did not recollect during a finite piece of time," she said.

Pokorny also said that he and others made statements supposedly conflicted from the original discipline in April 2014. The reason for the investigation was about who was or was not flagging at the exact time they were filling or not filling these three particular potholes and who was or was not involved in the decision to not fill these three particular potholes.

She added that at no time did the highway worker or anyone else lie to protect anyone. "All he did was state what he did or did not recollect," she said. "Yet the county seems to deem that the lack of complete recollection is worthy of a 10-day suspension.

The second discipline action stemmed from a pre-work conversation that he and another employee had at the break table while reading the newspaper in reference to the two finalists for the Steele County Administrator position.

"The other employee is actually who made the actual statement, 'not needing another woman around here,' was something to the effect," she said, adding the highway worker did not make that statement. "What he did was repeat what was said and then they proceeded to continue to have a conversation."

Another part involved a statement about speak-

ing to the commissioners, Pokorny said.

Pokorny added that the individual that heard the conversation took this out of context. "There were never any threats made to use political influence to insert pressure on any county employee," she said, adding that his comments were not sexual in nature or meant as harassment of a fellow employee or even a perspective county employee."

The investigation cost taxpayers more than \$7,000, and nothing was done or followed up until a month or so after, Pokorny said. "If this behavior was that egregious, why did the county take so long to act? We believe that the incident was blown out of proportion.

"The highway department wants to get back to work without fear of retaliation, being accused of looking at someone too long, being able to do their own judgment when doing their job and not being disciplined for it," Pokorny said, adding that the county also spent more than \$11,000 on a psychiatrist.

Earlier, Pokorny had said that county highway department workers are fearing to have a casual conversation with their co-workers and they are afraid it will be taken out of context and they will face possible discipline.

After the board decision, County Chairperson

Nina Huntington said she wanted to clarify that the management has worked with this individual addressing the financial implications.

She added that the county board has also allowed him to spread out the days of suspension so he doesn't have to pay health insurance and have also allowed him to use six of those suspension days in the form of PTO or vacation time.

"I think the county has been nothing but fair in this process in working with this individual," she said. "I will agree to a compromise in upholding the 20-day suspension, but I do think that it needs to be noted that the county has worked with this individual."

Huntington also said it needs to be noted that the money spent was not just to prove whether or not this person and the other people actually committed the grievances, but to help improve the working conditions and culture in that department.

"The psychologist was hired to access that and to help move forward," she added. "It needs to be noted that the county has put forth a lot of effort to try...I would like to have seen that acknowledged by the staff that was in the room. The county is willing to compromise. I would like to see some improved actions by the staff based on the board's willingness to work with them."

CountyLiving

FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

Entertainment stage entertainers set

The slate of entertainers on the free entertainment stages at the 2015 Steele County Free Fair has been confirmed. This year there will be entertainment on four stages on the fairgrounds: United Prairie Bank Fair Square Stage, the KRFO Stage, the Village of Yesteryear Stage and this year Camp Pillsbury will be featuring entertainment provided by their summer students along with Joyce Rice and the “Thank a Farmer” program.

Some of your old favorites will be returning and there will be some new entertainment faces on the stages. In Fair Square you’ll see old friends performing including Ray Sands and the Polka Dots, the Owatonna Community Band, Leon Olsen, the Marv Nissel Band, the Jimmys, Bluegrass Review, Logan Johnson and Noah DeKam, Jill Hoggard Dancers, Stix of Fury Drum Line, White Side-walls, Just Friends, Dan Stursa, Chmielewski Band, American Pie, Fabulous Love Handles, the Vegas Guys and the D.C. Drifters and of course our finale featuring the OHS football team and cheerleaders. New to Fair Square this year will be OHS grad Scott Rogness and the Shasta Kings, Hans Hohrman, Jake Jones Country Music, The Concord German Singers from New Ulm, Funktion Junction, Jack Pearson, magician (Wed. Kid’s Day), The Sonflower Puppets (Friday Kid’s Day), Wally Pikal (senior day), The Klondike Kates from the Minneapolis Aquatennial, Turpentine Wine, Kris and the Riverbend Dutchmen.

Returning to the KRFO Stage will be Tim Penny and his band The Pumper, Peddler and Politician, Flemming Fold, Dave Williams, Darlene and the Boys, Line Dancing, Square Dancing, Lisa Murphy, Singing Cowgirl, Stanley Koslowski Band and American Pie. Newcomers to the KRFO Stage will include Jake Jones Country Music, Dennis Warner and the D’s, Dain’s Dutchmen, Greta Jacobson, Dueling Pianos, Stix of Fury Drum Line.

*This year Owatonna Motor Company will be bringing you David Smith Jr., Human Cannonball. Smith will be shot over a midway ride twice daily during the fair.

*Dates for the 2015 SCFF are Aug. 18-23. It’s “Food, Fun and Screams” in 2015! Check the fair website at www.scff.org. Visit Steele County Free Fair on Facebook and Twitter. The fair office phone is 451-5305.

BIKE SHOW

Continued from Page 1C

the hot sun for some shade and popsicles.

The event culminated with the 5k walk/run at 3:30 p.m. Although the 5k was free, donations were accepted to help purchase an industrial treadmill for the school weight room, outside tables by the playground and other wellness items.

Preschool and ECFE Coordinator Angie Bierlen was pleased

with the day. “For the first (car/bike show), we got a good turnout,” said Bierlen, saying she was grateful for the sunny weather after several rainy events in past years. Though it’s the fifth year of the 5k, Bierlen said the Early Childhood Advisory Committee was excited to add the car and bike show to the annual event, and that all food and show do-

nations go toward scholarships for families who can’t afford preschool tuition. “The goal is to have something fun for the community members to stay local and participate in,” said Bierlen, adding that they are also thrilled to get the EFCE name out into the community.

Correction:

In last week’s article discussing Ellendale council pay equity, Kim Zimprich was misquoted. Zimprich was stating “there is a huge difference in responsibilities between being an administrative assistant and deputy clerk.”

Also, in reference to her comments concerning being hired as a deputy clerk, Zimprich said, “It’s not about the pay. It is about the title.”

Elementary School Spring Concert



Staff photos by Alan Van Ormer
The Blooming Prairie Elementary School Spring Concert was held on Friday, May 1, at the Elementary School gym. Above, the Blooming Prairie Elementary Band performs three numbers. To the right, Alexis Ripka and Shyane Jorgenson play their flutes during the song ‘Liturgical Fanfare.’

Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre tryouts scheduled for May 11

The Golden Age of Hollywood comes to life, especially on May 15-16, when scores of local young people team up with two professional actors to present Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre’s original musical adaptation of the classic Sleeping Beauty.

Tryouts will be at 3 p.m. Monday, May 11 in the gymnasium of the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. The local cast will feature Blooming Prairie Elementary students in grades 2-6.

Performances will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, May 15 and at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16 at Blooming Prairie High School. PFCT Associate Director Megan K. Pence and veteran tour actor Daniel L. Stock wrote the show. This unique version plays out on a movie set where everything seems to go wrong. It’s lights out for the movie stu-

dio unless Sleeping Beauty can wake up and save the picture! Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre professionals Greg Stowers and Lauren Longyear co-direct this production and will play the roles of a bumbling Hypnotist and The Queen Diva of all State Mothers.

Tickets are: adults, \$5; students, \$3 and pre-K and under are free.

The Blooming Prairie Parents Teachers Organization (PTO) sponsors the Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre residency. “We would like to thank Studio J, Touch of Charm, US Bank, Haley Severtson, Kari Bottin (helping with sound) and teachers and staff of the Blooming Prairie Elementary school for their help in making this year’s play a success,” said PTO President Michelle Milliam.

Selected to elite college group

Anissa Helen Disher of Owatonna has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Disher is currently a sophomore with Liberty University Online working towards a bachelor of science degree in psychology with a major in life coaching and a minor in Christian counseling.

“NSCS is more than just a symbol of academic achievement. Membership gives students access to a number of amazing benefits including career and networking resources, scholarships, travel and service projects,” says Stephen E. Loflin, NSCS founder and chief executive officer.

NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the nation’s only interdisciplinary honors organization for first-year and second-year college students. Membership is by invitation only, based on grade point average and class standing. NSCS has over one million lifetime members and 300 chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Disher is a 1989 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. Her parents are Ron and Glenda Janning of rural BP.

Second annual feed scheduled

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

Saturday, May 16, will mark the second annual Spring Fling Roast Pork Sandwich Feed, sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52. A free will donation is the only cost, and money raised will be used to support Sons’ activities throughout the year.

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club is the location, and the time is from 5-7 p.m. The menu consists of roast pork sandwiches prepared by master chefs Dean Zilm and Kyle Rossow (both sons of the quadron themselves), cole slaw, pork and beans, chips, dessert and milk or coffee.

The chefs begin preparation of the sandwiches early in the morning in Zilm’s rotisserie, and roast the pork for several hours, basted with a “family secret” barbecue sauce. It is then sliced thinly and deposited into the serving sandwiches, ready for discerning diners to enjoy.

In addition to the food, a silent auction featuring a Chris Butler Liberty Star quilt (it has an interesting story behind it), a hand-crafted Scandinavian knife, a walking stick donated by Fred Vokoun, and a 2014 Budweiser beer stein, all of which have interesting stories behind them. There will also be some good door prizes donated by local businesses and friends of the Sons of the American Legion.

Martha Leek and Lucille Peterson taught the skill for the hand-crafted queen size scrap quilt to Butler. Traditionally quilters make at least one patriotic quilt in a lifetime, which is machine piece of patriotic materials collected through the years. The long arm machine finishing was done in a loopy star pattern by local quilter Cathy Lightly. Another project currently underway by several individuals is the “Quilts of Valor” undertaking. These quilts are bestowed to veterans as a thank you for their service. Hopefully, the Veterans Memorial now in the planning stages can come to fruition soon.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Simplified Technology Solutions LLC has a trained team of professionals to offer technology services and solutions to business and residential customers. STS staff from left to right are: Kristin Woller, Mary Erickson, Jesse Retterath, Matt Grav, James Huff, David Lange and Jack Anderson.

STS will take care of computer needs

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Correspondent

A team of 12 trained professionals at Simplified Technology Solutions LLC of Austin are eager to help you with your technology needs and want to be more than a technology provider.

“We wish to be your technology partner,” says James Huff, systems engineer. STS recently joined the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce and tells chamber members that its services are available regardless of distance.

Simplified Technology has been applying local technology solutions for your business and home. Go to the STS website at www.simplifiedtechsolutions.com and learn that on-site computer technology services are tailored to fit every need.

Business solutions and services include: managed services and systems administration; server, computer and laptop system sales; facilities design; network and wireless design services; video surveillance systems; firewall and spam filtering compliance and document management systems.

STS has a retail store located at 313 3rd Ave. NE in Austin. “We sell and service all business and residential needs,” said urgent care/retail manager Matt Grav. Simplified Technology sells monitors, computers, fire walls, routers, switches, replacement server supplies, network cabling and toner.

Justin Bickler, Austin native and graduate of Pacelli High School, started the business. He moved back to Austin to give business owners and residential users good technology solutions, said Jack Anderson, professional services coordinator.

The business has recently expanded and taken over more space which now accommodates the retail store and provides working space for technicians. A conference room is also available for consultation and training purposes.

Simplified Technology had its origin by offer-

ing computer systems and networking services. Video surveillance and 24-hour monitoring of computers are two major services STS offers. “We try to be the heartbeat” of all computer systems “and aim for no errors and no issues,” Huff said.

“When something is broken at home, we will take care of those problems,” promises Huff.

Simplified Technology Solutions technicians work on PC’s, MACs, tablets, cell phones and printers. “We will work on anything that touches technology,” Anderson adds. STS offers training for business and residential customers on Windows or Office applications.

“We can help clients who don’t have the confidence in learning technology or don’t know how to do it themselves,” Huff explained. “We can be a valuable asset to our customers and see that they can trust us,” Anderson said.

Some major issues addressed by STS include:

- Hardware failure
- Outdated hardware
- Operating system end of life

“We can’t say our job is complete until we see a smile on the customer’s face,” said Huff. “We are a local business trying to help local customers, friends and neighbors,” Anderson said.

The team approach to providing technical service is a key with STS technicians, all having expertise in many areas. “There are not a lot of technological services offered by others and our team approach cannot be matched,” said Huff.

STS promotes its services by its branded cars and a colorfully painted ambulance that brings service to the doorstep in quick fashion as IT (Information Technology) on wheels. A large mural outlining STS services is also located on the rear of the STS building. It was created by Greg Wimmer.

“STS is active in area chambers, sponsors local sports teams and takes pride in being involved in the community,” Anderson said. “It’s our way of giving back,” he said.

Electric co-ops receive approval to acquire Alliant’s service territory

Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) received state regulatory approval to acquire Alliant Energy’s Minnesota electric service territory in a verbal decision on Thursday, April 30, 2015, by the Minnesota Public Utility Commission (MPUC). SMEC is the single point

of contact for the purchase of the territory in southern Minnesota by 12 electric cooperatives.

The MPUC-approved acquisition will add approximately 43,000 electric accounts to the systems of all of the 12 SMEC member cooperatives combined.

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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

Classroom education in a Central American country

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

A group of students in Joanie Olson’s Spanish classroom at New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva received a real life perspective on a recent trip to Costa Rica.

“They got a real look at the culture, the things we talked about in the classroom and they were able to experience that,” she said. “In those nine days, those kids learned more than

I could teach them in a couple months of school.”

Olson was hoping to accomplish three things on the trip – teach them about the environment, culture and the language.

Students were able to learn about the different plants and the rain forest. They were also able to plant trees to create biological corridors for animals to provide them a safe place to cross from one forested area to another, Olson said. “This is something they have never really thought

about before,” she said. “They are going to make a difference.”

To learn about the culture, the students stayed in small hotels, only ate traditional food that was cooked for them and were immersed in the culture. “They have a good picture of what it is like,” Olson said. “We traveled to four different areas in the country. For the kids, it was really just to see how the people live. It was a relaxed culture and they were able to see that people were fine with very little.”

The students were also able to learn different phrases and found out that the dialect was a little different.

“So many of the kids were just in awe of everything,” Olson said. “It is just beautiful there. I remember kayaking on the lake. We stopped and looked around at the huge and beautiful mountains all around.”

One excursion that surprised the students was a trip to an elementary school.

“It wasn’t what they were most looking forward to. Most said it was their favorite part,” Olson said. “They really connected to the school kids.”

The students had a hard time with bugs, critters and snakes. One night there was a scorpion in a room. Then there was the food.

“They missed American food,” Olson said, adding that the food was very good. “We had beans and rice almost every day for almost every meal. It was my plan to stay away from American food.”

The students were able to try different fruits that aren’t seen in the United States. They also learned where cashews and chocolate comes from, went to a coffee plantation and learned

about the coffee process.

Overall, Olson said the most important thing the students got

out of the trip was an appreciation for what they have in the United States.



Submitted photo
Students from the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District spent some time recently visiting Costa Rica and learning about the sites, the environment and the language.

Within these new walls, more opportunities for our youth

In many ways, school buildings should be miniature versions of the communities which create them.

For one thing, the children we send to them each day represent our own society, mirroring its priorities, its interests, and our hopes for its future. School buildings are often also the face of our communities, since local residents and visitors alike come for tournaments, milestone ceremonies, sporting events, and performances.

There has been much community interest, recently, in assuring that our school buildings truly do reflect the needs and interests of district students and residents. A few months ago, the school board responded by looking into an appropriate plan for expansion, renovation, and improvement. This plan was to have two priorities: meeting the needs of those who use our buildings, and being fiscally responsible.

I hope you have had the opportunity to attend at least one of the public meetings which have already been held. More information will be available soon in the form of published materials; you can also read more on the school web site: nrheg.k12.mn.us. Naturally, board members, myself, and other members of the school staff would also be happy to answer any questions.

I also hope you plan to vote on June 9. I believe you will see that renovations currently being considered will satisfy many needs, beginning with improved student safety and proceeding to greater educational efficiency and an improved experience for public events and performances.

Recent renovations to district buildings have brought important improvements. The new lower commons and updated kitchen facilities at the New Richland site have fostered more of a sense of community within the building, giving students an inviting place where

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dennis Goodwin

they can gather for anything from casual conversation to guided study time. The secure entryway offers much stricter control over who is entering or leaving the building during the school day.

It is important to have that same sense of control in our elementary building in Ellendale. Preliminary plans have a number of safety upgrades for our youngest students. These include extending the property so that bus loading and unloading can occur away from the street, and installing a secure entry which connects directly to the school office, rather than allowing visitors direct access to school hallways.

To solve the pleasant “problem” of expanding academic programs, we are also looking at expanding the number of classrooms in the Ellendale building. Plans call for renovating selected spaces within the current structure to create six additional rooms, some of which would be used to help diversify and expand the ways our youngest students are taught. Learners could be grouped for targeted instruction, with lessons delivered at their specific levels.

Another way we hope to make the learning environment more pleasant is by controlling the humidity in all district classrooms, both in Ellendale and New Richland.

Since the main gym in Ellendale is also where concerts and performances take place,

upgrades to sound system and improved sound dampening will provide a more enjoyable experience for our elementary programs and concerts.

Similar and even more comprehensive changes are in the works for the northeast gym at the New Richland site. This space would still be suitable for practices and gym classes, but would no longer be the location of indoor sporting competitions like volleyball and basketball games. Instead, its usefulness for performances, concerts, gatherings, and ceremonies would be improved. The wooden bleachers would be replaced by more comfortable, retractable tiered seating for about 600 people. Acoustic features would be installed to improve sound quality, making it easier to appreciate performances, speeches, and music. For the sake of improved learning and practices, the band and choir rooms would also receive some acoustic upgrades.

The southeast corner of the building, in the direction of the outdoor sports facilities, is planned. This area would not only be large enough for the types of games already being held at our school, it would meet state high school league standards to hold tournaments and larger-scale events. The upgraded sports facility will not only be more comfortable and attractive, it will allow more competitions and events to be scheduled locally, probably increasing the number of people who come to our communities.

Also providing additional gym space which is always a premium, lessening the early/late practice time students must spend in support of their specific sporting team. As a bonus, its location places it only a short walk down the hallway from the commons area, where concessions could be sold and served.

Along with the new gym would be new locker rooms and an improved weight room.

From my perspective, the new weight room is an absolute necessity: Right now fitness equipment used by students is housed in a crowded room with less-than-adequate ventilation. Sometimes so many students are trying to use the facility that many must perform their exercises in the adjoining hallway, which is neither private nor safe. Imagine trying to lift weights or do push-ups while others must walk past or around you to get where they are going.

The final set of renovations in the New Richland building would be in one of our science classrooms. Here, a space which was once an elementary classroom would be upgraded with sinks and work stations which would permit more practical teaching and learning. At the same time, a hallway would be added nearby to create an exit from that part of the building to the outdoors. This would allow access to an area where a future greenhouse is planned.

In both of our facilities audiences will greatly appreciate the upgraded facilities for performances and concerts, since seating and sound quality will be vastly improved. Learners will have expanded opportunities and a more comfortable environment, since they will have dehumidified and cooler classrooms, and space to diversify.

I hope you can see the many ways these planned improvements will make our buildings safer, more educationally productive, and more useful to our community residents.

Dr. Dennis Goodwin is the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Superintendent. A referendum is slated for June 9 to add additional space in school buildings at Ellendale and New Richland.

Student of the Week

Sophia Williams is in Mrs. Knudson’s kindergarten class and is the daughter of Scott and Melissa Williams.

She lives in New Richland with her mom, dad and brother. Sophia enjoys visiting her grandparents, going to church and has even spoken of fun times during “coffee with the ladies.”

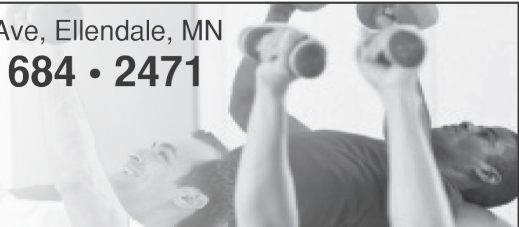
Sophia is very considerate of others and is always willing to give a helping hand to her friends. Amazing job Sophia, way to show Panther Pride!



Sophia Williams

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COUNTY BUILDING

Continued from Page 1C

we would need for a new building. It would keep the Chart building on the tax base for the city of Owatonna and allow for economic development for a manufacturing facility to use that facility, which is what it was built for. At this point the county is not going to explore acquisition of Chart building.”

Moving forward, the county board approved two recommendations for building on the new site. The first would be to shift the building location to the north

on the original site in an area where soil borings have already been completed. The second recommendation is to design a building pad as part of Phase 1 to accommodate ultimate building size option 2.

The cost for Phase 1 part of the project is between \$2 and \$2.3 million. It will also include construction of the fueling facility and salt/sand/brine building. This phase will be completed during the 2016 construction season.

The construction of the building would begin in the spring of 2017. The county commissioners have not made a decision on whether to proceed with Option 2 or Option 4. These were options presented by a task force in October 2013.

Option 2 is a 73,180-square-foot precast facility with an estimated price tag of \$11.8 million. Option 4 is a 47,116-square-foot metal facility. Its cost is estimated to be \$10.1 million.

RECIPE CORNER

Orange Julius

- 6 oz. orange juice
- 1 c. milk
- 1/2 c. water
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 16 - 18 ice cubes

By Bev Hoveland

Put all into blender jar. Blend until slushy.



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MedfordLiving

Telecommunication towers and antenna policy adopted

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Telecommunication towers and antennas were on the minds of the Medford City Council in April.

The council adopted two ordinances and one policy pertaining to wireless telecommunication towers and antennas.

The first ordinance passed requires wireless providers to get a conditional use permit from the city before building a new tower, the second ordinance declares that wireless providers can only build a tower in a commercial or industrial zone and the policy outlines the terms to wireless providers if they want to place their antennas on the city’s water towers.

City Administrator Andy Welti decided after being approached by at least one local Internet provider that the city needed to have a policy in place for when other companies inquire with the city in the future.

“It is really to provide direction to a wireless provider to where they can build a tower or wireless antennas,” Welti said.

“Most importantly the ordinances and policy really stress to the wireless providers that they should look at putting their antennas on top of existing structures such as the city’s water tower before they would explore the option of building an additional wire within the city limits of Medford.”

City Attorney Mark Rahrlick added, “One of the goals of this ordinance is to make sure that the wireless operator uses up all their other options before they actually build a new tower. They

have to look for other options within the city such as using the water tower.”

The ordinances’ main goal is to facilitate the provision of wireless communication services to residents and businesses, minimize adverse visual effects of towers, avoid potential damage to adjacent properties from tower failure and to maximize the use of existing towers to reduce the number of towers needed to serve the community.

Some of the key provisions in the policy include:

- The city has the right to inspect the water tower before, during and after installation of an antenna.
- The city has the right to hire its own engineers to inspect the work before, during or after the installation of an antenna.
- The city will set up an escrow account before any work is done so that if any damages should occur the city could recover the cost of any repairs needed.
- If a wireless provider is no longer using the antenna they are required to remove it from the water tower.

The policy also outlines the terms for wireless providers to lease space from the city’s water tower.

For 2015 a wireless provider will pay \$14,000 for the first two antennas or other equipment along with an additional \$1,500 for each additional antenna or other equipment.

Each year there will be a 3 percent rent increase. The maximum number of antennas or equipment each provider can have on the tower is capped at nine.

Medford shines at Regional Science Fair



Submitted photos

Participants from Medford and the ribbons they earned are as follows:

Purple Ribbon Winners (ABOVE):
Jazmyne Duncan, Jayme Stransky, Krista Esch, Madison Jaster, MacKenzie Kellen, George McCarthy, Elizabeth Peterson, Piper Hill.

Blue Ribbon Winners (RIGHT):
Alexander Oatway, Hannah Fessel, Jenna Berg, Kinsey Cronin.

On Saturday, April 25, 12 students from Medford Elementary School attended the Southern Minnesota Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Each of these students earned the honor of representing Medford Elementary School by presenting an exceptional project at the Medford Elementary Science Fair in February.

The students competed against approximately 800 students from across southern Minnesota in projects ranging from Astrology to Zoology. The Medford students had an outstanding showing bringing home eight purple ribbons and four blue ribbons!



Speaker brings tears to students’ eyes

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

What 10th, 11th and 12th graders at Medford High School thought was going to be a mundane presentation about what they should or shouldn’t do, turned into a presentation full of laughs, chills and tears.

Motivational speaker Cara Filler visited Medford Tuesday, April 28, to remind the students to not only make good decisions for the upcoming prom weekend but for the rest of their lives.

Filler, originally from Vancouver, Canada, has directly reached more than two million students, in over 2,500 presentations, in five countries.

She opened up the presentation by having everyone close their eyes and think about the person that is the most important to them, whether it be a friend, a sibling, a boyfriend or girlfriend or a parent. Then she had them visualize what it would be like to lose them.

Filler’s world was turned upside down when her identical twin sister, Mairin, was killed in a high-speed car crash the day after their 18th birthday.

“I loved being a twin, and I will always be one, but none of you and no one I meet from now on will ever have the chance to meet her. She died because she made a bad choice,” Filler said.

Filler shared some of her favorite memories with Mairin such as switching classes on April Fool’s Day and having Mairin dump her high school boyfriend.

She showed pictures of the two from birth up to right before the car crash and then a picture of the wreckage.

“She was wearing a seat belt. The car had airbags, but at the end of the day there is only one thing that could’ve saved her life, the same one thing that would save lives of teens across this country every day, its called a different choice,” Filler said.

“I didn’t start speaking wanting people to know my story, I wish I didn’t have a story. The reason I started speaking is because I am sick and tired of car crashes being the number one killer of youth.”

Filler continued, “If you actually Google the definition of that word it says something unpreventable like stubbing your toe on a coffee table, tripping up a flight of stairs, falling off a stage. When a plane crashes and tragically people die, we don’t call it a plane accident. We lose more people in one day from car crashes than we do year round world wide with plane crashes and we still use the word accident.”

Filler told the students about the four options they have that

could not only save their lives but also their friends lives.

1. Choosing to not put your life at risk by not getting in the car.
2. Getting out of the car.
3. Making the driver stop the car by lying such as telling them you have to pee or are going to puke.
4. Picking up the phone and calling your parents for a ride.

“The reason I am still speaking is because someone in this auditorium might get something of value from this presentation and that means Mairin didn’t die for nothing,” Filler said.

“I hope you have a buddy sleep over at your house when you know he shouldn’t be driving, remind a friend to wear their seatbelt, on a slippery deck slow down, become the designated texter in the car so the driver doesn’t touch the phone. Those everyday choices matter. I want you to remember your senior year for the fun you had and not the friend you lost.”

When senior Nate Carty was told to close his eyes and imagine his life without someone he immediately thought of his girlfriend and mother. Throughout the presentation he got tears in his eyes and chills.

“I thought the presentation was very touching and informative. I think it made a lot of people realize how important

the people around them really are and how important it is to drive safely and make the right decision,” he said.

Carty took away the fact that car “accidents” are not accidents because crashes are caused by the choices someone makes.

“The thing that stuck with me the most is that she lost her best friend and that choices I make or some of my friends make while driving, could take away someone’s best friend or my own best friend,” Carty said.

Junior Alyssa Butterfield heard Filler speak once before, so the message did not hit her as hard as it did the first time, but she still felt that she was able to learn new things as well.

“I took away several things but most importantly I learned to not only make good choices but make sure your friends or anyone really are making good choices for themselves as well,” she said.

“It’s important to have a presentation like this one to remind students that anything can happen and it could be you.”

Butterfield was amazed by how Filler is able to share her sister’s tragic story with so many people to have a positive impact on them. Even though she had heard the presentation before she still had tears in her eyes in spots.

GRIEF RELIEF



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Menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

May 5: Chicken Tenders, Gravy, Dinner Roll, Crispy Chicken Wrap, Cravin Craisin Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Florets, Corn, Choice of Fruit

May 6: Walking Tacos w/ fixings, Mexican Rice, Turkey Sub, Chef Salad, Refried Beans, Tomato Wedges, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 7: Cheese Omelet OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 8: Ham-N-Eggwich OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegeta-

ble Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 11: Pancake on a Stick OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

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

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

Medford School Lunch Menu

May 5: WG French Toast Sticks with Syrup, Tri Tator

OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 6: Iced WG Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of WG Cereal, WW Toast, Jelly / Margarine, Vegetable Selection, Fruit / Juice, Milk

May 7: Southwest Turkey Crunch, beans, rice, chips, Honey Mustard Ham Wrap, Chicken Caesar Salad, Cuban Carrot Salad (HOM), Cauliflower, Romaine Lettuce, Choice of Fruit

May 8: Pizza Parlor Cheese Pizza, Chicken Caesar Wrap, Popeye Salad, Green Peas, Cole

Slaw, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

May 11: Crispy Corn Dog, Turkey Ranch Wrap, Harvest Chicken Salad, Calico Bean Bake, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Choice of Fruit

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

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

Weekly crossword on Page 9D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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OwatonnaLiving

Family runs two businesses side-by-side

By **SHANNON KINLEY**
County Staff Writer

Most families who own a family business put all of their time and energy into making it work. However, for Brian and Paula Deml it has become double duty because they run two family businesses side-by-side.

The Demls own Deml Heating & Air Conditioning in Owatonna and help Paula's dad, Don McDonald, run Alpha Aviation in Owatonna and Burnsville.

Even though running two businesses can mean a lot of long hours, the thought of putting one company to rest has never been an option for the Demls.

"We are a family business and we didn't abandon that. We are a big player in a small market so we are not going to walk away from that," Paula said about Alpha Aviation.

"It was built as a family business, and I believe that it should be continued as a family business. I don't believe in big cookie-cutter businesses trying to serve all of Minnesota and Iowa; I believe that in order to do the best service for your customers and to keep that personal touch you just have to stay in your little area," Brian added about Deml Heating.

Brian's dad Roger started Deml Heating in 1969, after some part-time work of installing furnaces on the weekends turned into a full-fledged business. Brian grew up in the business and started helping out at a very young age. He has been working full-time since 1982.

Two years ago Brian and Paula bought the business from Roger and Brian's sister, Colleen. Today the business primarily serves the residential market and offers a variety of services including air conditioning installation, repair and replace-

ment, furnace installation, repair and replacement, geothermal heat pump installation, heating system installation, repair and replacement and humidifier installation.

Brian mostly enjoys the variety the job brings.

"I've done it my entire life. I find it so beneficial because I have to know so many other parts of the industry in order to do the best job that I can," he said. "It gives me a refreshing view. Every single house is different."

Alpha Aviation was founded in 1990 by Paula's dad, Don McDonald. After McDonald retired from the phone company, he was



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Paula Deml, product manager of Alpha Aviation, assembles some kits for customers. Paula, along with her husband Brian, own Deml Heating & Air Conditioning in Owatonna.

looking for something to do so he started a flight school with a friend. After the flight school grew McDonald developed a four-legged jack, instead of the traditional three legs, for his own use. By 1999 the jack sales had skyrocketed so he decided to sell the flight school and focus on the jack business. Today the company is a major player in the aircraft jack and seat belt industry; both domestically and internationally.

Paula has been involved in the business for around 15 years now and enjoys being able to work with people from different backgrounds.

"I get to talk to people all over the world. I like being able to be a part of people's lives and still

being able to keep our family values going," Paula said.

In September 2013, the Demls and McDonald decided to move the construction and warehouse portion of Alpha Aviation into the same building as Deml Heating in order to more easily run both businesses.

"We would spend an hour and a half driving to St. Paul, build and drive an hour and a half back so with it being here is a lot easier," Paula said.

The main challenge for the couple has been finding free time to spend with family outside of work.

"We are together a lot so you have to have good communication and patience. It is finding that balance between home and

work. Sometimes Brian and I are out here until 10 p.m. trying to get things done so it wears on you," Paula said.

Brian added, "After both Paula and I have spent 100 plus hours a week into both businesses we are pretty fried. A lot of times it is hard to go home at the end of the day and unplug."

Even though running the two businesses is hectic, Brian says that is what keeps it interesting.

Paula's hope for the future for both businesses is "success and longevity and to continue growing." Brian's hope for both businesses is "to continue to stay in the market and do the best job we can for our customers while still maintaining that personal touch."

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OwatonnaLiving

Get your passport...to Owatonna

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Now you don't need to go outside of the United States to get your passport stamped. You can do it right here in Owatonna.

For the first time the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is giving out free passports to anyone who would like to visit local attractions and attend special events during the month of May. The idea is simple. Each time you visit one of the 14 attractions or one of the eight special one-day events you receive a stamp. Depending on how many stamps you collect, you may be eligible to enter a drawing for a prize.

Katie Godfrey, Director of Conventions and Tourism, came up with the idea after reading an article about a similar program in Austin. "I really liked the idea and I thought instead of doing restaurants and having it for a year, we would shorten it to the month of May and have it really tourism related so that we are bringing people outside of the community to Owatonna," Godfrey said.

The Chamber not only decided to have it in May because it is the beginning of tourism season, but also because there were already a few things going on around town, including Museum Month, National Historic Preservation Month, Tourism Week and the beginning of the farmer's market.

"If there is one day you don't want to miss, it is May 16," Godfrey said. On May 16, "Be a Tourist in Owatonna Day," there will be a number of special events happening where people can exclusively receive a stamp for that event. However, some attractions will be available

for a stamp on May 16 as well as the rest of the month. Some of the special events include: a historic downtown Owatonna walking tour, "Casa Blanca" movie night, tour of National Farmers' Bank, Orphanage Museum tour of the root cellar and a Saint Paul Saints game. **Orphanage Museum** Anne Peterson, Orphanage Museum Director, wanted to participate in the program because she thinks it creates an awareness of not only the museum but also other local attractions.



Owatonna's Passport

"I think there are people in Steele County that don't know that we exist necessarily and maybe they drive by or we will visit someday. We thought this was a really good way to either introduce people to the museum or just entice the people who knew it was there and get them to actually make the stop," Peterson said. "There are a lot of tourists that come to Owatonna to see the very things that are on the passport program. Sometimes we think we have to travel farther away to find interesting things and

there are interesting things right here in our backyard." The Orphanage Museum is unique in that people have the opportunity to get two stamps from the location, one for touring Cottage 11 at any time throughout the month and another for touring the root cellar on May 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. The 1895 root cellar is where the State School stored their fruits and vegetables over the winter. Six days a week from 1 to 4 p.m. people can also tour Cottage 11, a restored little boys cottage that housed boys ages six to 14. Although the cottage was made for 25 boys it typically housed 35. **Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo** Executive Director of RAD Zoo Jamie Pas-tika also really wanted to be a part of the program. "We decided it was a great idea to bring attention to the fun things to do in Owatonna and kind of make a day of it for those people in town as well as the families outside of town," he said. On May 16 RAD Zoo will have a show at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. During each of the shows kids will have the chance to see many animals and pet an alligator, large snake and tortoise. After the 2 p.m. show, kids will also get to witness some of the animals fed. **Incentives to participate** Individuals who receive a minimum of five stamps will be entered into a drawing to win \$100 in Chamber Dollars as well as other prizes from the participating attractions. Individuals who receive 10 or more stamps will be entered into a drawing to win \$200 in Chamber Dollars. In order to be put into the drawing, participants must either mail in their passport or bring it in to the Cham-

Two options for school district

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

After three months of meetings and a lot of deliberation the Facilities Task Force has come up with two options that will address the district's long-term needs. The recommendations will be presented to the Owatonna School Board at its meeting on May 11. The task force, which is made up of 37 members, was developed last fall in order to involve community members in the decision-making process about the district's facilities for the next 10 to 15 years. The first meeting was held Jan. 29, and the last meeting came to a close on April 30.

"The Task Force was given some expectations and in charge of items that we were asking them to accomplish and they accomplished those tasks and then some. They exceeded all of our expectations," said Director of Finances and Operations Tom Sager. "We were happy with the results. What was most encouraging was the collaboration during the whole process. Not everybody was on the same page, however everybody's voice was heard, opinions were exchanged, and the whole dialogue remained positive and respectful in really a problem solving sort of way."

The task force identified elementary crowding, deferred maintenance and school security as pressing needs as well as the high school eventually needing to be addressed.

In order to help guide its recommendations, the task force also developed a set of 13 criteria that addressed the issues of security, enrollment and capacity, educational adequacy, deferred maintenance, facilities and activities/athletics.

Out of the four remaining options, the task force narrowed it



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Task force members view different concepts of the Owatonna School District's long-term needs.

down to two after each member voted for their two favorites. The main difference between the final options has to do with what happens to the high school.

Option 1: Option 1 was the task force's favorite option receiving 36 votes, versus option two's 17. This option includes:

- Removing the portable classrooms.
- Divesting in the district's building on Rose Street, the district office and the Alternative Learning Center (ALC).
- Converting Willow Creek Intermediate into a K-5 elementary school to replace Washington Elementary.
- Converting Washington Elementary into the district office, the ALC and early childhood.
- Building a new high school.
- Adding additions to Lincoln and McKinley Elementary Schools for gyms and to replace the portable classrooms as well as an addition at the junior high to accommodate the addition of sixth grade.

Phase one of the project, which is estimated to cost around \$76,855,000, would consist of security upgrades to all buildings, deferred maintenance, the Willow Creek addition and

renovation, the junior high additions and additions to Lincoln and McKinley. Although it is not decided when phase two would be implemented, the cost based on six years at 5 percent inflation would be \$136,234,123.

Option 2: The main difference between this option and the previous option is it calls for renovating the current high school versus building a brand new one and building an off-site athletic complex. Phase one of the project, which is estimated to cost around \$77,313,000, would consist of security upgrades, deferred maintenance, the Willow Creek addition and renovation, the junior high additions and additions to Lincoln and McKinley. Phase two, based on six years at 5 percent inflation would cost \$105,180,087.

What's next? During May and June the district will continue to gather input from the community through surveying community members with a school board decision expected in late July or early August. Depending on the board's decision, Phase I of either option or a different option completely could be up for a referendum vote in November.

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Full Steam Ahead



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Farmers and producers are taking advantage of the warm weather and hitting the fields hard to get their corn and beans planted.

Crop planting making ‘significant’ progress

Looking back on the struggles farmers had with wet, cold weather last spring, we can truly appreciate this year’s early warm up. Farmers have already made significant progress with planting in comparison to last year. When speaking with a 200 acre farmer the other day, he indicated that this year was the only year so far in his farming career that he would have all of his corn planted before May 1.

With an additional week of planting weather, this state falls right into line with the USDA NASS Crop Progress and Condition report for the week of April 26, 2015. “Minnesota’s corn planting reached 38 percent complete, 18 days ahead of last year and 9 days ahead

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

of the five-year average. A few farmers in SW 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.”

When temperatures begin to warm, the soil temperatures follow at a slower pace. For seeds to germinate and emerge properly, the soil must be a certain temperature depending on the seed type. Small grains need approximately 40°F, corn 50°F, and soybeans approximately 60 – 70°F for adequate germination and emergence. At the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, the mean max/min soil temperatures F at the 4 inch depth have been calculated from April 1st through April 29th, resulting in max soil temperatures of 52.8°F, min soil temperatures of 40.3°F, and an average soil temperature of 46.5°F. Note that the University of Minnesota SROC max/min soil tempera-

tures provided are at a 4 inch depth, while seeds are planted at a shallower depth. Typically, the 2-inch depth is going to have more variable soil temperatures.

More information about local weather and soil temperatures can be found on the UMN Research & Outreach Center website that is located closest to you or by visiting <http://climate.umn.edu/>. Happy planting!

Karen Anderson is the Agriculture Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Rice and Steele Counties. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or ande9495@umn.edu.

Krause family named Steele County Farm Family of the Year

Loren and Beverly Krause and Family from Owatonna have been named as the 2015 Steele County Farm Family of the Year.

Loren and Beverly Krause bought their dairy farm in the summer of 1965. Starting out with 20 cows and a job off the farm, the Krauses have developed their business to include 120 dairy cow and 220 acres of land that is used to produce feed for their livestock.

Currently, Loren and Beverly’s son, Scott helps farm the day-to-day operation. Several other children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can be found helping out around the farm in times of need.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota’s corn planting jumped to 83 percent complete, the second highest amount planted by this date in 30 years. Corn has started to emerge across the southern two-thirds of the state.

Thirty-two percent of the soybean acreage has been planted, the most planted by this date in 30 years. All small grains were over 90 percent planted.

Barley was 46 percent emerged, almost four weeks ahead of last year and 17 days ahead of the five-year average. Forty-eight percent of the oat acreage had emerged, just over three weeks ahead of last year. Fifty-four percent of the spring wheat acreage was emerged, four weeks ahead of the previous year and almost three weeks ahead of average.

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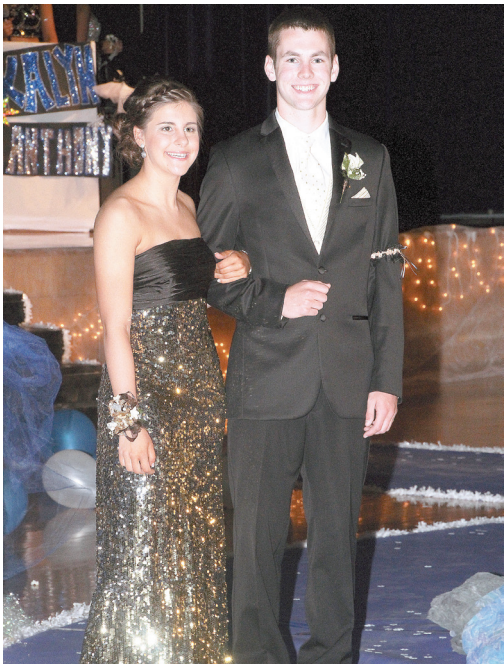
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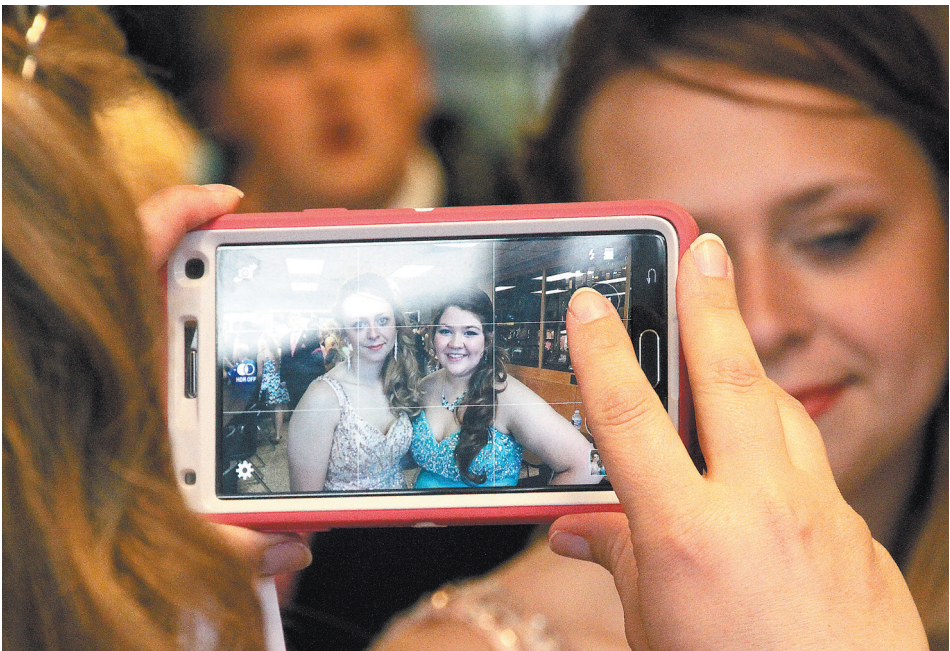
Prom2015

PHOTOS BY JAMES KNOOP,
KAREN JORGENSEN, ALAN VAN ORMER

Blooming Prairie



Left: Kylie Forystek and Anthony Nelson pose after being announced during the Blooming Prairie prom on Saturday, May 2.



Kelli Wallace (left) and Brianna Green pose for a photo after the march during Blooming Prairie's prom on Saturday, May 2.



Brianna Green stands between her grandmother, Carol Kirkebon (left) and mother, Jodi Green.

Medford



Madison Gillis, Shelby Kern and Madison Strodman took a moment to pose before the beginning of the Grand March.

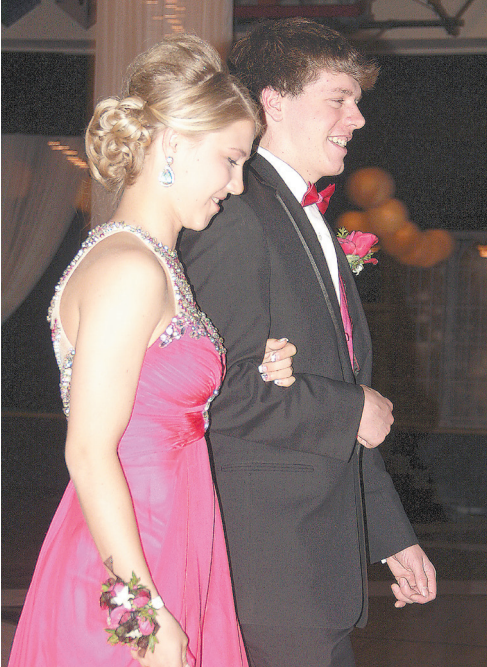


Cassidy Kavitz talks with her grandmother Donna Kavitz before the start of the Grand March Saturday afternoon at Medford High School. Parents, siblings and grandparents all filled the Medford High School auditorium to watch the couples.



A pair of crutches didn't stop Carly Hein and Trevor Grems from participating in Saturday's Grand March.

NRHEG



Hailey Schuller is escorted by Kelson Titus during the Grand March at the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Prom at the high school in New Richland on May 2.



Mikayla Besser, Torrie Stencel and Katharine Lewer spend a few moments to relax before the Grand March at NRHEG Prom.



Katelyn Christianson and Shanna Stencel hand out programs to those attending the NRHEG Prom. The two girls also handled emcee chores during the Grand March.

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A sobering, grim reality



Rescue workers are on the scene during a mock crash drill at Medford High School. The body bag at the front of the photo contains one of the victims who died in the crash. Rescuers are shown in the background removing another victim from the wreckage.

“It really opened my eyes that a lot of teenagers think we’re invincible and it all can change in a matter of seconds.

— Miguel Ruiz, Medford Senior

Mock car crash urges teens to make right choices

It only takes seconds for lives to be ruined. Screams of horror, blood, lifeless bodies, mangled cars and rescuers frantically working set the stage for that harsh reality to be driven home to teenagers at Medford High School last Wednesday morning. It was all part of a mock car crash used to illustrate the dangers of drinking and driving just before the prom and graduation seasons. During the demonstration, area emergency workers rescued six victims, one of which died and was taken away in a hearse. Another victim died en route to the hospital via medical helicopter.

Senior Nick Olson said the funeral home portion of the crash with the hearse profoundly touched him. “They had the person in a body bag,” Olson said. “It was creepy and scary knowing that it could be you going in a funeral car.”

Another senior, Aly Noble, described the mock crash as a “real eye opening experience.” Noble’s best friend was the one who portrayed the victim who died during the crash.

“It taught me to be more safe

behind the wheel,” Noble said. “They made it seem like real life. It gave me the chills to watch it,” she added.

The entire demonstration lasted about 54 minutes, which rescue workers attempted to do in real time of what it takes for serious injury crashes. During the crash, students sat quietly taking in the grim realities associated with drunken driving and other risky driving behaviors.

“Drunken driving can affect you,” said Miguel Ruiz, a senior. “It really opened my eyes that a lot of teenagers think we’re invincible and it all can change in a matter of seconds.”

Ruiz has personal knowledge of the ramifications caused by drunk drivers. His father, Leopold, has been going about life in a wheelchair after being left paralyzed by a drunk driver 10 years ago in Minneapolis.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) students Mary Schalm, Brittney Lemke, Steph Choudek, Balie MacIntosh, Katie Chester and Kyra Rahn portrayed the crash victims. Choudek acted as the drunk driver and was led away in handcuffs by a sheriff’s deputy.

Along with SADD, the educa-

tional effort was coordinated by the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Lon Thiele challenged the students to think before they act and make the right choice, especially during the upcoming prom season.

“I think it made a difference,” Thiele said of the mock crash. “This isn’t a joking matter. We hope we have taught you something that will stay with you for your whole life,” he told the students.

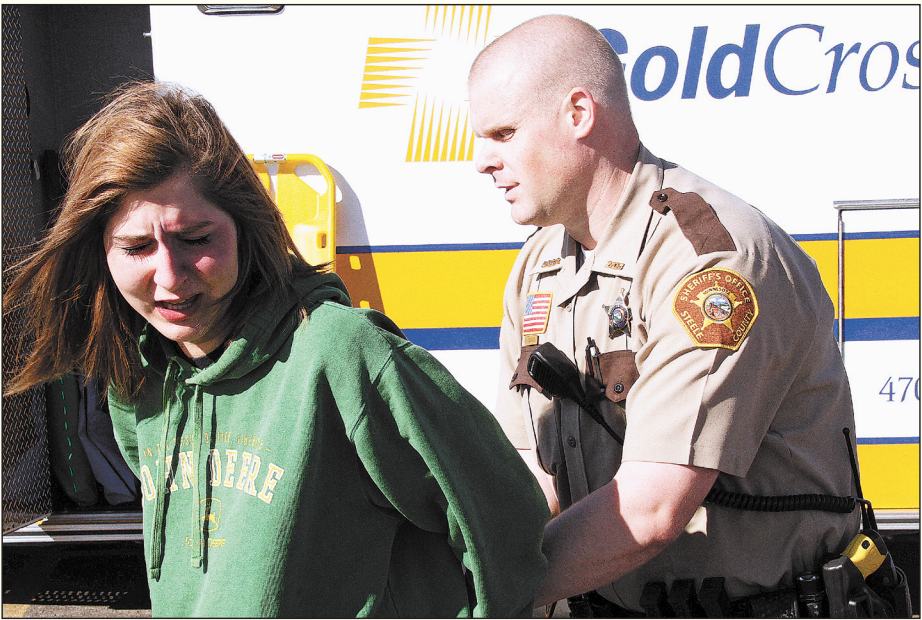
After the crash, students watched a graphic video from the State Patrol about families who have been impacted by risky driving behaviors like drunk driving, distracted driving involving texting and operating in a careless manner.

Sgt. Travis Boetel of the State Patrol told the teenagers that the incidents should be referred to as crashes and not accidents. “They are violent and can be prevented,” he said. “Take driving seriously.”

Besides law enforcement, other agencies that assisted in the mock crash were Medford Fire, Gold Cross Ambulance, North Aircare and Medford Funeral Home.



ABOVE: Medford SADD member Mary Schalm portrayed a crash victim in last week’s Mock Car Crash at Medford High School. BELOW LEFT: Taylor Hooks-Witter and Ciera Green are intently absorbing what is happening in the mock crash. BELOW CENTER: Stephanie Choudek portrayed the drunk driver and was arrested by Steele County Sheriff’s Deputy Nick Donahue.



Stories and photos by Rick Bussler

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From the Heart



Staff photos by James Knoop

A multitude of runners and walkers showed up for the seventh annual From the Heart Run/Walk on Saturday, May 2. Members participated in four events: the half marathon, half marathon relay, 5K run/walk and kid's run. The events were located at Lake Kohlmier, and runners weaved their way through trails and streets of Owatonna.



Happy Mother's Day

Stacy Stork is a mother at home, as well as in the classroom

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Busy and chaotic is how Ellendale Elementary School third-grade teacher Stacy Stork will say her life is like. “Managing the schedule and having to be at four places at once isn’t always easy,” she said. “They keep life interesting and fun for us.”

Stork and her husband, Dan, both teachers in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District, are raising four children, as well as in a way, raising children in their individual classrooms.

The Storks have four children – Anna, a senior, Jake, an eighth-grader, Sophie, a fifth-grader and Chloe, a first-grader.

As Mother’s Day approaches, Stacy Stork said she has loved every second of being a mother. “But it is challenging,” she said. “It is really rewarding to see your kids with their successes and being there for their bad times.”

She always wanted to be a mother. “It is the most difficult job in the world, but it is also the most rewarding,” she said. “The unconditional love between parents and children; until you experience it you don’t get it.”

This year is especially difficult for Stacy because her first child – Anna – will be graduating. “It is hard. It has been very emotional for me,” she said. “She is going to be gone soon. The relationship and dynamics of the mother-daughter is going to change. It is going to be hard to let her go.”

She also continues to learn something each year as her children get older. “I think you have to learn to lighten up and you

pick your battles,” she said. “You learn from your mistakes. That first child you want everything to be perfect. Your morale and values for your children don’t change, but the little things you kind of let go. Each child is very much different.”

The one thing Stacy hopes to instill in all of her children is



Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer
Ellendale third-grade teacher looks over an assignment in preparation for her class.

to be kind, compassionate and be a hard working person, no matter what path the children choose in life. “Life is about love and kindness and doing for others,” she said.

As a mother, she also serves as a role model in her own classroom. “I treat the students the classroom the way I would want other educators to treat my own children with kindness and compassion,”

Stacy said. “I’m a teacher and mom in the classroom to my kids.”

Stacy also continues to pass on the important things that her mother has passed on to her.

“She was always very funny. She was always proud of me. She was a good role model as far as being a kind person and doing for others,” Stacy said. “I try to show my kids that as well.”

On Mother’s Day, Stacy said it is a special day where she is thankful that God blessed her with four children. “I’m thankful every day, but there is more of a focus on Mother’s Day.”

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Sat. 9-4
Sun. 10-4

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 30, 2009 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$170,176.95 TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 175940313 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 16, 2015 at 10:00 am PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 23, 2015

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

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (14-1898-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/28, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 9, 2009 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$81,632.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin R. Hanenberger, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361645 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 1/2 of Lot 5, Block 1, Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 317 2ND AVE NE, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917- COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$81,423.66 TRANSACTIONAGENT:NoneNAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-0103 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 23, 2015 at 10:00 am PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 23, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE A B A N D O N E D . "

Dated: April 29, 2015

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

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760

(15-0716-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/5, 5/12, 5/19 5/26, 6/2, 6/9

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: Lot6,Block3,Radel'sFrancisAddition PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 BellflowerLane,Owatonna,MN55060 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 R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S 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

BP City

Proposed City of Blooming Prairie City Council Meeting Agenda March 9, 2015 7:00 P.M

Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the February Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports 1.. B.P. Public Utilities 2. E.D.A. 3. B.P. Planning & Zoning 4. B.P. Fire Commission 5. B.P. Ambulance Commission

Business 1. Resolution – State Aid for Local Transportation 2. Sixth Street NW Project 3. Resolution Supporting State Funding for City Streets 4. Main Street East – Special Assessments

City Administrator's Report 1. Board of Review Reminder 2. Fabcon Warranty – Ambulance Facility 3. Community Garden and The Boys and Girls Club

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 4/14/2015 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. 1. Schultz/Glynn to approve the Agenda. Ayres all. 2. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Board Minutes of March 31, 2015. Ayres all. 3. Brady/Schultz to approve Interim Use Permit 2015-01 for Brian Cook (Cook Gravel Pit) in Clinton Falls Township- Section 21-108-20 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Finding of Fact. Ayres all. 4. Ebeling/Glynn to approve Interim Use Permit 2015-02 for Loken Excavation & Drainage (Hafstad Pit) in Owatonna Township- Section 30-107-20 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Finding of Fact. Ayres all. 5. Glynn/Ebeling to approve the Review of Conditional Use Permit #2010-02 for Don Loken Drainage (Schultz Pit) in Lemond Township- Section 9-106-21 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Finding of Fact. Ayres all. 6. Glynn/Schultz to approve the Renewal of Conditional Use Permit #299 for Loken Excavation & Drainage (Dietz Pit) in Owatonna Township- Section 29-107-20 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Finding of Fact. Ayres all. 7. Schultz/Ebeling to approve Conditional Use Permit #392 for Dustin Deml for a Feedlot in Owatonna Township- Section 25-107-20 with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Finding of Fact. Ayres all. 8. Ebeling/Brady to approve the On Sale Liquor License for Spurgy's Bar and Grill of Hope MN. Ayres all. 9. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the Lease Agreement with David Janke for the Farmland Lease of 45 acres of land owned by the county in the amount of \$19,395. Ayres all. 10. Glynn/Schultz to award the bid for the CP 74-015-05 Sealcoating to Asphalt Surfaces Technologies Corporation to sealcoat 61.15 miles of County highways in the amount of \$831,003.16. Ayres all. 11. Schultz/Glynn to award the bid for SP 74-070-04 HSIP Striping to Traffic Marking Services in the amount of \$53,156.79. Ayres all. 12. Ebeling/Glynn to award all bids as follows for Seasonal Materials - Plant Mixed Bituminous -Crane Creek Asphalt - \$563,325 & Ulland Bros., Inc.- \$588,000 Aggregate Materials to Falkstone LLC, Medford Sand & Gravel, Don Loken Drainage Inc., Bishop Excavating, Ulland Brothers, Timm's Trucking Inc., Joe Wondra, SMC, OMG Midwest Inc., David Spinler Construction and Crane Creek Asphalt. Ayres all. 13. Glynn/Schultz to award the bid for SAP 74-042-04 Blooming Prairie to Elcor Construction in the amount of \$2,736,980.18. Ayres all. 14. Schultz/Brady offered a Resolution that Steele County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of Local Road Improvement Project No. SAP 074-642-004 and Steele County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, subdivision 5, clause (3), and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the road project but not required. Upon the vote being taken five commissioners vote in favor thereof, none absent not voting. 15. Ebeling/Schultz to re-affirm the Organizational Structure and Positions within the Highway Department. Ayres all. 16. Ebeling/Glynn to authorize advertising for bids for 2015 Bituminous Projects 74-610-03 and 74-631-06 and to set the bid opening for May 14, 2015 at 10 a.m. Ayres All. 17. Schultz/Brady to award the County Parks Lawn Mowing bid to Paul Slowinski in the amount of \$208.00 per time. Ayres all. 18. Brady/Ebeling to approve compensation to the City of Medford for tree replacements on CSAH 12 in Medford in the amount of \$510. Ayres all. 19. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the Access Variance Request on CR 173, PR 15-003 to widen the existing field and changing the use to an access for a livestock barn. Ayres all. 20. Glynn/Ebeling to approve the Access Variance Request on CSAH 23, PR 15-002 to widen an existing residential access and changing the use to a commercial access. Ayres all. 21. Glynn/Brady to approve the Lobby Security Camera for Public Health Nursing office. Ayres all. 22. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Personnel Actions. Ayres all. 23. Commissioners Reports: Schultz reported on his attendance at the Fair Board and SEMCAC meetings. Glynn reported on his attendance at the Workforce meeting. Ebeling reported on his attendance at the 911 Mtg., SE Emergency Committee and the SCCL meeting. Brady reported on the Solid Waste meeting he attended. Huntington reported on her attendance at the MNPrairie All Staff and Leadership Team meetings, Extension meeting and the SCCL meetings. 24. Glynn/Schultz to go into Closed Session at 7:58 p.m. 25. Ebeling/Schultz to re-open the County Board meeting at 8:30 p.m. 26. Glynn/Schultz to initiate legal proceedings to construe Agreement No. 05126 between the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Steele County. Ayres all. 27. Ebeling/Brady to approve the following listing of bills. Ayres all.

LISTING OF BILLS		
4/14/2015		
2nd Floor and More		5,340.00
30th Place, LLC		18,275.23
A'viands, LLC		16,517.38
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.		6,626.98
Businessware Solutions Corporation		2,108.78
CDW Government, Inc.		4,632.50
Compass Minerals America		7,478.56
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.		4,659.72
Express Services, Inc.		2,880.00
Freeborn Co. Treasurer		6,725.82
John C. Hosfield		2,371.75
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC		2,334.01
Metro Sales, Inc.		6,241.15
NEC Financial Services, LLC		4,269.61
Office of MN IT Service		2,054.01
Owatonna Groundsmasters, Inc.		3,182.49
Owatonna Heating & Cooling, Inc.		2,926.64
Owatonna Public Utilities		26,393.42
PSC Alliance, Inc.		8,342.91
Rochester Sand & Gravel		2,745.00
Sheriff of Goodhue County		10,534.75
Southeast Service Cooperative		4,180.00
Steele County Central Services		14,891.77
Steele County Highway Dept.		3,597.43
Steele County Revenue		37,301.92
Steele County Treasurer		5,144.00
Turnkey Corrections		9,982.30
Univ. of MN Regents		41,235.99
174 Warrants Under \$2,000		52,587.34
Total:		\$315,561.46

28. Glynn/Brady to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 8:32 p.m. Ayres all.

5/5

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Blooming Prairie will meet in the Council Chambers of the Blooming Prairie City Center at 6:30 P.M. on May 11, 2015, to review the CSAH 42 Reconstruction (Main Street East) and the Main Street East Utilities Improvements. The project includes the removal of the concrete roadway, curb & gutter, sidewalks and driveway approaches. The Utilities Improvement will include the installation of a new sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main & service extensions and street light upgrades. The City of Blooming Prairie proposed share of the project is about \$ 1,068,000.00. The City will discuss the necessary improvements, alternatives considered, project location, reason for choosing the recommended improvements and estimated sewer service charges and assessment scenarios. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting. This is a joint project with the Steele County Highway Department. The City will take public comments at the public hearing. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting.

Michael G. Jones, Administrator April 27, 2015

5/5

Road construction picking up across Steele County and the state

STREET TALK



Mike Dougherty

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

I-35 Owatonna

Traffic is head-to-head in the southbound lanes through Owatonna. Traffic switched over on April 20 and will continue this way through the fall.

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.

On May 15, Hoffman Drive/ Steele County Road 2 underneath the I-35 bridge will be closed for the weekend so the southbound bridge can be demolished and removed. The road will reopen by 6 a.m., Monday, but if works progresses faster than planned, the contractor will open the roadway earlier.

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

For more information about the project, please review MnDOT's project page at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35bridge-pavement-replacement/index.html> or the project's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna.

Highway 14

Traffic remains head-to-head in the construction zone east of Owatonna.

Traffic will be switched to the new westbound lanes on May 11, weather permitting. It will involve some ramp closures and other ramps to reopen.

In the meantime, westbound motorists continue to use the crossover between Steele County Road 6 (Austin Road) and Highway 218. Eastbound Highway 14 traffic will continue to be reduced to a single lane just west of Steele County Road 6 (Austin Road).

The westbound off-ramp to Highway 218 and Steele County Road 48 is closed. Traffic is expected to switch May 11 to the newly constructed lanes, so crews can begin reconstructing the eastbound lanes.

The contractor, Mathiowetz Construction Company, Inc. of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, 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

A public information meeting is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., May 5 in Owatonna at MnDOT's offices, 1010 21st Ave. N.W.

Representatives from the contractor, Mathiowetz Construction and MnDOT will be available at the meeting to answer questions and discuss the plans for

the Steele County Road 2 (Hoffman Drive) roadway from the beginning of the west Owatonna city limits to the intersection of Steele County Road 45 and State Avenue.

Construction on the \$3.2 million project is expected to begin May 18, but motorists are likely to see traffic changes in preparation of the project on May 13. The construction work will involve pavement replacement and concrete pavement repairs.

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.

Prime contractor Shafer Contracting Co, Inc is leading the \$16.9 million project.

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.

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

Ulland Brothers Inc. is the

prime contractor.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with

caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

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



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Community Calendar



The Blooming Prairie Spring Garage Sale is slated for Saturday, May 16, across the community.

File photo

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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 5:
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
May 6:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club
May 7:
12 p.m. American Legion
4:30 p.m. Police Comm Mtg
May 11:
5 p.m. Education Foundation, HS Library
May 12:
Card Club & Luncheon
2:30 p.m. BPPU Mtg
4:30 p.m. Fire Comm
5:30 p.m. Ambulance Comm Mtg
7 p.m. VFW
7 p.m. VFW Auxiliary
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Regular Mtg & Nominations, SC
7:30 p.m. Prairie Lodge Masons
May 13:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

Servicemen's Club
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- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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LUNCH SPECIAL (5/7 & 5/8):
PULLED PORK AND COLE SLAW

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

May 5:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
May 7:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
May 11:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
May 12:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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IN BRIEF

Meatball dinner

The annual meatball dinner is being held at Community Lutheran Church in Geneva, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 17.
There will be a freewill offering.

OWATONNA

May 5:
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
5 p.m. Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7 p.m. City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
May 6:
9 a.m. Engaged 4 Life, Trinity Lutheran Church
May 7:
2 p.m. OPL Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
7 p.m. Lincoln Spring Concert
May 8:
9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Hospital
May 9:
OHS Prom
5 p.m. Benefit for Dick Wandrey, VFW
May 11:
12 p.m. Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4:30 p.m. Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
6:30 p.m. Schl Brd Mtg
7 p.m. OJHS Choir Concert
May 12:
Steele Co Commission
9:30 a.m. OPL Tale Time! 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
1 p.m. Steele Co SDA Mtg
7 p.m. Willow Creek Spring Concert
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Flying Jet Aircraft from Aircraft Carrier Vietnam War, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
May 13:
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Joseph's Church

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MEDFORD

May 5:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
May 7:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 11:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 13:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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IN BRIEF

Fair Board meeting

The next meeting of the Steele County Free Fair Board will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7, at Mother's Rest on the Steele County Fairgrounds.

SPOT LIGHT

Traffic Safety classes in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna

Blooming Prairie and Owatonna will be hosting Traffic Safety 101 classes in May.

Classes will be held at Blooming Prairie City Hall at 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., May 8, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 9. Classes will also be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., May 15, at Morehouse Park Chalet in Owatonna. The same classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 16.

This traffic skills course gives cyclists the confidence they need to ride safely and legally in traffic or on the trail. This course covers bicycle safety checks, fixing a flat, on-bike skills and crash avoidance techniques and includes a student manual.

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower
May 5:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
LeRoy-Ostrander FFA Adopt-A-Hwy
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
May 6:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
1st Responders Meeting, Lyle
Bike Walk to School, Austin
11 a.m. Austin PS Early Release
11:15 a.m. Back Packer Book Club, Austin Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
May 7:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
10:30 a.m. Big Day on Campus, Riverland Community College
10:30 a.m. Storytime, Austin Public Library
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station, Austin
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. Uncork and Create: Lakeside Stroll, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30 p.m. Spring Bird Watching, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
7 p.m. AHS Spring Orchestra Concert
7 p.m. Riverland Fine Arts Showcase, Riverland Community College
May 8:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
10 a.m. StoryTime! :, Grand Meadow Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
5 p.m. Closing Reception for Diane Crane, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Autism Family Respite Night at the YMCA, Austin
6 p.m. Found Poetry, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. AHS Jazz Shor, AHS Christgau Hall
May 9:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
8 a.m. 5th Annual Strides for a Cure 5K Walk/Run, Todd Park, Austin
9 a.m. City/County Electronics Pick-Up, Mower County Fairgrounds
9 a.m. Farmers Market Place LLC, 18 Ave NW next to HyVee Gas Station, Austin
10 a.m. Family Paint: Big Catch, Austin ArtWorks Center
7 p.m. Northwestern Singers Present "Bach to Rock", Historic Paramount Theatre
May 10:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
9 a.m. 11th Annual Mother's Day Dad's Belgian Waffle Fund Raiser, Austin Eagles Club
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
May 11:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
American Legion & Auxiliary Meeting, Lyle
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Alden Conger HS
4 p.m. Farmers Market Place LLC, 18th Ave NW by the HyVee Gas Station, Austin
5:30 p.m. Austin PS Regular Schl Brd Mtg, City Council Chambers
5:30 p.m. History Happy Hour: Austin's Medical History and the Future of Mayo, Hormel Historic Home
7 p.m. Austin Artist Series - The Step Crew, Austin High School
May 12:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library
Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
9:30 a.m. Mower Co Brd of Commissioners Mtg
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
May 13:
Accio Books!, Austin Public Library

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BLOOMING PRAIRIE COMMUNITY

We would like to take the time to say THANK YOU for everyone's prayers, thoughts, and donations to Stix of Fury, gifts of money, food, love, support and so much more during the loss of our son Alex Jorgenson. The words, thank you, do not even come close to how we feel and we will never be able to repay all of you.

The loss of our son was tragic and unexpected. Alex was an amazing young man and we were so proud to be his parents. He suffered from depression, but would still find the strength and courage to make others laugh. He never wanted to see anyone in pain, which is why I know that he is with God now. Please parents hug your kids a little tighter tonight and make sure they know that you will always be there for them no matter what, even if it is just to listen. We all are special in our own way and that should be celebrated and respected.

This community has shown us so much love and support that we are overwhelmed by it all. Blooming Prairie is an amazing town to live in and we care so much about each and every one of you. Please know that we will never take your kindness or support for granted. We would also like to thank Jeff and Sue Zwiener and their families, and Dave and Nola Wradislavsky and their families, for helping us in a way that we will eternally be grateful. You all are wonderful people and we are lucky to call you friends.

We also want to send out a very special thank you to all the EMS responders, fire rescue, Blooming Prairie Police Sargent Mark Lang, Pastor Charlie, and Freeborn County Sherriff's department that came to our aid that fateful day. As tragic as it was they helped bring peace at the same time. Not one person left until they knew for sure that we were safe in the arms of our family. THANK YOU!

To the First Lutheran Church, thank you for opening your hearts and the doors to your church and making us feel truly at home. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful community church in our presence. Pastor Charlie and Pastor Heidi, you both are angels here on earth and we couldn't love you more.

To all the kids who were there for Alex during his short time on earth and after, we want you to know that we will always be here for you. Your love and support has been a blessing that keeps paying it forward time and time again. Please keep talking to each other and let's mourn the loss of a beautiful soul together. Alex was a special spirit and he will be missed by so many people. If he could only have seen how many people loved him. We need to come together at a time like this to support and love one another. Every one of you is special and we love you all dearly.

Finally we want to thank Jake and Alecia Peterson and the entire Stix of Fury family. Jake and Alecia, you are special people and you will always be members of our family. What you did for Alex will never go unnoticed. You will always have our utmost respect and love. No matter what sort of day Alex was having he always had a smile and was excited to go to Stix practice. He shined while playing his snare drum and that is a light I will miss forever. Thank you for giving our son his direction in life. Music and drumming was his calling and now the "beat goes on" in Heaven and here on earth in Alex's memory. He will be listening and he will hear you play. He plays for God now, listen and you will hear his beat. The memorial that you kids performed for him was amazing and I know he was smiling down on us that evening. Thank you for giving us the perfect way to honor him and say goodbye to our beautiful boy. We love you all so much and you are all permanent members of our family.

With love,

Jamie, Kristi, Dylan, and Shyane Jorgenson

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STEELE COUNTY Times

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 6C

CLUES ACROSS

- Library furnishings
- A major N. Am. river
- Music for a narrative poem
- A set of steps
- Shooting stars
- Keenly perceptive
- , denotes past
- "3:10 to Yuma" actress Gretchen
- Old English
- Sami
- Brake horsepower
- Interlocks
- Twofold
- Green, iced and Earl Grey
- Maddie and —, singers
- Bridge-building degree
- Flat-topped flower

CLUES DOWN

- Digestive fluid
- Capital of Norway
- Plural of os
- Young goats
- "Peanuts" creator's initials
- State in NE India
- Type of TV program
- Shoulder adornment
- Meat-roasting rod
- Protective floor pad
- Anger
- Spread over
- Blackthorn fruit
- Commingle
- Affirmative
- Horse used to set the pace
- Appeals
- British thermal unit
- Complex red organic pigment containing iron
- Bura
- Languages of Sulu

islands

- Raise with great force
- Dried-up
- Scientific research workplace
- Purplish red
- NYSE symbol TEN
- Secure
- Commercial-free TV station
- Macaws
- Open and sincere

51. Oldest Swiss Un. (alt. sp.)

- Very high frequency
- Name for ancient Syria
- NFL's "The Big Cat" Leon
- Jai —, sport
- Actress Blanchett
- Cords
- Not or
- Constitutes

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