



On to State
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STEELE COUNTY Times



Congrats
Grads
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\$1

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

Minimizer CEO purchases bar

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The Blooming Prairie company that has made its mark nationally on selling truck fenders is branching into a new arena where people can sit down and tip back a few brews.

Craig Kruckeberg, CEO of Minimizer, plans to add bar owner to his company portfolio when he takes over Lee's Liquor Lounge in downtown Minneapolis later this month. He is awaiting the approval of the liquor license transfer by the Minneapolis City Council and expects to assume ownership on June 15.

Lee's, which is located in the historic downtown warehouse district just a few blocks from Target Field, is housed in a 1900-era two-story building. Kruckeberg fell in love with the bar six years ago when he moved into the now-trendy North Loop neighborhood. "It's a cool location and it's a very historic bar," he said.

"I always tell people: 'You know that bar you go to when you go home for Thanksgiving and you know everyone you know will be there? Lee's is just that bar.'"

Kruckeberg is purchasing the bar from Louie Sirian, who has owned the watering hole for the past four decades. Sirian, who's approaching 80, is ready to hang it up.

Preserving Lee's the way it is will be Kruckeberg's top priority as he takes over the bar. He said he got the inspiration to buy the place after hearing another postwar bar in the area was closing to make room for a high-rise condominium.

THE BAR

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Community helps finish kitchen project

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The kitchen job at the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club is complete.

And much of the finishing touches are credited to the members of the St. Columbanus Catholic Church and the Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus who helped raised the necessary funds to complete the project.

"Thank you to St. Columbanus and the Knights of Columbus for pulling us over the finish line with financing," said the Rev. Charlie Leonard of First Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Steven Peterson of St. Columbanus Catholic Church and Leonard were having donuts and coffee at the Bakery one day when the question came up about the kitchen. Leonard said the project was coming along, but it wasn't quite there yet.

"I said we'd pitch in," Peterson said. "I polled the parishioners and they came up with \$4,500."

And that still wasn't enough to put the finishing financial touches on the project. Peterson then called Dave Holman with the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus spearheaded a drive with a spaghetti dinner at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.

Holman said the Knights of Columbus have always contributed to the Boys & Girls Club. "We realize these kids in this community are the backbone of all our organizations," he said. "We needed a project. We are around to make money for projects that are good for the community."

Another member of the Knights of Columbus,

KITCHEN JOB

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COPING WITH SUICIDE



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Kristi Jorgenson of Blooming Prairie clutches a photo of her son, Alex, who committed suicide on the day before his 16th birthday in April. The Jorgensons are on a mission to make something positive out of the tragedy. One of their goals is to change people's attitudes about mental illness and suicide.

Family hopes to turn tragedy into positive

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Less than two months after their teenage son died by suicide, a Blooming Prairie couple is hoping to turn the tragedy into something positive.

Kristi and Jamie Jorgenson want to increase awareness of mental ill-

ness, a disease that their son, Alex, battled for three years prior to ending his life a day before his 16th birthday at the family's home on April 13.

"It was a fight he fought every day," said Kristi. "He was an amazing kid who really fought a hard fight. I tried to fight for him. He was broken and I just couldn't fix it."

The Jorgensons don't want to focus solely on the harsh reality of suicide, but rather turn their son's tragic death into something to help other people. "It was in God's plan and I have to move forward with his legacy," Kristi said, noting she still feels her son's presence around her every day.

"I want our situation to have a

positive impact on other people," Kristi commented.

One of the biggest things the Jorgensons want to change is the stigma attached to mental illness in which many people don't want to deal with it. "We all know about

TRAGEDY TO HOPE

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Staff photos
by Rick Bussler



Casaundra Green displays a T-shirt she created as a memorial for a fellow student at Blooming Prairie High School who committed suicide last month. Green has raised \$1,300 from sales of the shirts and plans to donate it to the Stix of Fury, a local drumline that Alex Jorgenson had been a member of for five years.

Teenager steps up to help with a memorial fund

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Casaundra Green may only be 14 years old, but she is already on a personal crusade to make a difference in the world for a struggling family.

The Blooming Prairie eighth-grader has raised \$1,300 after selling 250 T-shirts at her school last month. She is turning the money over to the Stix of Fury for the Alex Jorgenson Memorial Fund. Jorgenson, a sophomore at BP, committed suicide in April just a day before his 16th birthday.

The cash will be used for scholarships to help students who are interested in music. Jorgenson loved music and especially enjoyed being a drummer for the Stix of Fury.

Casaundra had been friends with Jorgenson for about a year before his death and hung out with him from time to

time, usually at school.

"I was surprised that I accomplished something big like this," said Casaundra, who came up with the idea all on her own and got approval from the school.

Once she came up with the idea, Casaundra worked with Sportstitch in Blooming Prairie on a design for the shirt, which bears Jorgenson's name with a yellow ribbon for suicide on the front and the back has the saying, "When the world says give up, hope whispers. There's always a better tomorrow."

Casaundra found that students were excited to support the cause. She said she took shirt orders during school hours and "couldn't keep up with the forms."

Her motivation for the project was

PERSONAL CRUSADE

Continued on Page 3A

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Opinion

Our view

On to state

While many of the students in the small schools around Steele and Dodge counties will be out relaxing for the summer, a group of student athletes will have one last task to perform. Triton and Blooming Prairie each have student athletes that will perform at various state tournaments over the next week.

While none of us can predict what will happen when these young people get to the state tournaments, there is a good chance that a group of golfers from Triton will compete for a team state title or at least an individual could come through for a high medal.

The Cobras, consisting of Preston Pflaum, Zach Otto, Jaden Thiemann, Ethan Otterbein and Austin Gilliland will be on the links near Jordan, Minn., on June 9-10 to compete for a team and individual titles.

However, the golf team is not the only Triton athletes to compete in a state tournament. Sophomore Leif Bungum will be competing in the 100-meter dash at Hamline University. Leif's older brothers Dylan and Adam had competed in the hurdles in earlier state track meets during their careers.

Two Blooming Prairie athletes have also made the cut.

Sophomore Taylor Christianson is making her second straight trip to a state golf tournament after capturing the Section 1A meet at Willow Creek last week. She will be competing at Turtle Creek Golf Course this week.

Rounding out the local athletes competing at a state meet is Taylor Hagen, who finished second in the shot put. That allows her to join other tracksters at Hamline University on June 5-6.

Quite a feat for the athletes in our area. It shows the caliber of athletes that are competing at our smaller schools. Another part of this is the coaching that these young people receive throughout the season.

Many of them are two or even three-sport athletes, but it is a fitting ending to a season to be able to compete in a state meet. And for the seniors, it is even more gratifying. This will be the last time these kids will be in a Blooming Prairie or Triton uniform and they will one want to do their best one more time to represent their community and their school.

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

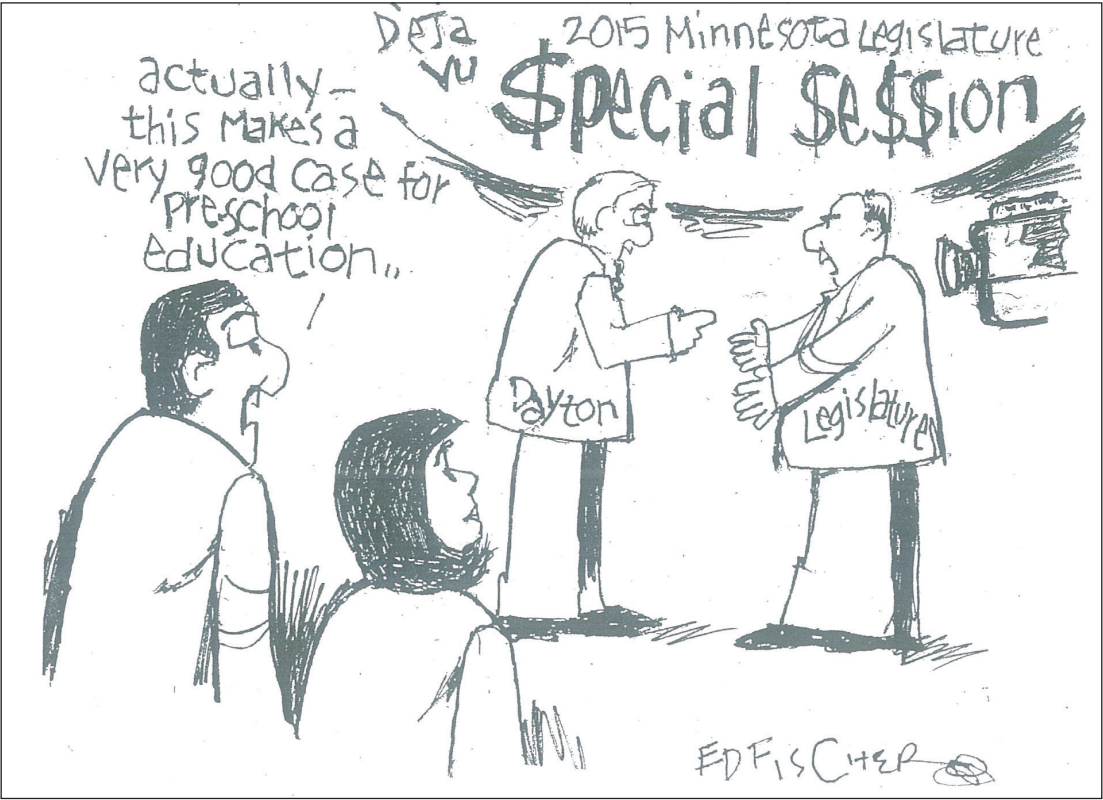
This week's question:
Do you believe the NRHEG referendum is the way to go?

Yes, it is a progressive project.
No, it is just too much money.
Don't know what to think.

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

* Yes, it keeps a community vibrant. 100%
* No; we have enough already. 0%
* I don't care. 0 %

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



Adversities helped shape this graduate

There's an old saying that adversity can be a defining moment in a person's life. Or should we say adversities. That certainly has been the case in the Bussler household over the years.

As my son, Caleb, graduates this week, I want to reflect on two major adversities in his life and how it has shaped him into the young adult he has become. They have been defining points in his life and I believe it will propel him into great things in life.

From little on, Caleb has dealt with the adversity of growing up in a broken home without a mother and father together. This may not seem like a big deal to many, but there were extenuating circumstances involved beyond the normal, if there is such a thing, brokenness of the family.

One of my greatest fears as I dealt with this adversity myself was how would this impact my children and what would happen to them growing up. I have often seen horror stories of what can take place with kids when they're faced with such challenges as a broken family.

While I know Caleb and my older daughter, Kyrie, have experienced great hurt in their lives over this, I have been amazed at how well they have handled it and rebounded to become the young adults they have. They have taken a negative and turned it into a positive in their actions and how they generally go about living their lives. As a parent, I couldn't be more proud of Caleb's accomplishments over the past 18 years.

I believe this adversity has laid a solid foundation for Caleb to know life isn't always fair and help him live his life as he spreads his wings into the, at



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

times, crazy world we live in. I have always stressed core morals and values.

Of course, there have been many core values I have tried to instill in my children, including honesty, loyalty, respectfulness, positivity, dependability, loving, independence and courageousness. But there are a couple key values that I hope Caleb will remember above and beyond the rest. They are a strong belief in God and a belief that family is of fundamental importance over and above anything else.

One of the other defining moments in Caleb's life took place on Dec. 4, 2013, when a close friend and classmate, Alyssa Ettl, was killed in a car crash just a mile from the high school. As a police officer at the time, I responded to that crash and had the unfortunate task of notifying Alyssa's parents that their daughter would never be coming home again.

If that notification wasn't horrible enough, I then had to deal with letting my son know that his best friend died. I will never forget the tears of sadness and hugs we exchanged in the halls of Lakeville North as I delivered that awful news.

Dealing with death isn't easy at any age, but I think it's hardest as a teenager. How-

ever, what has happened since that horrible day has defined Caleb as a loving, respectable, giving and helpful person. He has taken one of life's darkest moments and turned it into something in which the entire community has benefited from.

It has been incredible to see how Caleb's faith has been strengthened and how he has not let Alyssa be forgotten. Caleb has been instrumental in establishing the Alyssa Ettl Scholarship fund, organizing a memorial kickball tournament in her memory and directing a memorial book drive benefiting low-income children in Minneapolis.

Caleb has written in reference to Dec. 4, 2013: "This is the day I really began to think about everything I did in a deeper way. My leadership soon became the most important part of my life. Everything I did after this point in time was all to better myself and the people around me."

He went on to say, "The last year and a half has been a time period that has completely changed my life and perspective on everything I do. The struggles that I have gone through at a young age have helped me gain a perspective and determination that can truly set me apart."

Without question, Caleb has flourished in the face of adversity. Caleb has found that adversity brings good people closer together. Relationships created during such difficult times and under such tough conditions often last a long time, even a lifetime.

I don't think Caleb will have any problem handling life's challenges and thriving in his years ahead. For Caleb, he's ready to go full steam ahead in hot pursuit of great things for his life. Happy graduation, son!

A GLIMPSE OF



STEELE COUNTY
Alan Van Ormer

Time to get out and vote

Yes, the June 9 Referendum for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District is finally upon those in the school district.

And it is an important vote for the school district, because it will determine what will become of the Ellendale and New Richland facilities in the coming years.

A vote against the referendum could mean the patrons are satisfied with what the buildings are like now.

A vote yes means they believe in upgrading the different facilities to provide programs for the young people in the school district for years to come.

A month or so ago, I wrote my column about this referendum. Like then, I don't have a say on what happens with the school district.

But I will say that after doing stories over the last month it is evident that the school board has made every effort to get as much input from the community members as possible.

There have been different meetings at both Ellendale and New Richland and according to a few school board members during the last round of interviews last week; they have had individual contacts with their constituents.

This is all good. It is important for people to know what they are voting for.

But it is also just as important for the people to get out to the polls between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at Ellendale or New Richland to cast their votes.

We're talking \$14.2 million here.

We're talking about the future of the NRHEG students and teachers.

We're talking about the future of four communities - New Richland, Ellendale, Hartland and Geneva.

So as you can see, the most important thing that anyone can do in this instance is to get out and vote: either yeah or nay for this \$14.2 million project.

Mailbag

NRHEG bond referendum

Dear Editor:

As a retired educator and program administrator, I am writing this letter speaking with the "voice of reason" on behalf of the property owners who will have to pay for these project improvements for the next 20 years if it is voted in.

The elementary school project improvements are needed and necessary for the student population increase, safety and educational program administration. The cost of the elemen-

tary project is 40 percent of the bond cost, or \$5,702,000.

The high school project improvements are not needed. These improvements fall into the "wanted" category. These improvements would be nice to have, but are not needed nor are they a necessary aspect of delivering educational programs. The cost of these improvements constitutes 60 percent of the \$14,255,000 bond cost or \$8,533,000.

Spending millions of dollars to build a show case gymnasium, locker rooms for visiting sports teams and a state of the art fitness facility does not fall into the category of needed

or necessary. These high cost improvements are not needed or necessary to meet the objectives of educational program delivery for this school.

The impact on the property owners who will be paying for this needs to be considered. This \$14,255,000 bond is going to place a tremendous and excessive tax burden on all of us, especially the farmers, the elderly and small business owners. Farmers are experiencing rising production costs and falling crop prices and land values. How many farm families will be affected by this tax burden? What percentage of each of these four towns is

over the age 65? This will place a tremendous tax burden on this population as well.

Let's talk about economic development. This bond is going to place a heavy tax burden on the already struggling small businesses in these towns. It may cause many of these businesses to close. What business will want to come into a town with these kinds of taxes? What family, when deciding where to buy or build a new home will choose to buy or build in a community with these tax liabilities?

MAILBAG
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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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Second Front Page

TRAGEDY TO HOPE

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but we don’t talk about it. People are embarrassed and ashamed to talk about it,” Kristi says. “I want to make it as much of a conversation as cancer and heart disease,” she added.

Kristi said there needs to be more support for those battling mental illness. She hopes to make it a conversation that is talked about in schools. “My number one goal is that we can talk about mental illness freely,” she said.

Most importantly, Kristi says, “It’s okay to not be okay.” The teenage years are a tough age period for many youth. “They need all the help and support they can get,” she said, adding they need to be told that they are important and special.

She encourages people to speak up if they notice something unusual with another person. “I would rather be yelled at for interfering than not interfering at all,” Kristi said.

Alex, who was a sophomore at Blooming Prairie, was diagnosed with depression, emotional behavior disorder and anxiety. He had been treated by at least 15 different doctors over the past three years. During that time, the family often found out that nothing could be done for their son. “We were told unless he tried or attempted suicide, there is nothing they could do,”

Kristi said.

In Alex’s case, his mother found his mind was his own worst enemy. For example, Alex often commented he didn’t have any friends, though he actually had many. “Everything in his mind was twisted,” she said.

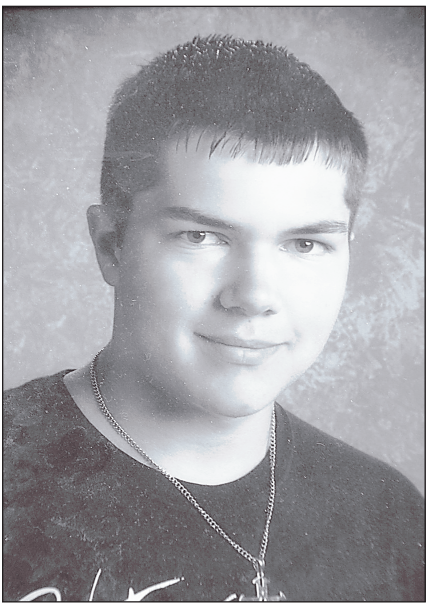
Kristi said Alex struggled with mental illness all the time, but only let it show a little bit. He didn’t have a mean streak in him, his mother said. “He was the most loving kid when it came to everyone else, but he couldn’t love himself,” she said. “I couldn’t make him love himself enough.”

Prior to his death, Alex found great love in music. As a talented drummer, he had been involved with the Stix of Fury, a local drumline that began five years ago. “He loved that drumline,” Kristi said. “He made a lot of friends with it. Music is what saved him.”

Kristi plans to continue being involved with the Stix of Fury performances this summer by handing out cards about suicide prevention.

“Ultimately, I don’t ever want to see this (suicide) happen again,” Kristi said. “It has made me realize that I have a different purpose in life now.”

In addition to music, Alex also loved animals, mechanics and he enjoyed fixing cars with his dad.



What has made this tragedy difficult for the Jorgensons is that they did not see any indicators that Alex would harm himself. “I would have never guessed it,” Kristi said. “It completely blew me out of the water. He always said he wouldn’t do it.”

Not surprisingly, Kristi fell apart when she discovered what Alex had done. “It’s your child. How do you deal with this? You’re not supposed to bury your kids,” she said. “I know in my



Ultimately, I don’t ever want to see this (suicide) happen again. It has made me realize that I have a different purpose in life now.

Kristi Jorgensen
Mother of Suicide Victim

heart that my husband and I did everything we could,” she added.

As Kristi goes forward with this crusade to change people’s attitudes toward mental illness, she knows Alex is right there with her. “I know he is with me on this journey and I know we are going to make a difference,” she said, adding that she will feel fulfilled if she

can just help one kid.

Since the tragedy, Kristi has changed her perspective on life. “The little things that used to bother me mean absolutely nothing,” she said, adding it’s all about friends, family and faith.

“Life can be gone in an instant and you need to cherish it every day,” she said.

Concert planned for June 20

A fundraiser in memory of Alex Jorgenson will take place June 20 from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Servicemen’s Club in Blooming Prairie.

The Galactic Cowboy Orchestra featuring BP native Elisa Wright will be performing during the fundraiser.

Free-will donations will be taken during the concert and turned over to the Jorgenson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Jorgenson was a sophomore at Blooming Prairie when he tragically died by suicide in April.

PERSONAL CRUSADE

Continued from Page 1A

seeing other people with depression and wanting to help out.

Jodi Green, Casaundra’s mother, is proud of what her daughter has accomplished. “I thought it was pretty awesome for an eighth-grader to take that on by herself,” Jodi said. “I’m amazed and very proud of her.”

For Casaundra, the tragic death of Jorgenson hit home in a big way. She suffers from depression like Jorgenson did for many years.

Casaundra’s mother hopes the tragedy will change people’s attitudes about mental illness and suicide. “If you talk about wanting to hurt yourself or kill yourself, people go the other way,” Jodi said. “People aren’t educated about it.”

Jodi said her daughter has made “tons of progress” since she was diagnosed with depression three years ago. “What it boils down to is finding out what resources are out there. I had no idea how much help is out there,” she said, adding a social worker connected them with the help they needed.

“You feel like you’re the only one with a child who has these difficulties until you meet others,” Jodi said.

She has found people likely don’t know it’s out there because they can’t see it. “It’s out there. It’s probably more than you realize,” Jodi said.

Anyone interested in purchasing a T-shirt in memory of Jorgenson can do so by contacting Sportstitch in BP by the end of the month.

KITCHEN JOB

Continued from Page 1A

Tom Walters took the spaghetti dinner a step further dressing up in his old tux with tales on it and was the maître de.

Overall, Peterson said the kitchen project has been a successful thing because it involved the whole community and everyone will benefit from it. “Those that didn’t know what goes on at the Boys & Girls Club and what they do, became well informed during this project because of the publicity and the different ways we addressed it,” he said.

As for Mary Sherman Ahrens, Unit Director of the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club, the kitchen was needed in order for

the Boys & Girls Club to function properly. “It is now also a teaching kitchen,” she said. “It saves us money in feeding the children during the summer.”

Cooking classes will begin this summer and then there is a workshop slated in the fall where the youth could be cooking with their parents.

“It took a lot of hard work and there were a lot of volunteer hours that went into it,” Ahrens said. “We just want to use it to the capacity it was put in there for.”

She added the kitchen allows the Boys & Girls Club to teach a life skill for the youth by teach-

ing them how to cook. “If we get that piece in and teach them how to cook at home, maybe they can teach some skills to their parents,” Ahrens said. “It will get everybody involved.”

Leonard said the kitchen project did get everybody in the community involved. “The community rallied together in an amazing way,” he said.

“What I think is wonderful was our relationship with St. Columbanus and other churches; that everyone came together on this church mission project,” Leonard said. “We were able to complete it.”

MAILBAG

Continued from Page 2A

I acknowledge that the project planners have spent a great deal of time on this. A vote of NO on this referendum will send them back to the drawing table to develop a project that is more suitable for the demographics of the communities, individuals and farm families who will be responsible for paying for it for the next 20 years.

*Yuriel Justin
Ellendale*

THE BAR

Continued from Page 1A

“I just couldn’t let an iconic bar and watering hole get torn down to build another condo building,” Kruckeberg said. “I’m going to save it from demolition.”

Kruckeberg described the current owner as a “neat freak” with the interior of the bar. “The basement is nicer than my house,” he said, noting the floors are shined and waxed at least once a month. “You could eat off the bathroom floor. It’s pristine.”

Lee’s is one of the few bars in the area that features live music, which was another big draw for Kruckeberg. He plans to bring in a broader base of bands.

There will be a few changes once Krucke-

berg takes over. He plans to add an outdoor patio as the site offers “the most beautiful skyline of downtown Minneapolis,” he said. He will introduce an outdoor novelty in which a magnetic cup will be used to fill from the bottom to avoid foam. He also wants to have a food truck available outside during the summer months.

Kruckeberg also plans to join the 20th century with the bar by accepting credit cards.

Another area that will see a few changes is marketing, which has become a staple to Kruckeberg’s success with Minimizer. He is already kicking around ideas for promoting Lee’s through advertising and billboards.

The new bar owner says he doesn’t need a wage from Lee’s, though he said people shouldn’t be surprised to seeing him helping out from time to time. “I just need it to pay for itself and pay good wages to the staff and bands that play there,” Kruckeberg said.

Sirian said of his would-be successor, “I think he’s going to be very good to this bar, and to this neighborhood—which have always been good to me.”

Said Kruckeberg, 49, of buying a bar, “Some day I knew I would, but I thought I would be retired first. I knew I would eventually get there, though.”

Guest Column

Blooming Prairie seniors proud to be Awesome Blossoms

Taylor: Hello and Welcome to the 2015 graduation ceremony. I’m Taylor Hagen

Macaela: And I’m Macaela Jensen

Taylor: First of all, I’d just like to thank all of the teachers and parents that helped us get to this day.

Mac: For the past 13 years, our class has experienced highs and lows, failures and successes.

Tay: Today, we will reflect back on a few of the memories we’ve shared together.

Mac: Let us travel back to the year of 2001 when we first started Kindergarten.

Tay: We entered either Mrs. Clausen’s or Mrs. Mast’s class with a lot of energy and a lot of nerves.

Mac: Throughout each day we enjoyed snacks and toys while learning the ABC’s and the 123’s.

Tay: One fond memory of Mrs. Mast is when one of us got the privilege to be the line leader. She would hold our hand, and before she let go, she would squeeze our hand twice.

Mac: One of the best days in Mrs. Clausen’s class was St. Patrick’s Day. Mrs. Clausen is Irish and had a big stuffed lepreacon named Lucky in her classroom. Each hour she would hide Lucky around the school

and as a class we would have to go find him.

Tay: Kindergarten was all about making learning a fun experience and creating friendships that would last a lifetime.

Mac:Fast forward a year and we arrive in first grade.

Tay: As first graders, we had Mrs. Skraw, Mrs. Weringa, and Mr. Staloch as teachers.

Mac: For some of us, first grade was the first year we could receive red card punches as punishment. Isn’t that right, Taylor?

Tay: Unfortunately, I may know a thing or two about red card punches. I also know a thing or two about reading and math because that’s what we learned in first grade.

Mac: Throughout first grade, we strengthened our friendships and continued to enjoy learning.

Tay: Now we jump ahead to 2003 and 2nd grade.

Our 2nd grade teachers were Mrs. Pirkel, Mrs. Witzel and Mr. Kittelson.

In 2nd grade we did so many activities.

One of our favorites was going on nature walks.

Our class got lucky in 2003 when Mrs. Pirkel’s dog had puppies.

We enjoyed stopping by to see the puppies on one of our nature walks.



Jensen

2nd grade was also the start of new adventures.

One new adventure was chapter books.

We didn’t know it then, but we would be reading chapter books for the rest of our lives.

Mac: If we skip past summer break, we find ourselves entering third grade.

Third grade was a year of many projects. Our class was spilt between three teachers, Ms. Avery, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Morem. We can remember learning spelling words by writing them in shaving cream. Not only was it fun for us, but the desks also got a nice cleaning!

We also did how-to projects and made a diorama of the rainforest. We have many fond memories of third grade.

Tay: A hop, skip and a jump and we land ourselves in 4th grade.

Mrs. Butler, Mrs. Meshke, and Mr. Harvey were there to welcome us.

We wrote our first reports in fourth grade.

One was on animals and the



Hagen

other was on a state of our choice.

Some of us also made weaving projects.

Our favorite part of 4th grade was the talent show.

One of our classmates did the Napoleon Dynamite dance.

4th grade was a lot of fun and it helped prepare us for the projects to come.

Mac: Going full speed ahead, we hit fifth grade. Fifth grade had many surprises for us youngsters. Guiding us through those surprises were Mrs. Sorenson, Mr. Zaske and Mrs. Miller. Fifth grade was the first year we started switching classes for different subjects. We went to Mrs. Miller’s class for Social Studies. We switched to Mrs. Sorenson’s class for English, where we made poem books. And finally, we went to Mr. Zaske’s class for science. One of our experiments was racing hermit crabs. We ended the year exhausted but excited to be the oldest students in the building the next year.

Tay: Our next stop is 6th grade.

We had all the confidence in the world because we were the oldest students in the school.

To keep us under control, we had three teachers, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Anderson.

As 6th graders, we were required to do a project for the science fair.

We also enjoyed chess tournaments and our very first school dance, the sock hop.

As 6th grade came to a close, we all started to come to the realization that the next year we would start all over.

Mac: The next time our grade came together, we were introduced into a brand new school.

Tay: Transitioning into 7th grade was scary for us.

Mac: We were surrounded by big upperclassmen in and a place we didn’t know.

Tay: To compensate for being uncomfortable, we ran to class.

Mac: Or maybe our short legs couldn’t get us there fast enough.

Tay: As we got older, that run turned into a walk and eventually a crawl.

Mac: The nervousness of junior high was long forgotten when we hit ninth grade.

Tay: Our last 4 years together went faster than the previous 9, landing ourselves in senior year.

Mac: Before we knew it,

it was homecoming week. Homecoming week was started on Sunday by the legendary Powder Puff football game and school hallway decorating. Monday night was Coronation and the homecoming football game was on Friday.

Tay: We also enjoyed our annual T-Ping and homecoming dance.

Mac: A few weeks later, our football team had a major win, which landed us a trip to state.

Tay: After our trip to state, we transitioned into winter. Along with winter, came basketball season.

The girls basketball team took home the conference title.

Mac: This year we had many major decisions to make.

Tay: We had to make the decision of what to do after high school.

We would either move onto college, enter the work force, or join the military.

Mac: By now these decisions are made and we find ourselves at graduation day.

Tay: Today we move forward as a class.

Mac: In each of our hearts, we have the memories of 13 years together, in which we spent growing and learning.

Both: We will always be proud to be Awesome Blossoms.

Public Safety

Blotter Spotlight: DWI. On May 20, deputies responded to a report of a stopped vehicle in the lane of traffic at Main St. E. and 5th Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 12:43 a.m. A subject in the car was charged with driving while intoxicated.

Bank robbery suspect finally arrives back in Steele County

Alvarez had been held in Texas since December

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

After allegedly robbing a Steele County bank at gunpoint last December, the man believed to be responsible has finally returned to Minnesota to face charges.

On Thursday, Alfredo Frias Alvarez, 39, of Waseca appeared in Steele County District Court on first-degree aggravated robbery for the first time in connection with the Dec. 19 hold-up of the First National Bank of Hope. The judge set bail at \$750,000 without conditions and \$500,000 with conditions.

Alvarez was caught in Texas less than 24 hours after the armed robbery in Hope. He has been held in Texas since police took him into custody after a dramatic chase for 40 miles through parts of Oklahoma and

Texas.

Steele County attorney Daniel McIntosh said Texas authorities initially charged Alvarez with crimes related to the police chase, but later dropped the charges and made him available to face the bank robbery charge in Minnesota. Alvarez waived extradition in Texas prior to coming back to Minnesota.

McIntosh said his office has been in touch with the FBI to see if they want to file federal charges against Alvarez. The penalties for federal charges are generally harsher than state charges, according to McIntosh.

“More can be achieved with federal courts,” McIntosh said, adding Alvarez can’t be convicted of both federal and state charges for the same crime.

Alvarez is suspected of walking into the Hope bank just after it opened Dec. 19. He is accused

of showing a handgun and demanding cash from one of two employees in the bank at the time.

About 16 hours after the robbery, Oklahoma State Patrol chased the vehicle believed to be involved in the robbery for 40 miles at speeds of 150 mph into Texas. The Texas State Patrol deployed stop sticks, which finally caused the vehicle to stop. Alvarez, who was the lone occupant of the vehicle, was arrested and held in Texas until last week.

The money taken from the Hope bank was found in Alvarez’s vehicle at the time of the chase, authorities said.

If convicted on the state charge, Alvarez faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$35,000 fine.

Alvarez will appear again in court Monday.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Sheriff Lon Thiele and a deputy escort Alfredo Frias Alvarez, 39, of Waseca, into Steele County District Court Thursday morning to face an aggravated bank robbery charge. Alvarez was brought back to Steele County from Texas last week. He had been held in Texas since the December armed robbery of the First National Bank of Hope.

Murder suspect deemed competent to face crime

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

Nearly eight years after the beating death of an elderly man, the Owatonna man accused in the killing has been deemed competent to stand trial.

A pair of recent psychological competency evaluations of Bradley Bartosch, 61, has found he is component enough to face the second-degree murder charge filed against him, according to Daniel McIntosh, Steele County attorney.

The ruling means the criminal case, which was initially put on hold after the alleged murder, will resume again, McIntosh

said.

Bartosch has been locked up at the St. Peter Security Hospital since the suspected murder in Owatonna in 2007 at which time he was deemed to be incompetent to stand trial for the crime. Ever since the fatal beating, Bartosch has been committed as mentally ill and dangerous in St. Peter.

On Sept. 15, 2007, William Eastling, 79, died from injuries he suffered during a beating that took place the previous month at an apartment complex in Owatonna.

At the time, Bartosch had been accused of luring Eastling into his apartment simply to beat

him. The original criminal complaint stated Eastling was returning to his apartment building on 18th Street Southwest after taking his dog for a walk when Bartosch asked him to come inside his apartment.

After shutting the door, Bartosch allegedly began beating Eastling by punching and kicking him until he was on the floor. Authorities accuse Bartosch of stomping on Eastling’s face and body while shouting racial slurs. Prior to his death, the victim told police that Bartosch attempted to gouge out his eyes.

“This was an elderly gentleman who was in the wrong place at the wrong time,” said McIntosh.

tosh.

“The motive has been up for debate, but (we believe Bartosch) had bullied the other guy,” he added.

The defense at the time of the killing was that Bartosch was laboring under a mental illness and “had delusional thoughts of the other guy,” McIntosh said.

Competency is a legal issue raised quite often, according to McIntosh. But, he said, it is not typical for defendants to be found component to stand trial.

McIntosh is awaiting a state examiner report within the next 60 days.

“We’re waiting to get a good independent review of the case,”

McIntosh told the Times. “His report will drive how we deal with the case,” he said, adding it will either be resolved or set for trial, which would most likely be later this year.

The county attorney’s office is working with two of the victim’s adult children, who live in the Twin Cities area, to get their input on what should happen with the outcome of Bartosch.

In addition to the pending criminal case, Bartosch is being held under the state’s civil commitment law.

McIntosh said that even if Bartosch would be acquitted of the criminal charge down the road, he would still remain

locked up on the civil commitment.

Attorney Jeff Johnson, who is the chief public defender based in Owatonna, is representing Bartosch. District Court Judge Joseph Buettel will preside over the court case.

One of Bartosch’s original public defenders, Karen Duncan, is now a district court judge in Steele County.

“Our end goal is to protect the public,” McIntosh said. And, he added, the state also wants to help get Bartosch the help he needs because of his mental illness.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

May 22 Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the city at 4:31 p.m.

Owatonna Police

May 22 Fight. Police responded to a fight in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:29 a.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Bridge St. W. and Main St. W. at 2:29 p.m.

Warrant. At 5:54 p.m., police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Prospect St. E. at 7:50 p.m.

May 23 DWI. Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 16th St. NE and 3rd Ave. NE at 2:09 a.m.

Runaway. At 3:45 a.m., a juvenile was arrested in the 300 block of School St. W. after running away from home.

Weapon Violation. Shots were heard fired in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:05 a.m.

Burglary. At 1:32 p.m., police began an investigation of a burglary in the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW.

Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 700 block of Vine St. E. at 5:13 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

May 24 Shoplifting. At 3:40 p.m., police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred at 24th Ave. NW and Frontage Rd. W. at 9:40 p.m. A citation was issued to a driver.

Property Damage. Officer took vandalism report in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 10:38 p.m.

May 25 Fight. At 1:19 p.m., a fight occurred in the 700 block of Vine St. E.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 7:29 p.m.

May 26 Crash. At 12:54 p.m., paramedics and police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries at Bridge St. W. and Interstate 35 northbound.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:04 p.m.

Vehicle Theft. A vehicle was reported stolen in the 800 block of Elm Ave. N. at 5:04 p.m.

May 27 Arrest. A traffic stop resulted in a motorist being arrested at Broadway St. E. and Maple Ave. NE at 7:52 p.m.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 200 block of Barney St. SW at 9:19 a.m.

Trespassing. Trespassing was reported in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:11 p.m. and in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 3:35 p.m.

Animal. Police responded to an animal call in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 8:16 p.m.

May 28 Assault. At 12:29 a.m., police arrested an adult following an assault in the 100 block of Bridge St. W.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of 26th St. NE at 10:20 a.m.

Steele County Sheriff

May 22 Harassment. Harassing communication was reported in the 2100 block of 24th Ave. SW at 3:37 p.m.

Warrant. Deputies made a warrant arrest in the 6000 block of Crane Creek Rd. at 8 p.m.

Mental Health. At 6:44 p.m., deputy took a mental health report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

May 23 Liquor. A liquor violation was reported at Hwy. Ave. N. and Main St. E. at 1:36 a.m.

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 2500 block of 28th St. SW at 5:59 p.m. An adult was arrested at the scene.

May 24 Crash. At 5:14 p.m., deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Cedar Ave. S. and Hwy. 14 E.

May 26 Identity Theft. Deputies received two reports of identity theft throughout the day – at 9:06 a.m. in the 400 block of Valley View Lane

SW and at 12:49 p.m. in the 1900 block of 52nd Ave. NW.

Vandalism. Deputy took property damage report in the 4600 block of Havana Rd. at 4:44 p.m.

May 27 Arrest. A traffic stop resulted in a motorist being arrested on Interstate 35 northbound at mile marker 45 at 12:13 a.m.

Identity Theft. A citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 1900 block of 52nd Ave. NW at 4:46 p.m.

May 28 Warrant. Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of Main St. N. at 4:57 p.m.

Burglary. At 8:33 p.m., deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 11800 block of 72nd Ave. SW.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 5200 block of Dane Rd. at 8:44 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 18 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jeffery J. Hernandez, 39, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. He was sentenced to \$1,081, 90 days in

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 5A

Public Safety brief

Nap in the park leads to felony charges

A late morning welfare check on a man sleeping in a park has led to felony charges.

Kerry C. Bittrich, 25, has been charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance.

Police responded to Dartt’s Park in Owatonna after city employees were unable to wake Bittrich in a Jeep.

When officers came to the scene, they found him passed out in the front seat and suspicious items in the front seat.

Officers saw a folding knife, ski mask, plastic baggies containing crystal-like substances and a large amount of cash on Bittrich’s lap, according to police.

Bittrich finally became startled and awoke. Officers found



Bittrich

he was dazed and confused. Police brought in K-9 Kash, who gave a positive alert for drugs in the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle uncovered about 28 grams of methamphetamine, 39 Lorazepam pills, suspected Psilocybin mushrooms, drug paraphernalia pipes and \$1,130 in cash.

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.

The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

Martin Escudero Perez – DWI - \$500 bail
Raymond Perez – toxic substance - \$500 bail
Terry Lyn Personious – drugs – no bail
Stephen Edward Petersen – writ of attachment - \$48,452.76 bail
Sharon Gay Peterson – leaving scene - \$550 bail
Cornelius A. Phillips – open bottle - \$500 bail
Cory Robert Piringner – DWI – no bail

Keith Randall Pittman – DWI - \$1,000 bail
Juan Mauro Placencia-Gonzalez – obstruction of legal process - \$1,000 bail
Shawn Douglas Plotnik – theft - \$20,000 bail
Ray Polan – assault - \$1,000 bail
Cecil Leroy Porter – drugs – no bail
Amanda Lynn Portillo – DWI - \$500 bail
Mel Prange – writ of attachment - \$300 bail

Diana Board Quintanilla – assault - \$700 bail
Angel Ramirez – no MN license - \$500 bail
Daniel Ramos – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
Johntez Leondus Randle – cancelled license - \$6,000 bail
Erasmus Resendez – assault - \$2,000 bail
Benjamin Restrepo – theft, shoplifting - \$200 bail

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



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 4A

county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, write letter of apology, no possession of firearms, anger management and 3 years of supervised probation.

George Jaramillo Jr., 26, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault with a dangerous weapon and felony controlled substance crime. The defendant was sentenced to 53 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Jeffrey L. Jones, 27, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault. Jones was sentenced to \$131, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, anger management, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation.

Larry G. Lester, 41, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary and felony controlled substance crime. Lester was sentenced to \$131, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, write letter of apology and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 18 – 22:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Shelly E. Hoeve, 43, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$81, and 120 days of unsupervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Abdirizak H. Abdullahi, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Joscelyn O. Baknit, 16, Elkhorn, NE, speeding, \$131; Cale J. Banning, 38, Waukee, IA, speeding, \$121; Adam L. Clark, 23, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Jonathan W. Collett, 29, Kasson, cargo securement violation, \$381; Yesenia Dominguez, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

Nicolle L. Emmert, 36, Baldwin, WI, speeding, \$141; Sarah J. Finn, 19, Oak Creek, WI, speeding, \$141; Sally J. Froman, 39, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$121; Patrick T. Gallagher, 30, Eagan, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$181; Javier Hernandez-Lemus, 34, Postville, IA, invalid license, \$181; Kari R. Johnson, 38, Pierre, SD, speeding, \$121;

Jacob L. Kohagen, 32, Lakeville, speeding, \$141; Daniel W. Nepp, 53, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Michael E. Petersen, 64, Austin, speeding, \$121; Ty D. Rysavy, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Phillip K. Sayles, 33, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Robin A. Schmidt, 54, Claremont, speeding, \$141.

Owatonna Police Department

Pamela K. Brown, 44, Owatonna, text messaging while driving, \$131; Sarah J. Colbert, 47, Owatonna, offering forged check, \$381, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Manuel B. Diaz Escobar, 22, Northfield, no MN license, \$181; Tomeisha C. Dixon, 25, Burnsville, invalid license, \$181; Aubrey M. Hager, 22, Owatonna, assault, \$281, psychological evaluation, cognitive skill training, and 1 year of supervised probation; Amanda M. Hobgood, 33, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131;

Erik S. Huerta, 24, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Raymond J. Kubat, 70, Medford, stop sign, \$131; Donald J. Larson, 45, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Sherry L. McCracken, 30, Minneapolis, disorderly conduct, \$81 and 2 days in county jail;

Pedro J. Munoz Cobos, 48, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181;

Kyle A. Orren, 56, Rochester, failure to yield to emergency vehicle, \$181; Bobby Rankin, 35, Owatonna, domestic abuse – violate order for protection, \$962, 103 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation; Kari A. Schwartz, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Abdi M. Ugaas, 31, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Vanessa Velasquez, 36, Faribault, no MN license, \$181; Donald T. Zilm, 51, Claremont, speeding, \$221.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Alecia N. Caron, 19, Faribault, minor consumption, \$181; Madison L. Dewolfe-Gillis, 17, Faribault, no license in possession, \$101; Tou F. Lo, 20, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Grace E. Logan, 17, New Richmond, speeding, \$221; Timothy S. Melcher, 38, Janesville, speeding, \$141; Jason J. Ost, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$151; Jillian R. Padgett, 30, North Mankato, speeding, \$121; Cynthia M. Proechel, 31, Belle Plaine, speeding, \$131; Thomas J. Ross, 44, Waseca, speeding, \$281; Phillip K. Sayles, 33, Austin, speeding, \$131; David R. Schroht, 26, Owatonna, no license in possession, \$101; Jace D. Shaske, 20, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Robert M. Sikel, 41, Claremont, speeding, \$141; Kimberly A. Stanek, 25, Pine Island, speeding, \$141; Aaron P. Thursdale, 39, Waseca, speeding, \$141.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 228 complaints for the week of May 20 – 26. Some of them include:

May 20 Intoxication. Deputy transported an individual to Detox from the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 9:48 a.m.

May 21 Fraud. A Hayfield citizen called deputies at 12:38 p.m. when she believed that her Kindle and Amazon account had been taken over.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident involving a school bus occurred at State Hwy. 56 and 660th St. in Dodge Center at 3:09 p.m.

May 22 Burglary. At 5:39 p.m., deputies responded to a burglary at a vacant residence in the 15300 block of 560th St. in West Concord.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint at 8:20 p.m. that kids were playing on the train tracks in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Fire. A brush fire occurred at Center Ave. N. and 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 8:55 p.m.

May 23 Sexual Assault. Deputies began an investigation of a sexual assault in the county at 11:21 a.m.

Grass Fire. Deputies received a report of a small grass fire from a blown electrical line in the 16100 block of 740th St. in Hayfield at 11:59 p.m. Hayfield Fire responded and found a blown transformer. There was no active fire.

Fire. At 11:41 p.m., deputies received a report of flames in the 72300 block of 120th Ave. in Blooming Prairie.

May 24 Vulnerable Adult. Deputy received a report of elder neglect in

the 100 block of 1st St. NE in Dodge Center at 11:47 a.m.

Burglary. Deputies responded to a burglary in the 500 block of US Hwy. 14 in Claremont at 12:13 p.m.

Fire. Deputies, Blooming Prairie Fire, Blooming Prairie Ambulance and Hayfield Fire responded to an electrical fire in the 74800 block of 124th Ave. in Blooming Prairie at 8:18 p.m.

Threats. At 9:36 p.m., deputy took report of terroristic threats in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield.

May 25 Fire. Hayfield Fire and Hayfield Ambulance responded to a house fire in the 100 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Hayfield at 11:50 p.m.

May 26 Threats. At 4:26 p.m., deputies received a complaint that a student was receiving death threats from another student in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Hayfield.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 18 – 25:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Luke P. Brown, 28, Medford, DWI and open bottle, \$710, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 50 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Amanda S. Bush, 25, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Noah W. Bussmann, 36, Wykoff, no insurance, speeding and revoked license, \$680; John C. Dehoff, 29, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Kenneth D. Heins, 23, Waltham, possession of Paraphernalia, \$130; Roger W. Johnson, 57, Dodge Center, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment, and 1 year of supervised probation; Mohamed M. Mohamed, 40, Hayfield, speeding, \$140; Gary M. Mount, 37, Kasson, endangerment of a child and possession of hypodermic syringes and needles, \$455, 24 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation and 3 years of supervised probation; Lawrence E. Roles, 64, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Keith A. Rosendahl, 26, West Concord, speeding, \$280; Spencer J. Senn, 19, Dodge Center, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, \$180; Edward J. Skime, 58, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Jeffery A. Smith, 46, Claremont, assault, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, anger management, no contact with victim and 1 year of supervised probation; Maria D. Tapia, 30, Kasson, invalid license and no insurance, \$380; Connor S. Tapp, 20, Lewiston, speeding, \$220; Marcia A. Thompson, 51, Garrison, DWI, \$505, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Jon C. Wersal, 38, Cannon Falls, DWI, \$505, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Kerry L. Wilfert, 54, Keller, TX, speeding, \$140; Samuel N. Wing, 18, Mantorville, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Luis C. Gonzlez, 34, Kasson, invalid license, \$180; Kurt D. Schulz, 46, Mantorville, seat belt, \$105; Carrie L. Sheehan, 44, Kasson,

speeding, \$140; David A. Vorthems, 63, Worthington, seat belt, \$105; Travis J. Wiuff, 37, Kasson, seat belt, \$105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Shannon R. Brown, 33, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Andrew J. Gathje, 20, St. Charles, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; Brenda A. Kubinski, 45, Faribault, speeding, \$120; Cody J. Nappin, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Michael P. Pehler, 29, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Benjamin J. Rendler, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$130.

West Concord Police Department

Jacquelyn R. Gosse, 42, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Choua Yang, 24, St. Paul, speeding, \$140.

Owatonna Fire

May 22 Gas Leak. Fire rescue responded to a gas leak in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 2:35 p.m.

Animal. At 3:07 p.m., fire fighters responded to an animal problem on Main St.

May 23 Brush Fire. A brush fire occurred in the 100 block of School St. W. at 4:35 a.m.

Dumpster Fire. At 11:53 a.m.,

fire fighters responded to a dumpster or other trash receptacle fire in the 2200 block of 4th Ave. SE.

May 26 Crash. At 1 p.m., Owatonna Fire responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35.

Arcing. An arcing, shorted electrical equipment incident occurred in the 200 block of McKinley St. SE at 6:33 p.m.

Carbon Monoxide. Fire personnel responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 11:45 p.m.

May 27 Cooking. A cooking fire in a confined container occurred in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 12:39 a.m.

held for court.

Kerry Charles Bittrich, 25, arrested at 11:39 a.m. May 26, felony controlled substance possession, held for court.

Denise Debra Thompson, 33, arrested at 11:10 p.m. May 26, speeding, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.

Roland Christopher Rodriguez, 27, arrested at 5:07 p.m. May 27, cancelled license and no insurance, held for court.

Jonelle Suezetta Hill, 34, arrested at 1:01 a.m. May 28, felony obstruction of legal process, held for court.

Charles Quartermain Bridgeman, 35, arrested at 1:01 a.m. May 28, assault, damage to property and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Sherry Lynn McCracken, 30, arrested at 2:14 p.m. May 19, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Curtis Daniel Schumann, 35, arrested at 7 p.m. May 22, warrant arrest, body only.

Lausului Falaniko Ah Sani, 45, arrested at 6:17 p.m. May 23, felony domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

Melissa Marie Roseland, 28, arrested at 5 a.m. May 26, warrants arrest, \$6,500 bail.

Alfredo Frias Alvarez, 39, arrested at 1:28 p.m. May 27, warrant arrest, held for court.

Treshawn Shane Johnson, 18, arrested at 6:26 p.m. May 28, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.



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Tractor safety around youth

Summer is finally here! The kids are out of school and enjoying their free time playing in the yard. Some kids may even be helping out around the farm. But wait; is it safe for the children to be helping with certain tasks in and around the farm?

According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), on average, 113 youth less than 20 years of age die annually from farm-related injuries (1995-2002), with most of these deaths occurring to youth 16-19 years of age (34 percent). Of the leading sources of fatal injuries to youth, 23 percent involved machinery (including tractors), 19 percent involved motor vehicles (including ATVs) and 16 percent were due to drowning. Additionally, in 2012, an estimated 14,000 youth were injured on farms, 2,700 of these injuries were due to farm work. Preventing farm incidences is key to keeping your children safe around the farm.

Children are often attracted to equipment of all types and the work that they do. However, tractors are not toys and should not be treated as such. Below are some suggestions on how to keep your children safe around machinery this summer:

Set ground rules – Children should know that equipment can be very dangerous and to stay at a safe distance at all times.

Be aware of your surroundings – Farm equipment has many blind spots and moving parts. Keep watch at all times to avoid collisions. Also, identify potential areas of concern such

ON THE FARM



Karen Anderson

as steps, hitches and PTOs that may cause injury.

Slow down – when driving equipment near children, drive at a slower pace to allow ease of stopping if necessary.

One Seat = One Person – Not only do extra riders distract the operator, there is NO safe place in the majority of farm equipment for an additional person.

If you do want a youth (16 and older) to operate equipment, make sure that he or she is mature and experienced enough to run the equipment safely.

The lives and safety of children is so precious. Please take the time to make sure that your children are safe in and around your farming operation. For more information, feel free to www.farmsafetyforjustkids.org/educational-resources/.

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.

Identifying and responding to early season soybean disease problems

Early detection and diagnosis of soybean emergence problems is important to achieving high yields in Minnesota. Early detection and diagnosis of soybean diseases enables you to minimize yield losses by taking prompt corrective action such as replanting if necessary.

If slow or uneven emergence occurs, dig up the plants and inspect them for signs of disease or damage to the root, hypocotyl or cotyledons.

Seed and seedling diseases of soybean are common and significant problems. They can decrease plant populations that result in replanting and production losses. Several different pathogens can cause these diseases, and the most common tend to be Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, Phytophthora, and Pythium. They can kill and rot seeds before germination or cause seedling death. They are most common when soil is very wet in the first

few weeks after planting and in heavy, poorly-drained soils.

General conditions that promote seed and seedling disease include wet, poorly-drained, and compacted soils. However, the different pathogens have different optimal conditions. For example, Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia are favored by wet & warm soils or moist & warm soils respectively, whereas Pythium is typically favored by wet soils for under both cool and warm soils depending on the species of Pythium present in the field. Seed and seedling diseases may be enhanced by slow germination and growth of soybeans, poor quality seed, and plant stress.

Pythium can attack and rot seeds and seedlings prior to emergence and can cause post-emergence damping-off under wet conditions. The characteristic symptom of most Pythium infections is soft, brownish-

colored, rotting tissue. Thus, Pythium causes symptoms similar to Phytophthora in seedlings, and can only be distinguished by laboratory examination. Although Pythium causes most damage to seeds and seedlings, roots of established plants can be rotted and plants may be stunted.

Fusarium is also a common pathogen that can damage seeds and seedlings. It causes light to dark brown lesions on roots that may spread over much of the root system and may appear shrunken. Fusarium may attack the tap root and promote adventitious root growth near the soil surface and may degrade lateral roots.

Phytophthora can attack and rot seeds prior to emergence, and can cause pre- and post-emergence damping off. It produces tan-brown, soft, rotted tissue. At the primary leaf stage (V1), infected stems appear bruised and soft, secondary roots are rotted, the leaves turn yellow, and plants frequently wilt and die.

Rhizoctonia can damage seeds and plants prior to or after emergence. In seedlings and older plants, a firm, rusty-brown decay or sunken lesion on the root or on the lower stem is a characteristic symptom.

Disease management

Seed and seedling diseases of soybean are difficult to manage, and the different pathogens and diseases require different management approaches. Thus, accurate diagnosis can help in managing them.

In general, planting good-quality seed in well-drained, non-compacted fields can reduce these diseases. Delaying planting until soils are >55°F and relatively dry to allow for rapid emergence and growth can be beneficial. Crop rotation and tillage may be of some benefit. Genetic resistance in soybean varieties is only clearly available for managing Phytophthora infections.

Fungicidal seed treatments may reduce seed and seedling diseases. Seed treatments with two or more active ingredients should typically be used. For example, products containing mefenoxam (ApronXL®) or metalayl (Allegiance®) can be effective against Pythium and Phytophthora, and products containing fludioxonil (Maxim®) or a strobilurin product (azoxystrobin, trifloxystrobin, or pyraclostrobin) may help to reduce damage from true fungi such as Fusarium and Rhizoctonia.

The University of Minnesota Plant Disease Clinic on St. Paul Campus offers routine plant disease diagnosis for growers in Minnesota for a nominal fee. Please consult their web site for additional information at <http://pdc.umn.edu/> for diagnosis options, fees, sample forms and sample preparation directions.

David Nicolai is from Farmington, Minn. He works with the University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Crops.

Agriculture conference set

The 2015 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference will be held in Owatonna from June 15 at 8 a.m. to June 17 at noon.

The Minnesota Pork Board is hosting the conference for youth, 18-22, interested in agriculture.

The first day, the attendees will participate in a fast-paced workshop where they will learn how to develop, manage and leverage relationships as leaders. There will also be an opportunity to network with industry stakeholders.

The second day those at-

tending will tour the Gardens of Eagan and learn what certified organic food production means. In addition, the group will tour the Southern Research and Outreach Center Sow Unit and observe firsthand the production practices that are criticized by special interest groups.

The final day will allow those attending to learn how to advocate for agriculture using value-based messaging in daily conversations, public speaking and media opportunities.

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Minnesota Crop Report

Above average precipitation and cool temperatures across Minnesota restricted farmers to only 3.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending May 31, 2015, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field activities for the week included spraying, cutting hay, and planting.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 86 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 7 percent short, 87 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. This was the first time all season with no subsoil moisture in very short supply.

Ninety-five percent of the Minnesota corn crop had emerged, 17 days ahead of last year and 16 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition rated 70 percent good to percent excellent, a slight increase from the previous week. Soybean planting was 94 percent complete. Seventy-four percent of the soybean acreage had emerged, 12 days ahead of the previous year and 11 days ahead of average.

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Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you go over the different types of housing options available to seniors, and recommend some good resources for locating and choosing one? I need to find a place for my elderly mother, and could use some help.

Searching Daughter

Dear Searching,

There's a wide array of housing options available to seniors, but what's appropriate for your mom will depend on her needs and financial situation. Here's a rundown of the different levels of senior housing and some resources to help you search.

How to compare and locate senior housing options

Independent living: If your mom is in relatively good health and is self-sufficient, "independent living communities" are a good place to start. Typically available to people over age 55, this type of senior housing is usually apartments or town homes that are fully functional.

To locate this type of housing, contact your Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 to get your local number), or use online services like newlifestyles.com and caring.com.

Assisted living: If your mom needs some help with daily living activities, an "assisted living facility" is another option. These facilities provide

personal care (like bathing, dressing, eating, going to the bathroom) as needed, as well as meals, housekeeping, transportation, social activities and medication management.

Another similar, but less expensive option to look into is "board and care homes." These offer many of the same services as assisted living facilities but in a much smaller home setting.

And for help choosing a facility, the Assisted Living Federation of America offers an excellent guide at alfa.org/ checklist.

Nursing homes: If your mom needs ongoing medical and personal care, a "nursing

home," which provides 24-hour skilled nursing care, is the next option. To find a good one, use Medicare's nursing home compare tool at medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare.

Continuing-care retirement communities (CCRC's): If your mom has the financial resources, a "CCRC" is another excellent option that provides all levels of housing (independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing home care) in one convenient location.

Need Help?

Consider hiring an aging life care expert (aginglifecare.org) who can evaluate your mom's situation, and find appropriate

housing for a fee. Or, you can use a senior-care advising service like A Place for Mom (aplaceformom.com, 866-344-8005) for free.

Some other helpful resources include the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information (longtermcare.gov), and your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (shiaptalk.org), which provides free counseling.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Editor
May 31, 2005

The weather was as nice as it could be to the Class of 2005, as they proudly switched their tassels on receiving their diplomas and thus, became history on Sunday May 29.

Sixty-three seniors took their place in the Blooming Prairie High School gym and individually received the official paper showing that they were now alumni of the school. The gym was packed as usual with par-

ents, friends and relatives who shared in the momentous day for the graduates.

The class of 2005 came to their seats as the high school band, directed by Ross Reishus, played the processional "Pomp and Circumstance." The invocation was given by Sara Romeo followed by the selection Seagate Overture (James Swearingen) by the high school band.

Superintendent Barry Olson introduced the speakers on the day. The first ones were valedictorian Kari Lueth, then Lauren Trotman, who both took

their turns sharing thoughts with their classmates and the filled gym.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Singer, Editor
June 6, 1995

Despite the ceremony was inside, the sun shone down on the 94th Blooming Prairie High School graduating class Sunday June 4 as 71 seniors were handed their diplomas. The high school band started the ceremony off with the processional promptly at 2 p.m., with Tony Cavnetto

directing the band. Invocation followed by Jamie Lea, a senior class member.

Superintendent Peterson introduced the speakers, with valedictorian Jason Jacobusse speaking first, then salutatorian Craig Angell. Principal Dennis Roos announced the presentation of the class while Chairmen of the local school board, Wayne Bishop, handed out diplomas.

The class flower chosen was the white rose with tip dipped in purple and class colors were purple, black and silver.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
June 3, 1965

Eighty-seven seniors Blooming Prairie High School seniors will climax twelve years of formal schooling on Thursday night of this week, June 3, when they solemnly march down the aisle at the high school auditorium to play the leading role in the 63rd commencement exercises of the alma mater. The program will start at 8 p.m.

Gowned in reverent robes the eighty-seven graduates will sit

through the formal program and the march one by one across the stage to receive their coveted diplomas from Alvin M. Uland, chairman of the board of education.

Also of note, Gary Kubista, of Mr. and Mrs. Kubista, Route 1, Blooming Prairie, has earned the highest honors of the class of Concordia Academy, St. Paul, 1965 graduating class. He will give the valedictorian on June 5, 1965. Commencement in the Lutheran Memorial Center on the Concordia Academy Campus.

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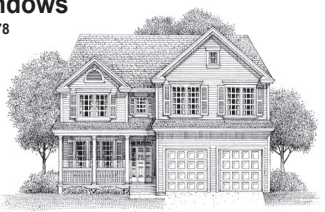
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Community

“Planting & Growing God’s Love” community Vacation Bible School starts June 10

First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie welcomes community residents of all ages for a multi-generational, family Vacation Bible School (VBS) experience Wednesdays from June 10 to July 8.

A registration fee of \$5 per child or \$20 family max is suggested, but not required.

“Growing & Planting God’s Love” is the VBS theme that will focus family learning around stories, science and

building stations. Join us for digging into God’s word by digging in the dirt and watching our faith grow along with our plants, sowing seeds, pizza gardens, family picnics, campfire worship, popcorn, seed bombs, 4th of July float building and parade walking, caring for our planet, letting God’s love reach you through nature, AND SO MUCH MORE!

Here’s the weekly Wednesday schedule of events:

* 5:30 p.m.: Picnic Supper
Let’s break bread together over a family picnic supper in the church courtyard! (free will donations accepted)

* 6-7 p.m.: All Ages Bible School Stations Sow, plant, grow pizza garden seeds, seed bombs and other cool stuff! Also, help us build (and walk in) the First Lutheran parade float for the Blooming Prairie 4th of July celebration!

* 7 p.m.: Campfire Worship

Come to hear and share the Good News around the fire—bring your own lawn chair and plan for tasty camp treats!

Bring your family, neighbors and friends, whether they’re one or 100—all are welcome each week! For more information, contact First Lutheran Church at 583-6621 or connect with us at Firstlutheranbp.com or [Facebook.com/firstlutheranbp](https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranbp) for the full schedule of Wednesday events or for weekly updates!

Former NRHEG star hangs out with BP players



Submitted photos

ABOVE: Minnesota Gophers star basketball player Charlie Wagner spent some time with some young Blooming Prairie basketball players on a special day made possible by the Blooming Prairie Ed Foundation auction. She participated in a shoot around with Riauna Bishop, Julia Worke, Maya and Macy Lembke, Maggie and Bobbie Bruns and Ty and Maren Forystek.

RIGHT: team played some hoops with Riauna Bishop and others at the Blooming Prairie High School on a recent Memorial Day.

University of Minnesota star freshman basketball player Charlie Wagner, a New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School graduate, hung out with some young Blooming Prairie basketball players on Memorial Day, May 25.

Charlie donated a basketball shoot around as an auction item for the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auction.

Participating in the shoot around with Charlie were Riauna Bishop, Julia Worke, Maya and Macy Lembke, Maggie and Bobbie Bruns and Ty and Maren Forystek. The kids had a blast spending two hours doing some drills, talking to Charlie, getting autographs, and playing a little scrimmage. After, they went to the Blooming Prairie DQ and had lunch. Lunch was donated by Jeff and Sue Zwiener.

Read to the Rhythm is underway

Summer has arrived at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library! Our Summer Reading Program, Read to the Rhythm, has begun. Children received the schedule of programs at the elementary school. If you didn’t get one, or if you have grandchildren who will be visiting this summer, stop at the library for your own copy.

We have programs planned Monday through Thursday of almost every week. Children’s movies will be shown at 2 p.m. on Monday afternoons. Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. is our story time, Tale Time, which includes a craft in addition to stories, songs and rhymes. The 4-H brings the hands-on Adventure Club to the library on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. The only requirement to be a member is to be 5 years or older. Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. we have a variety of entertainers.

Even when there are not any programs, the library has a lot

Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

to offer this summer. Books, magazines, CDs, and movies can be checked out. There are also computers to use, although during the summer we limit the youth to one turn per day so others can have a turn also. Come in to pick up your reading log – reading just 20 minutes a day for at least ten days per month will allow you to come to our monthly Book Fairs where you can pick up a book of your own to keep. See you at the library!



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June 5 Doug Johnson, Kara Trotman	June 6 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Schabert
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June 7 Loretta Ingvalson, Leigh Yentsch, Veronica Brown, Jane Easton, Monica Lea, Kevin Tocki, Doris Lea	June 8 Bryan & Cheryl Hernandez Cletus & Sharon Glynn
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Students preparing to graduate

The following students were candidates for graduation after the spring 2015 session at South Dakota State University. More than 1,500 students were eligible for graduation.

The names of honor graduates marked with WH designate graduation with honor; WHH, with highest honor; CL, cum laude; MCL, magna cum laude; and SCL, summa cum laude.

Several students received two-or-more degrees or certificates from a college. They are: Kacy Jo Magnus, Blooming Prairie, Doctor of Pharmacy, Graduate School; Benjamin Allen Choudek, Owatonna, Bachelor of Science, Agriculture and Biological Sciences; Joshua John Ladwig, Kasson, Doctor of Pharmacy, Graduate School; McKenzi Dow Kohnhofer, Mantorville, Bachelor of Science, Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

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Pastor's Corner

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I recently acquired a new-to-me couch and – can you believe it? – it was free. I'm one of those DIY/refurbish/make-something-old-new kind of people and this couch was exactly that for which I had been searching.

Later, a free side table followed to go with the free-from-my-mom ottoman. In my living room, the best things have been free. The best things

in life are free. Relationships that bring joy, love, sunshine, couches, GOD'S LOVE & GRACE.

When I found this awesome couch, the owner told me it was mine; all I had to do was haul it away. The same goes for this deep grace and abiding love of God – it's ours. And we don't even have to haul it or load it up or do anything; it's ours already. Free of charge. Given for nothing in exchange.

I was beyond giddy at the thought of a free awesome couch; how much more giddy and excited and grateful

and thankful can we be at the gift of grace and love and identity as children of God?

Thanks be to God for this free, no-out-of-pocket-cost gift! What a deep truth this well-known saying reveals to us in our daily walk of faith. The best things in life are free.

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Red Oak Lutheran Grove Church*

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Area Church Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale, MN
(507) 465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

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www.peaceclaremont.osthost.org

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Good Friday, April 3, at 7pm
April 11, 18, 25 Saturday Evenings

Services at 6pm
(no service on April 4th)

April 5, 12, 19, 26 Sunday Morning
Services at 10:30am

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

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104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.



TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

9:30 a.m. worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

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Pastor Patti Meyer
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Worship 10:30 a.m.

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Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

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Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
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Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

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www.cedarcreekchurch.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com

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2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study

Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

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Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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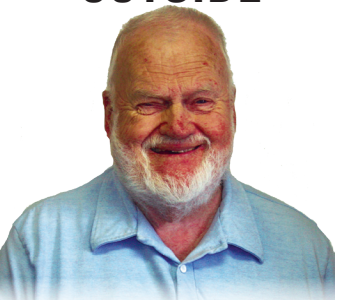
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A day to remember

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

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

Still in action

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

I would think that some track competitors, like Taylor Hagen, Alec Ille or Cole Sunde, might have a chance to move on, and either or both Taylor Christianson or Tommy Braaten stand an opportunity to advance to the state meet. The softball team may have a tougher time in the section, but neither do I count them out. Credit goes to Coach Ali Mach and the team for getting to the section again. It will be interesting, for sure.

Finally, although the team had another losing season, Coach Matt Kittelson deserves some credit for keeping the baseball team enthused about playing the game and having fun doing it. The boys certainly didn't give up at any point during the

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

NRHEG BASEBALL

TCU ends Panthers season

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

A 4-1 loss to Tri-City United ended the Panthers' sub-section runs on Thursday, May 28, ending a season of ups and downs for the Panthers and their new coach, Drew Paukert.

While the season may be over, Paukert says he hopes the season proved to be the first step toward years of excellent baseball under his tutelage.

"I felt my first season as a head coach was a success," said Paukert. "The boys were able to see what I was trying to get them to do would allow us to be suc-

cessful when we got out to that 5-2 start."

The quick start was short-lived, however, as the Panthers finished the season 1-10, with a single win against Blooming Prairie.

"We went through our ups and downs losing 10 of our last 11 games, but the boys kept coming to practice each and every day ready to work and did everything that I asked of them all season," said Paukert.

Paukert added that he was encouraged by assistant coaches and parents who informed him that the players had grown tremendously from the year prior.

"(The team) really showed a lot of fight this year, battling a number of great teams, and (they) showed they can play with anyone in our area," said Paukert. "I felt our seniors provided our younger players with tremendous leadership, and those younger guys will know what it is like to be a positive, successful leader of a team."

The leadership and continuous fight of the Panthers landed them one of the biggest wins of the season, a 10-4 victory against

NRHEG BASEBALL
Continued on Page 6A



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior Grant Kylo sprints to third on an NRHEG hit against Waseca on Wednesday, May 27. The Panthers lost 8-2.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Hagen to state



Staff photos by James Knoop
A throw of 38-7 3/4 was good enough to secure second place at the Section 1A tournament and give Blooming Prairie's Taylor Hagen a shot at the state tournament. Read the full story on 2B.

OWATONNA LACROSSE

Boys and girls both fall early in section play

By JAMES KNOOP
Staff Sports Writer

The boys and girls lacrosse teams both ended their seasons this week in section play.

The boys were eliminated early in a 15-1 loss to top-seed Lakeville North. The girls managed to secure a first round 13-6 victory against Rochester Century, but fell 15-2 against Lakeville South to end their playoff run.

Boys lacrosse

The lacrosse boys faced a difficult road this season, losing 10-straight games before finally finding a win against Robbinsdale Cooper. The boys were never able to pull off a home victory, as the win at Robbinsdale Cooper proved the only victory of the season.

Coach Scott Seykora said throughout the year that the

boys grew in different areas of the game, and despite the single win, the boys kept several games close, losing three games by three or fewer goals and five games by five or fewer.

The team ended the season 1-13. They will graduate nine players, including: Damon Summer, Julian Bednar, Daniel Prissel, Christian Reese, Jacob Harrison, Nate Clark, Seth Huseby, Ben Callen and Aaron Tryhus.

Girls lacrosse

The lacrosse girls found a lot of success this season, finishing with an 8-4 regular season record.

The girls boasted a high-octane offense, averaging over 11 points a game in their eight wins and allowing an average of just over two.

The four regular season losses came against Bloomington Kennedy, Farmington, Prior Lake

and Eagan.

In the first round of sections, the Huskies faced Rochester Century, a team they had defeated 11-1 earlier in the season. While the playoff game would prove somewhat closer, the Huskies still mounted 13 points on offense, allowing only six in the 13-6 win.

The final game of the season came against Lakeville South on Friday, May 29. Lakeville South came into the game undefeated — a perfect 13-0.

The Huskies proved no match for the hot Cougars, scoring only two goals in the 15-2 mauling.

The girls ended the season 9-5 overall. The team lost eight seniors, including: Kayla Kniefel, Krista Kniefel, Olivia Oland, Elizabeth Louks, Carlee Malueg, Katie Johnson, Abby Wilker and Kacy Borwege.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Junior Zach Korpi attempts to hold onto the ball as he's forced to the ground in a 16-4 loss against Park High School.

OWATONNA BASEBALL

Hot bats roll huskies into section championship

By **JAMES KNOOP**
County Sports Editor

Coaches often preach that no matter how you play in the regular season, it's the playoffs that really count. That has been the case for the hot-hitting Huskies this May.

The boys baseball team ended the regular season with an 8-11

record. The record wasn't bad by any means, but not necessarily anything to write home about. Those same boys have seemingly turned a new leaf to end the month of May, winning four of five section playoff games and earning themselves a chance at a Section 1AAA championship.

The Huskies finished the final week of the regular season 2-3,

with two straight losses leading into their first section game against Winona. Owatonna had defeated Winona 8-2 a week earlier and took care of business once again, defeating their opponent 11-1 in five innings.

The win propelled the Huskies to the second round of play in a matchup against Rochester John Marshall. The two teams

had played two close games earlier in the season, with Rochester edging the Huskies twice, 7-5 and 6-5. The Huskies had different plans in the playoffs, however, defeating the Rockets 5-1.

Owatonna then took care of business against Hastings in a 9-6 victory. The win boosted the Huskies yet another round,

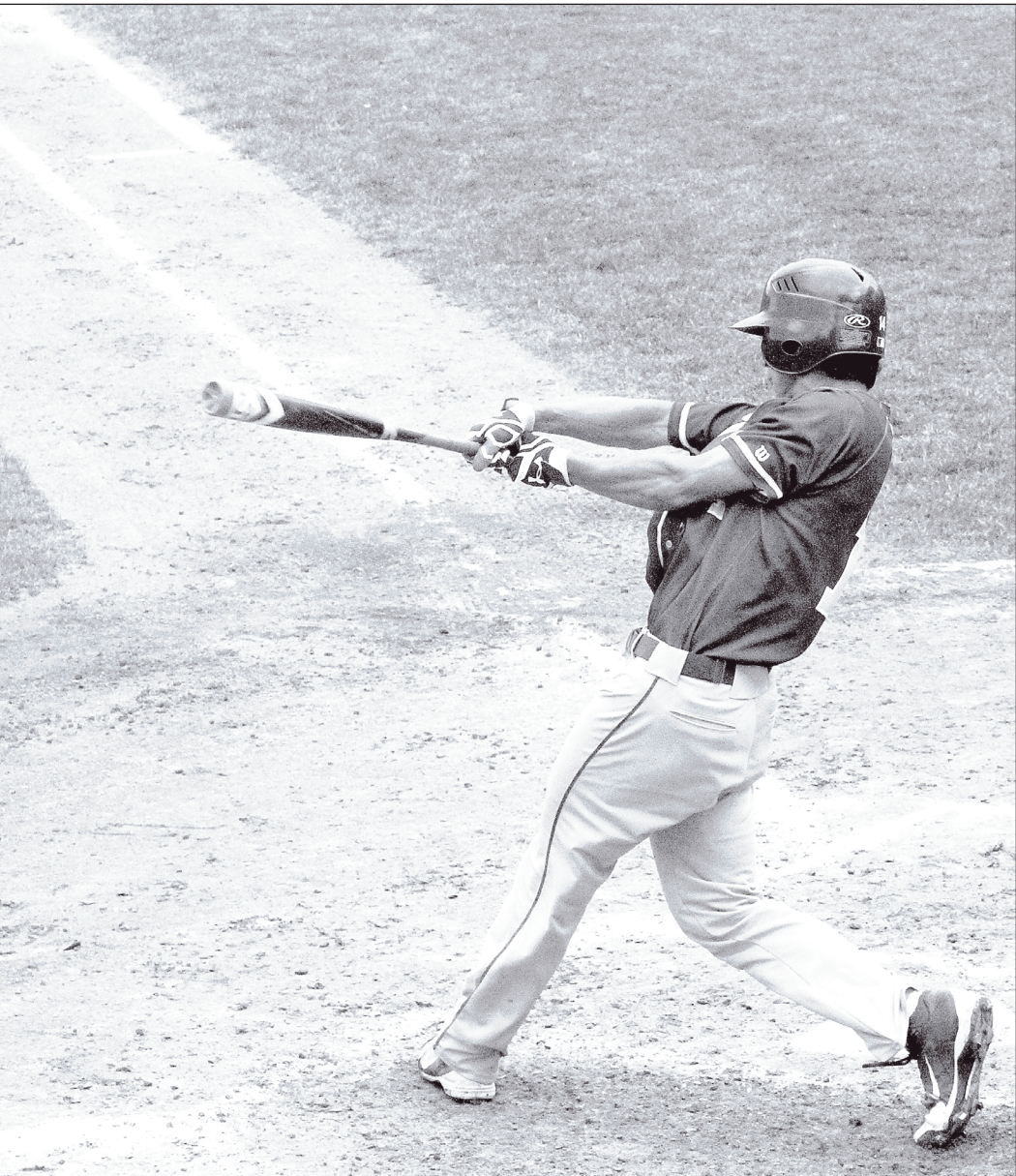
handing them a matchup against Northfield. A win would have given the Huskies entry into the championship game, but top-ranked Northfield easily defeated the Huskies in a five-inning 13-2 win.

Despite the difficult loss, the Huskies bounced back, defeating Hastings once again, this time in the loser's bracket, though the

2-1 final proved much closer than the first matchup.

The win gave the Huskies a chance at the 1AAA championship, but they will have to beat Northfield twice to claim the title.

The first game will take place Tuesday, June 2, at 5 p.m., with the second game scheduled for 7:30 p.m., if necessary.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Senior Isaac Rocha connects with the baseball against Mankato West.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TRACK AND FIELD

Hagen takes 2nd at sections; advances to state

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

Senior Taylor Hagen became the second Blooming Prairie athlete to earn a trip to state competition. She placed second in the shot put at the Section 1A meet Thursday, May 28, to join sophomore Taylor Christianson, who had taken medalist honors in the Section 1A golf tournament just two days earlier.

Hagen will compete in the state track meet at Hamline University this Friday and Saturday, June 5-6, while Christianson will be golfing at Turtle Creek Course near Becker on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9-10.

Christianson had carded a 173 total for the 36 holes to earn her medalist honors, and Hagen threw the shot put 38-7 3/4 to claim second in that event.

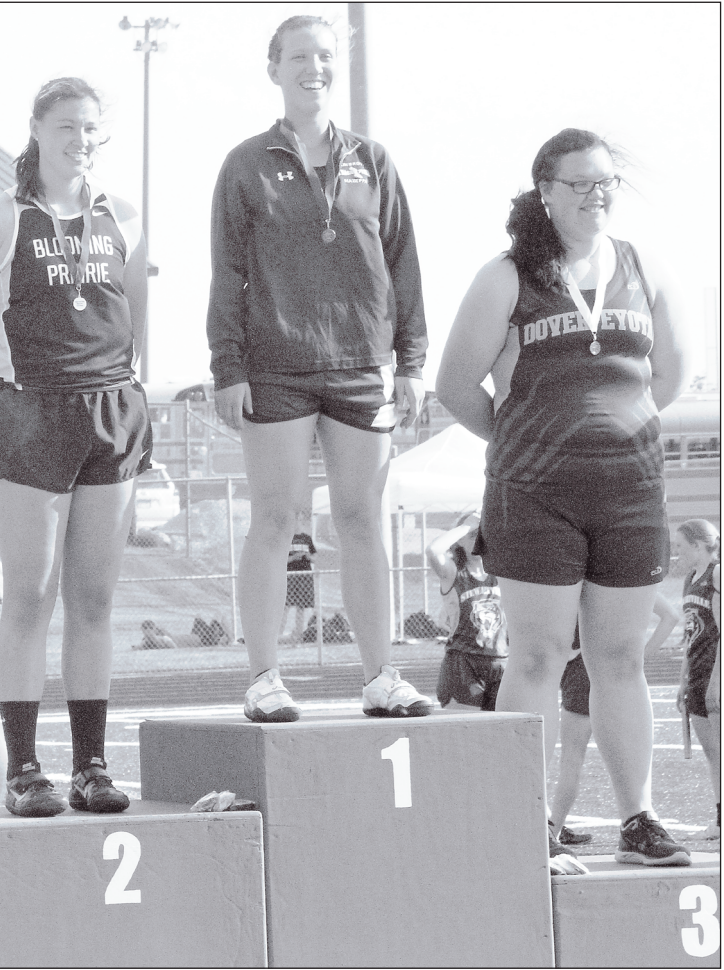
Hagen also placed third in the discus with a toss of 110-0. Cole Sunde placed in two individual events and the 4x100-meter relay race. He took fourth in the long jump at 20-10 1/4 and finished sixth in the triple jump. The 4x100-meter relay team of Sunde, Kevin Eischens, Weston Myer and Anthony Nelson ran fifth in 45.21.

Two other girls also placed at the section meet. Alison Pryor placed eighth in the 3,200-meter run, and Lauren Larkoski picked up a point with a ninth in the

400-meter dash.

Plainview-Elgin-Millville took the team title for both the boys and girls, while Byron

claimed second for the boys and Pine Island was second to PEM for the girls.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie's Taylor Hagen took the stand with a second place medal, qualifying for a trip to state with her throw of 38-7 3/4.

Good Luck Taylor

Taylor Hagen

qualified for the State Track Meet in shot put!!

The state tournament will be held at Hamline University, St. Paul
June 5-6, 2015

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued from Page 1B

season, and they are to be commended for that attitude.

Moving on

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

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

for being a part of an upper class college softball team, and we will undoubtedly hear more from them next season.

Another year gone

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

Although there have been a few occasions when I have struggled to find items I think worthy of a column, I honestly cannot find one moment of regret. Now, just as the high school sports scene winds up

another year, I also wind up another campaign of writing.

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

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

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Two end season

Both Tricia DeBoer and Shelli Swenson, former BPHS softball standouts, recently wound up the season at their respective colleges. DeBoer steadily improved her year at St. Cloud State University, finishing her junior year with a .304 batting average. She had 42 hits, including seven doubles, a triple and 15 RBIs. She succeeded in five of seven steal attempts for the team that compiled a 31-27 record for the season.

Sophomore Swenson's Bethel team captured the MIAC championship, but was upset by St. Thomas in the playoffs. Swenson hit just .216, but she had two doubles, a triple and a home run among her 16 base hits. Both players should be commended

Lansing, Minn.

These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of May 30.

The Chateau Raceway in Lansing, Minn., was forced to cancel the racing program on Friday, May 29 due to inclement weather. Racing will resume this Friday, June 5 with hot laps at 6:30 p.m. and racing to follow.

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE SOFTBALL

Fillmore Central ends Blossoms' playoff run

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Four unearned runs in the first two innings provided plenty of runs for Fillmore Central, as the Falcons defeated the Blooming Prairie softball team, 10-0 at Todd Park in Austin on Wednesday, May 26.

The six-inning loss in the losers' bracket of the section 1A tournament ended the BP season with a team record of 11-11.

Two errors and a single gave FC two runs in the first inning, and a walk, a single and another costly error led to two more runs in the second and a 4-0 lead. That would be more than enough for Falcon senior hurler Morgan Malley, who struck out the first seven batters she faced and wound up with 14 strikeouts for the game.

As Blossom coach Ali Mach commented, "Besides a better than average fast ball, Malley had a very good changeup that kept our hitters off balance all day. She is one of the better pitchers we faced all year."

BP's only hit for the game was a roller to second that Tessa Ivers beat out after two had gone down earlier. BP pitcher Elly Strunk kept the Falcons score-

less in the third and fourth innings, but the winners added two runs in the fifth on three straight hits, including a double for Kaitlyn Aug; and they closed out the scoring with four more runs in the sixth on a walk, a two-base error and two more base hits. The locals went down in order in the bottom of the sixth to give FC the easy victory.

"You can't give a good team extra outs," concluded Coach Mach, "and that took us out of the game. Malley's pitching took care of the rest. Despite the loss, I am happy with the way this young group of players played and improved over the season. The experience should help us get better in another year."

Fillmore Central had 10 runs, 11 hits, one error; BP had no runs, one hit and four errors. Malley earned the win for the Falcons, while Strunk took the loss. She walked two and had eight strikeouts.

Malley gave up two walks to go along with the 14 strikeouts and the one scratch hit allowed. Tayah Barnes, Aug and Steph Erickson all had two hits each for Fillmore Central.



Senior Jessica Ferguson gets a hit during the Section 1A tournament in Austin.

Staff photo by James Knoop

NRHEG BASEBALL
Continued from Page 1B

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown in the first game of the sub-section tournament. The Panthers had defeated WEM 13-13 early in the season but fell 9-0 during their eight-game losing streak.

"Beating WEM was a huge win for both our season and our program moving forward," said Paukert. "It was one of the bigger wins in recent history for the Panthers baseball program. It really showed our boys what we are capable of doing when we can (compete) up to our potential and play a complete game."

Paukert added that the win proved that the playoffs create a clean slate for teams — a brand new season.

"It is important to make sure you are playing your best baseball at the end of May, because anything can happen, like we proved against WEM," said Paukert.

Paukert added that the win against WEM was bigger than just one game.

"Getting that big sub-section win over WEM was a great first playoff game and win for me as a head coach," said Paukert. "I feel that win gave a lot of our fans and younger players some excitement for the future. I know some parents made comments to me about younger kids in the stands that night wanting to be apart of exciting games

like that when they get to the varsity level. I believe I got the program moving forward in the right direction and (I) look forward to the years ahead."

The exciting win against WEM proved to be the last of the season, as NRHEG took back-to-back losses against Waseca and Tri-City United to end the Panthers' playoff run. Waseca sophomore pitcher Eric Maas proved to be too much for the Panthers' hitters, as the Blue Jays allowed only two runs from the NRHEG offense.

"Maas did a nice job Wednesday night," said Paukert. "Coming into the game, we knew he was a fastball pitcher, and that

held to be true. Our guys struggled to keep up with his fastball, we were trying to pull the baseball, when versus a pitcher like Maas, you are most effective going the opposite field with the ball, because you're not going to get around on him most times."

Paukert also added that the Blue Jays ran their offense game brilliantly, playing small ball and moving runners base to base.

"They are disciplined at the plate and don't swing at a lot of pitches out of the zone, which

forces the pitcher to come into the zone," said Paukert.

Disciplined batting by Waseca, and a handful of walks and errors by NRHEG earned the Blue Jays eight runs in the 8-2 final.

Down 4-0 in the seventh inning, NRHEG managed to score one run and load the bases with leadoff hitter Trevor Tracy at the plate. However, senior pitcher Ryan Thompson was up to the task, retiring the senior batter to secure the Waseca win. Stranded runners and a first in-

ning throwing error hurt the Panthers in what was otherwise a well-played game. NRHEG had nine hits and only allowed four against Tri-City United, but a three-run fifth-inning off three hits gave TCU a solid 4-0 lead that would prove too much to overcome for the Panthers.

The Panthers ended the season 7-14 overall. They will retire seven seniors, including: Grant Kylo, Jet Wayne, Andy Shutrop, Trevor Tracy, Dakota Thiele, Matt Jensen and Spencer Tollefson.



Panthers' CJ Schiltz dives for the throw after Waseca runner, Jacob Walter, steals second base. Walter advanced to third base on the throwing error.

Golfer advances to state

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Sophomore Taylor Christianson will be making her second straight trip to the state tournament at Turtle Creek Golf Course after earning medalist honors at the Section 1A meet at the Willow Creek Course in Rochester on Tuesday, May 26.

She finished the two-day tournament two strokes ahead of Fillmore Central's Grace Miller 173 to 175.

BP'S Tommy Braaten just missed his second trip to state by finishing seventh in the boys' division with a two-day total of 165, one stroke behind Tyler Sloan of LGM who carded a 164. Braaten had a fine first day 77, but ballooned to an 88 in the

second day of the meet.

Christianson carded an 89 in her first day a week ago, but then shot an 84 the second day for her two-stroke edge over Miller and a nine-stroke advantage over the number three golfer. Alexa Rudlong placed 17th with a 225 total, and Sabrina Stanley shot a 239 for the other Blossom score. Fillmore Central took the team title, with Wabasha-Kellogg second.

Behind Braaten's seventh place BP's Jon hatch carded a 176, and Brody Carlson shot 94 in the two-day event. Fillmore Central took first and Hayfield second in the boys' team competition.

Last year Christianson barely made the state tournament with a fifth place finish in the section

and then finished 40th in the state tournament. She wasn't taking any chances this year with her fine two days of golf. She has a stroke average in the low 40's for 9 holes and around 86 for her 18-hole efforts.

As Coach Erik Vigeland remarked, "Taylor devotes a lot of time into the game of golf, not just during the season, but all year round. I'm very proud of the success she's had this season. The section meet was played under tough conditions, especially the second day rounds, and she handled the course with confidence and good shot-making."

Good Luck Taylor

Taylor Christianson

qualified for the State Golf Meet!!

The state golf meet will be held on the Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker, Minn.
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Gopher Conference

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

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

Big 9 Conference

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

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

Boys Lacrosse

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

Girls Lacrosse

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

BASEBALL

Blooming Prairie

April 20... at WEM W 15-14 (9 innings)
April 23... vs. NRHEG L 10-3
April 27... at Faribault B.A. L 8-2
April 28...vs Randolph L 8-0
April 30... at Maple River L 15-0
April 30... at Maple River W 7-4
May 1... vs. Triton L 22-8
May 4... at Medford L 10-1
May 5... at Hayfield L 4-2
May 7... at USC L 6-1
May 8... at Mankato Loyola L 10-5
May 12... vs. WEM L 10-1
May 14... at NRHEG L 5-2
May 15... at NRHEG L 5-3
May 18... vs. Goodhue L 12-1
May 21... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 6-4

Medford

April 20... vs. NRHEG W 4-3
April 23... at WEM L 6-3
April 24... vs. Maple River W 13-3
April 28... at USC L 5-2
April 30... at Faribault B.A. W 6-5
April 30... at Faribault B.A. L 16-12 (8 innings)
May 4... vs. Blooming Prairie W 10-1
May 5... vs. Triton L 6-2
May 7... vs. Randolph POSTPONED
May 9... vs. Schaeffer Academy L 5-4
May 9... vs. Bethany Academy W 3-2
May 11... at NRHEG W 11-4
May 15... vs. WEM L 3-1
May 21... vs. Southland W 7-6
May 23... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 11-1
... vs. Lyfe/Austin Pacelli L 6-5

NRHEG

April 20... at. Medford L 4-3
April 21... vs. Zumbrota-Mazeppa W 13-3
April 23... at Blooming Prairie W 10-3
April 28... vs. Faribault B.A. L 10-6
April 30... at USC L 5-3
April 30... at USC L 6-7
May 4... at WEM L 9-0
May 5... vs. Kenyon-Wanamingo 11-1
May 7... at Maple River L 10-9
May 9... vs. PACT Charter School L 8-4
May 11... vs. Medford L 11-4
May 14... vs. Blooming Prairie W 5-2
May 16... vs. Albert Lea L 13-0
May 19... vs. Blue Earth Area L 5-3
May 22... Sub-Section
... at WEM W 10-4
May 27... Sub Section
... at Waseca L 8-2
May 28... at Tri-City United L 4-1

Owatonna

April 23... vs. Rochester Mayo W 3-2 (8 innings)
April 27... vs. Rochester JM L 7-5
April 28... at Northfield L 12-2

April 29... at Rochester JM L 6-5
April 30... vs. Faribault W 10-0
May 5... at Mankato West L 5-1
May 8... vs. Mankato West L 12-0
May 8... vs. St. Cloud Apollo W 9-4
May 12... vs. Austin L 2-1
May 13... at Winona W 8-2
May 15... vs. RicoriL 5-0
May 18... at Red Wing L 4-2
May 21... vs. Winona W 11-1 (Sections)
May 23... at Rochester JM W 5-1 (Sections)
May 25... vs. Hastings W 9-6 (Sections)
May 30... vs. Northfield L 13-2 (Sections)
May 30... vs. Hastings W 2-1 (Sections)
June 2... vs. Northfield

SOFTBALL

Blooming Prairie

April 20... at WEM W 12-7
April 23... at Byron L 6-5
April 25... vs. Pine Island L 10-0
April 25... at Austin L 15-4
April 28... at Randolph W 11-9
April 30... at Maple River L 14-1
May 4... vs. Triton L 3-2
May 5... at Pine Island L 17-5
May 7... vs. USC W 13-3
May 8... vs. Mankato Loyola L 5-4
May 9... vs. Waseca DH W 4-3, W 13-4
May 12... at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 7-4
May 15... vs. NRHEG L 8-2
May 18... vs. Blenville-Emmons W 11-1
May 20... Sub-Sections
vs. WEM W 11-1
May 22... Sub-Sections
...vs. Hayfield L 5-0
...vs. WEM W 10-4
May 26... Sections
... vs. Fillmore Central L 10-0

Medford

April 20... vs. NRHEG L 32-0
April 23... vs. WEM L 14-5
April 27... at St. Clair L 20-6
April 28... at Lyle/Austin Pacelli L 8-4
April 30... vs. Faribault B.A. L 22-6
May 1... vs. Glenville-Emmons W 8-6
May 4... at JWP L 18-8
May 5... at USC L 26-5
May 7... vs. Randolph CANCELLED
May 9... at Plainview-Elgin-Millville L 35-3
May 11... at NRHEG L 15-0
May 14... at WEM L 11-1
May 18... Sub-sections
... vs. Southland L 16-3

NRHEG

May 5... AT WEM L 8-7
May 7... vs. Maple River W 7-2
May 9... at Kenyon-Wanamingo W 6-0
... vs. New York Mills W 9-2
May 11... vs. Medford W 15-0
May 14... at Blooming Prairie W 8-2
May 19... Sub-Section
...vs. Tri-City United L 13-0

Owatonna

May 5... vs. Albert Lea W 7-5
May 7... at Mankato West L 6-0
May 7... at Mankato West W 5-4
May 8... vs. Farmington L 7-2
May 12... at Austin W 6-5
May 14... vs. Winona L 8-4
May 15... at Rochester Century L 7-1
May 20... Sub-Sections
...vs. Austin W 4-2
... vs. Hastings L 6-3
May 22... Sub-Sections
... vs. Lakeville South L 11-9

TRACK AND FIELD

Blooming Prairie

May 5... at Triton
May 12... at NRHEG
May 21... at Grand Meadow
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

Medford

May 5... at Triton
May 7... Home Invitational
May 12... at NRHEG
May 19... at Byron
May 26... at Triton (Sections)
May 28... at Triton (Sections)

NRHEG

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

Owatonna

May 12... Home Invitational (Girls)
May 15... at Sillwater (Girls True Tream)
May 22... at Mankato East (Boys and girls)
May 28... at Lakeville South (Sections)
May 30... at Lakeville South (Sections)

OWATONNA GIRLS LACROSSE

May 14... vs. Rochester Century Postponed
May 16... at Prior Lake L 8-1
May 18... vs. Rochester JM W 7-2
May 21... vs. Eagan L 8-7
May 27... vs. Rochester Century W 13-6 (Sections)
May 29... at Lakeville South L 15-2 (Sections)

OWATONNA BOYS LACROSSE

May 5... vs. Rochester Mayo L 17-9
May 14... vs. Rochester Century L16-3
May 16... at Robbinsdale Cooper W 18-2
May 22... Park (Cottage Grove) L 16-4
May 26... at Lakeville North L 15-1 (Sections)

GIRLS GOLF

Blooming Prairie

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

NRHEG

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

Owatonna

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

BOYS GOLF

Blooming Prairie

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

Medford

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

NRHEG

April 27... at Blooming Prairie
April 28... at Triton
May 7... at Faribault B.A.
May 11... at Waseca
May 14... at 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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News/Sports

Schumaker named Owatonna Police Officer of the Year

By ANNA SEGNER
Staff Writer

On Thursday, May 28, Zachary Schumaker was awarded the honor of “Police Officer of the Year.” Moonlighter’s Exchange Club of Owatonna sponsored this recognition banquet, which was held at the VFW in Owatonna at 6 p.m.

Many community members and members of the Owatonna Police Department attended this banquet to honor Schumaker and the outstanding service that he has extended to the Owatonna community.

Schumaker was handed the award by Moonlighter’s Exchange Club’s President-Elect Ben Cass and President of Moonlighter’s Exchange Club Trudy Pierce. On accepting the

award, Schumaker said “This award means so much to me and my family. The department, they’re not just co-workers; they’re family to me at this point.” He also thanked his family, who were in attendance, for their support.

Schumaker is from Albert Lea, and he received his bachelor’s degree in Law Enforcement from Minnesota State University in Mankato. On Oct. 24, 2012, Schumaker became a full-time police officer with the Owatonna Police Department after working part time for a while.

Schumaker serves the community in various ways. He has assisted the Explorer’s Program as an advisor for the past three years. This program allows high school and early college aged

students to learn about the scenario-based work of police officers. He has also participated in “Shop with a Cop,” Big Brother’s Big Sister’s “Fishing with a Cop,” and Safety Camp. Police Chief Keith Hiller also spoke to the quality of Schumaker’s performance, especially in traffic safety.

The banquet was kicked off by a welcome from Cass and Pierce of the Moonlighter’s Exchange Club. Pastor of First Baptist Church Cindy Halverson led the invocation. Owatonna Police Department gave the Presentation of Colors.

Special Guests Mayor Tom Kuntz spoke to the crowd and said “As the mayor of Owatonna, I couldn’t be prouder of our law enforcement.”

The keynote speaker for the

evening was writer, speaker and storyteller Al Batt. Batt writes nature and humor columns for various newspapers, and he has experience with radio talk shows. Batt had the crowd laughing as he told stories about his childhood interpretations of police officers and teenage experiences of “dragging main.”

The evening was dedicated to celebrating and honoring the work of the community’s law enforcement. Both active and retired members of law enforcement were also recognized. “The men and women in uniform, you are all like Zachary. You strive for excellence every day,” said Hiller. “I couldn’t be more proud to work with you every day.”



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Zachary Schumaker was awarded the honor of “Police Officer of the Year.”



Section 1A Track and Field Championships



Staff photos by James Knoop
TOP LEFT: Coach Kevin Werk gives some words of advice to Medford pole-vaulter Callie Nagel. Nagel vaulted a 9-02 for eighth place.
TOP RIGHT: The Medford 4x100-meter relay team took fourth at the Section 1A championship finals with a time of 53.38.
LEFT: Cole Sundae received fourth in the long jump with a 20-10 1/4.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

ANTHONY NELSON

The junior athlete has been Cole Sunde’s teammate and competitor in several track events. During the past season in the dashes and the short relay races, he has been an important entrant and has placed often. Besides track, Nelson is a very important part of both the football and basketball teams and is a standout in all the sports.

TAYLOR CHRISTIANSON

Taylor Christianson has been a shining star on the golf course in earning her second straight trip to the state golf meet. She is averaging the low 40’s for nine-hole rounds and the middle 80’s for 18 holes. She is a competitor who puts in many hours of practice in order to improve her game, and results verify that hard work. The state golf meet is next week, and Christianson hopes to compete for a high finish.

News brief

Blooming Prairie alumnus named to SCSU All-Conference

Tricia DeBoer, Jr. of Blooming Prairie has been named to SCSU Softball NSIC Spring All-Conference. To be eligible for this honor, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher. The student must have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at their institution.

SCSU Softball has 10 NSIC Spring All-Conference Selections.
Tricia DeBoer, Jr., Blooming Prairie, Minn.
Kelsie Fitch, Sr., Carver, Minn.
Kendra Merritt, Sr. Fort Lupton, Colorado
Senna Francesconi, Jr., Schomberg, Ontario
Jessica Goerger, So., Mankato, Minn.
Rebecca Harps, So., Yucaipa, Calif.
Brooke Klontz, So., Jackson, Minn.
Megan Lehnen, Sr., Burnsville, Minn.
Taylor Thomas, Sr., Fontana, Calif.
Taige Thoreson, Jr., St. Charles, Minn.

News brief

Mayo Clinic Health System to offer sports qualifying physicals

Mayo Clinic Health System will again be offering sports qualifying physicals to area school athletes, grades sixth through 12th, on Wednesday, June 10 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the Musculoskeletal Center, located on the lower level of the medical center, 1000 First Drive N.W., Austin.

These athletic screenings are provided by Mayo Clinic Health System physicians and staff and meet the requirements for participation in sports by the

Minnesota State High School Leagues, but are not intended to replace an annual, comprehensive physical exam. Mayo Clinic Health System providers recommend an annual exam for children ages 11 and over.

The cost for a sports qualifying physical is \$5 per student. For more information, please call the Austin High School Activities Office at 507-460-1825 or Ellis Middle School at 507-460-1500.

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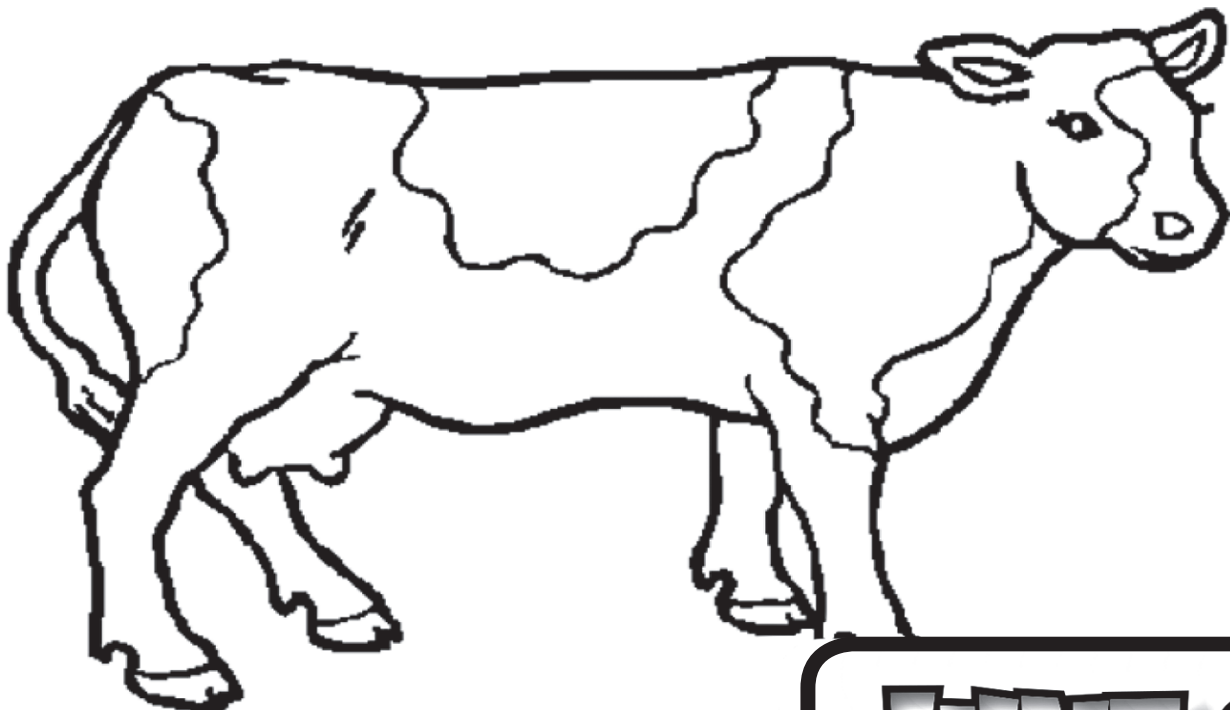
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Community Calendar



School is out and now it is some time for summer fun around the Steele County communities. Alyssa Bock gets down on her knees to make sure she gets every piece of candy thrown during a recent Ellendale Days parade. 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

June 2:
7:30 p.m. BP Eastern Star
June 3:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. BP Lions Club
June 4:
12 p.m. BP American Legion
June 8:
5 p.m. BP Education Foundation, HS Library
June 9:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
7 p.m. BP VFW
7 p.m. BP VFW Auxiliary
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Mtg & Elections (Burgers), BPSC
7:30 p.m. BP Prairie Lodge Masons
June 10:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
4:30 p.m. BP EDA Mtg

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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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WITH VEGT #2 - BLT WITH CHIPS

LUNCH SPECIAL (6/4 & 6/5):
TACOS WITH CHIPS
AND SALSA

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

June 2:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
June 4:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
June 8:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
June 9:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

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IN BRIEF

Art exhibit opening

Artist Paul Walech Roth is showing is paintings on Sunday, June 7, at the Owatonna Arts Center.
The public is invited to an opening reception on Sunday to meet the artist and view the exhibition. The exhibition will run through June 28. The gallery hours are 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

OWATONNA

June 2:
Wilson, Washington Awards Program
5 p.m. Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7 p.m. City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
June 3:
Willow Creek Awards Program
June 5:
8 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Owatonna Hospital
June 6:
8 p.m. OHS Graduation Concert
June 7:
2 p.m. OHS Graduation, Four Seasons
June 8:
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4:30 p.m. Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
6:30 p.m. Owa School Brd Mtg
June 9:
Steele Co Commission
1 p.m. Steele Co SDA Mtg
7 p.m. Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, WWII Liberating Buchenwald, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna

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MEDFORD

June 2:
7 p.m. Medford Park Brd
June 3:
7 p.m. Medford Park Board
June 4:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
June 8:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
June 10:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

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IN BRIEF

'The Twins at the Met'

Bob Showers, who has written another book 'The Twins at the Met,' will be at the Steele County Historical Society at 7 p.m., June 11, in Owatonna.
Through new interviews with legendary Twins players and staff, the book is packed with fond recollections and candid comments on the Met Stadium era. From Bob Allison to tailgaters, Bombo Rivera to the bomb scare and Rich Reese to the Beatles, the history is told by those who were there: Harmon Killebrew, Rod Carew, Jim Kaat, Tony Oliva, Frank Quilici, Bert Blyleven, Roy Smalley, Tom Kelly, Charley Walters, Clark Griffith, Jim Rantz, Tom Mee, Kent Hrbek, Dave Winfield, Paul Molitor and Jack Morris.
For more information, call the historical society office at 507-451-1420.

SPOT LIGHT

Member's open house

The Steele County Historical Society will host its first member's Open House at 4-7 p.m., Thursday, June 18 at the History Center in Owatonna.
The Open House will be a chance for members to explore all the aspects of their SCHS membership and learn about the member benefits they are provided with. The Open House will allow members to:
*Look behind the scenes look at the History Center, including the archives and artifact storage areas. How are artifacts accepted and stored.
*Make an appointment to learn how to search for your roots in our genealogy area.
*Check out educational programming and what is available for you and your children.
*Check out the Exhibit Hall and learn how exhibits are chosen and developed.
*Visit the newly reinterpreted Museum of Professions and other Village buildings. Meet our Interpretive and Tour Guides.
*Learn about our rental facilities and services.
*Learn more about reciprocal programs such as the "Time Travelers" and how you can gain FREE admission to other museums.
*Register to win a FREE membership or renewal. Two will be given away!

OTHER COUNTIES

Mower
June 3:
1st Responders Meeting, Lyle
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Corcoran Center, Austin
June 4:
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Free Show - Rad Zoo, Grand Meadow Public Library
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, St Olaf Lutheran Church, Austin
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
8:30 p.m. Jim Wand – Hypnotist, Torge's Live Sports Pub & Grill
June 5:
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
9 a.m. Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center
10 a.m. StoryTime! :) Grand Meadow Public Library
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
6:30 p.m. Chateau Raceway: Fan Appreciation Night
June 6:
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
9 a.m. Austin Farmers Market
9 a.m. Masonic Pancake Feed, Austin Masonic Lodge
10 a.m. 7th Annual Ford Club Car Show, Holiday Ford Lincoln, Austin
10 a.m. Three Rivers Flea Market, Mower County Fairgrounds
1 p.m. Farmers Market, Brownsdale
June 7:
Annual Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium, Riverland Community College
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
12 p.m. Three Rivers Flea Market, Mower County Fairgrounds
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
June 8:
Annual Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium, Riverland Community College
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Mower Co Snr Citizens Cntr
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market
5:30 p.m. History Happy Hour: Antiques Event with Mark Moran, Hormel Historic Home
June 9:
Annual Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium, Riverland Community College
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, Grand Meadow 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
June 10:
Annual Hormel Foundation Gifted and Talented Symposium, Riverland Community College
Drop-In Summer Reading Program, Grand Meadow Public Library
ArtWorks Center Gallery Show: Joan Finnegan and Lora Lee Bauer
Lyle City Council Meeting

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Tessa Ivers



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Jacob Lightly



Weston Myer



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John Rumpza



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14 Times Presidents Award Winner



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Del, Cecilia and Kellyn Bauer enjoy some time together at the Smoking with Steele event in Owatonna over the weekend.

Geneva Cancer Run 2015 slated for June 13

Motorcycles and cars are welcome to participate in Geneva Cancer Run 2015 on June 13. The ride starts and ends at the Geneva Bar & Grill.

Check in is at 10 a.m. The ride starts at 11 a.m. There is a \$10 donation per rider. There will also be live and silent auctions. Two Bands will start at 7 p.m.

Geneva Cancer Auction and Thrivent Financial are sponsoring the event. Cash gifts from the ride will be given to people battling cancer and for research.

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Tuesday
June 9, 2015
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

MENU

- Bar-B-Ques
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Hot Dogs
- Chips
- Ice Cream
- Fresh Strawberries with Shortcake
- Angel Food
- Assorted Beverages

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STEELE TALKIN'



Carolyn Wheeler

Mental health crisis call number set up

Starting July 1, residents of Steele, Dodge and Waseca counties in Southeast Minnesota will have a centralized call number, 844-Crisis2, for those experiencing a mental health crisis.

This call center will be providing phone counseling, risk assessment and local resources to callers from our region. The number will be available 24/7 for these services, for individuals, families, adults and children.

The new service is called Crisis Response For Southeast Minnesota. The call center will be able to determine the need to dispatch crisis response teams, to be available from 5 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday, and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. The purpose is to provide support for situations that do not need emergency services such as at a hospital.

Since early 2014, South Central Human Relations Center staff has worked with MNPrairie Human Service managers, other counties and mental health centers to develop Crisis Response for Southeast Minnesota. The mission is: Crisis Response inspires hope in adults and children (and their families) by delivering compassionate, person-centered, recovery-based mental health support during a crisis.

When a call comes to 844-Crisis2 call center, trained staff will gather information and determine what steps to recommend. The American Association of Suicidology nationally certifies the call center.

Recommendations may include going to the ER, encouraging next day appointments with current providers, accessing non-crisis services through health plans, EAPs or other local providers, calling 911, dispatching our mobile Crisis Response teams, phone counseling and a next day follow up. If a mobile Crisis Response team were dispatched for assist an adult, child or family, there would be a face to face, short-term intensive mental health service. The service may help cope with immediate stressors, identify and use available resources and personal strengths, develop action plans, avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and loss of independent living, and to help people return to their baseline of functioning. Mobile teams are made up of two mental health practitioners who will be supported by a mental health professional on the phone.

Please keep in mind that this service, Crisis Response for Southeast Minnesota, will begin July 1. In the meantime Steele, Dodge and Waseca county residents experiencing a mental health crisis can continue to call South Central Human Relations Center at 1-800-722-0590 or 507-455- Regular and After-hours Crisis Number.

Text for Life may be a familiar term to some since this resource has been available to teens in northern and central Minnesota counties. Among our youth, texting versus phone calls is the preferred com-

Steele County Graduating Class of 2015



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Graduating Medford senior Alisha Litsheim poses for a picture with her baby sister for her friends and family after commencement.



Staff photo by Anna Segner
New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva senior band members were able to play one last song for those who attended graduation ceremonies on Sunday in New Richland.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Blooming Prairie graduates fling their caps skyward after Superintendent Barry Olsen officially announced their graduation.

The referendum vote is finally here

School board members discuss what upcoming vote means to school district

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is the last in a series of articles leading up to the June 9 Referendum on whether or not to spend \$14 million to upgrade facilities in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School District. Today, members of the NRHEG School Board discuss the reasons why this referendum is important to continued success of educating students.*

By **ALAN VAN ORMER**
Managing Editor

Looking back at the history of both the Ellendale and New

Richland school buildings, members of the current NRHEG school board are reminded of those that came before them who thought far into the future to maintain the buildings and ensuring the district was still viable. Current school board member Travis Routh states it is important to continue to make improvements periodically.

"Things that are proposed on the referendum set us up to have the facilities we need for the next 20-25 years," he said. "In general, if you are making improvements you are going in the right direction."

Michele Moxon, who is the

school board's vice chair, said the referendum will provide the funding for the goals they have set forth for the school district. "Being financially responsible for what you have to do day-to-day is one thing, but being able to take projections that you have and stepping back from and putting them into a plan for the future is so important."

The school referendum is slated for June 9 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the New Richland and Ellendale school buildings. The project will not exceed \$14.2 million and will include the construction of a gym and related facility additions at the second-

ary school facility, improving the theatre space and renovating the music and band spaces, science laboratories and locker rooms.

In addition, the Ellendale facility will see additional classroom space and the building will add updated safety and security. There will also be site work and parking improvements at the elementary school.

If the referendum passes, the design phase will begin immediately and conclude in February 2016. Construction will run from the spring of 2016 to the fall of 2016. The elementary site would be completed in August

2016, while the New Richland site would be completed in November 2016.

School Board president Rick Schultz said the development phase is a very exciting phase. "I'm very comfortable with how ideas came together with community, staff and board input," he said. "I see that continuing into the development of this project where actual things get placed and how it is designed."

If the referendum fails, Schultz said there is no backup plan. "We started with a much larger

THE VOTE

Continued on Page 10C

County fairgrounds blossom into color

Woman begins planting 1,000 flowers

By **RICK BUSSLER**
Publisher

The appearance of the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna is beginning to blossom into something spectacular to see without all the usual sights and sounds of the actual fair.

For at least the past 18 years, Myrna Peterson of Owatonna has spruced up the grounds with fresh flowers. She started planting them last week and by the time she's done in two weeks, the grounds will offer the beauty

of more than 1,000 flowers.

"It's nice to have the beauty and I enjoy it," said Peterson as she dug her hands in the dirt to plant yet another set of petunias. "Our fair is one of the nicest with flower decorating," she said, adding the state fair is probably the only better one out there.

Peterson has a good variety of plants that she started herself in a small greenhouse back in December at Cedar Valley Services

BLOSSOM

Continued on Page 10C



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Myrna Peterson of Owatonna has begun planting flowers around the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna. By the time she is done within the next two weeks, she will have planted more than 1,000 flowers around the grounds. She has been doing this project through the help of her employer, Cedar Valley Services, for the past 18 years.

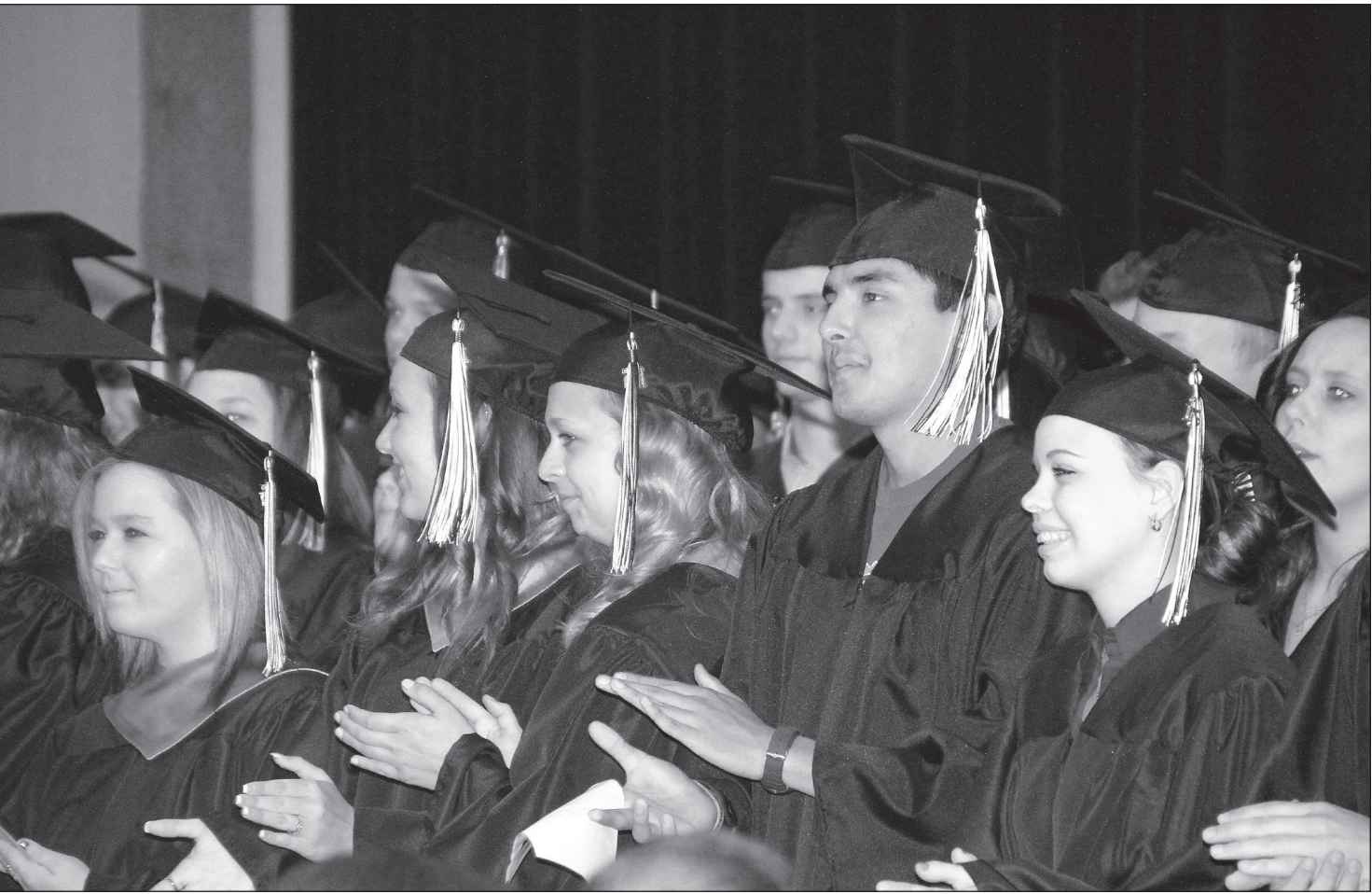
STEELE TALKIN'

Continued on Page 10C

Blooming Prairie Class of 2015

Blooming Prairie graduation was held on Sunday, May 31, in the Blooming Prairie gym. Below are some photos of the ceremony.

Staff photos by James Knoop



LEFT: A host of square black hats filled the front of the Blooming Prairie gymnasium as 63 students graduated from Blooming Prairie High School on Sunday, May 31. ABOVE: Graduates applaud their parents and guardians for all the hard work put they put in to get them to graduation. RIGHT: Valedictorians Macaela Jensen (left) and Taylor Hagen share the microphone, as they recall the journey they both went through to get to graduation.



Emotions ran wild following graduation, as many family members teared up as they embraced their graduates. ABOVE: One Blooming Prairie student grins ear-to-ear after accepting his diploma. LEFT: Madison Worke embraces her mother, Mary Worke, after accepting her diploma.



Blooming PrairieLiving

4th Main Street project meeting previews work

by **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

A fourth and final informational meeting on Thursday, May 28, brought residents and business persons to the table to pose questions about the County State Aid Highway (Main Street) reconstruction project which was slated to begin this week.

The major county/city project will cost \$2.7 million. Steele County will assume \$1,670,000 of the project and the city of Blooming Prairie will accept \$1,070,000 in costs.

Elcor Construction Co. of Rochester holds the general contract.

CSAH 42 (Main Street) will be reconstructed from Center Avenue to 5th Avenue E. The reconstructed highway will include water main, sanitary sewer, water and sewer services, storm sewer, concrete curb and

gutter, sidewalk, concrete pavement and street lights.

Tree removal was scheduled to begin this week. Construction east of Trunk Highway 218 begins June 15 with the completion date set for Aug. 1, 2015.

Construction on Main Street west of 218 will begin July 6, 2015, and completion is expected by Oct. 31, 2015.

Forrest Hasty is the county project engineer. He said the informational meetings are held to answer any questions regarding actual construction and access to businesses and residences. He said other questions often heard include concerns about mail delivery and garbage pickup during the construction process.

“We need a new road,” remarked Dr. Chad Eischens, local businessman, who attended the May 28 meeting.

“Diagonal parking will be nice,” he said.

Matt Smith, project manager

for Elcor, said as many as 25 workers could be on the job during the reconstruction’s peak. He said the project is the first of its kind for Elcor in Blooming Prairie. “This is our specialty,” Smith said.

Stefan Gantert, project manager for the Steele County Highway Department, said the schedule for the project is a tight one, and the variables will be the weather, the work crew and soil conditions.

“It’s tough to predict how the project will go, but that’s why we put a lot of planning into it,” Gantert said.

The project sequence will look like this: removals; sanitary sewer and water main; sewer and water services; storm sewer; roadway grading; roadway paving; electrical; sidewalk and signage and striping.

County Commissioner John Glynn was also in attendance at the informational meeting.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Former Steele County Commissioner and Blooming Prairie businessman Doug Johnson, left, looks over plans for the CSAH 42 (Main Street) reconstruction project to begin this week in Blooming Prairie. A fourth informational meeting on the project was held Thursday, May 28, at the BP Government Center.

Student honors

Arkema names scholarship winner

Weston Myer is the 2015 recipient of the Arkema Blooming Prairie Plant Scholarship Award.

The award is presented each year to a qualifying graduating senior from Blooming Prairie High School.

The award is for \$4,000, with \$2,000 of the award paid at the time of high school graduation and the remaining \$2,000 awarded at the successful completion of the first college year with the intention of enrolling for a second year. This scholarship award is designed to encourage graduating seniors to enter selected fields of science or engineering.

Zellmer named to Dean’s List

Lucas Zellmer of Blooming Prairie, Biology Major: Biomedical Science Concentration, has been named to the Dean’s List at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse for the spring semester of 2014-15 academic year.

Qualification for the Dean’s List is limited to students who have attained outstanding academic achievement. To be eligible, students must have earned not less than a 3.5 semester grade point average and have carried a minimum of 12 semester credits.

Correction:

In last week’s Memorial Day photo on page 10A, Tom Walters (not Tom Wacek) is saluting the flag.

Blooming Prairie FFA banquet honors students

The 2015 Blooming Prairie FFA Awards Banquet was held on Saturday evening May 16 at Blooming Prairie High School. This is the end of the year banquet where the chapter honors all the past year’s achievements and also honors this year’s graduating seniors.

Superior Foods Catering and Janice Pederson provided the banquet meal. There were several awards handed out throughout the evening. The first award was issued to the ninth-graders who earned their Greenhand Degree. They were Ethan Arett, Mitchell Oswald, Megan Grunklee and Jeremy Hocking. They received pins to put on their FFA jacket and a certificate for earning this award.

Next up was the retiring address by senior FFA officer Amy Boullion. She highlighted her time while in the FFA for the past three years and thanked Sally Peterson for encouraging her to join FFA.

The next award that was issued was the Discovery Degree, which is awarded to the eighth-grade FFA members. They were Colton Ivers, McKenzie Jensen, Layla Lujan, Cory Lyman, Rachael Oswald, Amy Peterson, Clint Peterson and Timmy Wolf. They also received a pin for their FFA jacket and a certificate

for this achievement. The guest speaker for this year’s banquet was Dalton Kampsen. Dalton was the Minnesota State FFA Sentinel for the 2014-2015 year. Dalton talked about the opportunities that FFA has to offer and not to past them up.

The BP FFA recognized all of their sponsors that helped the chapter out throughout the year. These people were parents, community members and local businesses.

The second senior address of the evening was senior FFA Officer Cassy Witt; she shared stories of her time throughout her years in the FFA and talked about what FFA did for her. She also talked about how her dad was always there for her supporting her through everything.

This year, Blooming Prairie had four members that earned their chapter degrees; they were Sasha Katzung, Kalyn Naatz, Sally Peterson and Chris Wacek. They earned a pin and a certificate for this award.

Blooming Prairie FFA Alumni president, Jim O’Connor, spoke and presented two \$250 scholarships to Cassy Witt and Katie Wolf. Another scholarship that was awarded during the evening was the Ford/Ingvalson scholarship for \$300 and that was awarded to Katie Wolf.

Blooming Prairie FFA awarded a number of Honorary FFA Degrees, and they went to the graduating senior’s parents who haven’t earned this degree from previous years. This year’s Honorary Degrees were awarded to Dianne Boullion, Mark and Debra Brekke, David and Nola Wradiskavsky, Scott Neidermeier, Lisa Neidermeier, Bruce and Marilyn Nelson, Kyle and Susan Strunk, Darin and Donise Thostenson, Jeff and Dianne Witt, Natalie Witt, and Bruce and Tammy Wolf.

The graduating FFA seniors for this year were Amy Boullion, Emily Brekke, Tessa Ivers, Leighton Kubik, James Neidermeier, Blake Nelson, Trent Strunk, Lexi Thostenson, Cassy Witt and Katie Wolf.

There were a number of chapter awards that were presented by Mr. Bill Rinkenberger: the Top Fruit Salesperson was Sasha Katzung, and she sold \$2,370 worth of fruit last fall. The True Grit Award Winner was Kalyn Naatz. Star Greenhand winner was Ethan Arett. Winner of the \$500 Bud Rinkenberger scholarship was Cassy Witt. During this time, Kalyn Naatz was recognized for placing first in the regions for her Dairy Handling CDE and also for placing second at the MN State FFA Convention

in the Dairy Handling CDE.

The last senior address was from Katie Wolf; she talked about her time in FFA and also thanked Kalyn Naatz for all the support that she had given her through all her years in both 4-H and in FFA.

Kalyn Naatz, the 2014-2015 BP FFA President, highlighted all the events that the chapter did during the past year and also showed a “Year in Review Slideshow” that showcased all the past year’s events.

The last item on the agenda for the awards banquet was the announcement of the 2015-2016 BP FFA officer team. Sally Peterson – President, Kallie Klemmensen – Vice President, Sasha Katzung – Secretary/Treasurer – Ethan Arett, Reporter – Kate Grunklee, Sentinel – Chris Wacek, Historian – Jeremy Hocking, Officers At Large – Colton Ivers and Timmy Wolf, and Kalyn Naatz – Past President/Ex-Officio.

The BP FFA would like to thank all of their parents and the community for making this past year a success! All in all it was a great night, lots of laughs, some tears and a lot of memories.

*Submitted story from
Blooming Prairie FFA*

Hunter Pence’s family roots extend to Blooming Prairie

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Hunter Pence is the real thing.

San Francisco Giants World Series star Hunter Pence, No. 8, has extended his roots to Blooming Prairie. His aunt Dawn Gross (Dwayne) has been a Blooming Prairie resident for more years than Hunter has been alive. Hunter is 32 and Dawn is (I can’t tell you).

My wife Judy and I had a fun experience recently when we took a trip to Milwaukee with Dawn and Dwayne to see Hunter Pence’s Giants play a three-game series with the Milwaukee Brewers. We saw the final two games of the series.

The Giants swept the series with Hunter playing a major role with his bat and glove in the three wins. He went three for four with two runs batted in during the first game and hit a home run in his first at bat in the second game at Miller Park.

Our trip started early at 4 on a Tuesday morning. Our mission was to make it to the Pfister Hotel in downtown Milwaukee by 10:30 a.m. That was our breakfast meeting time set with Hunter by Dawn and Dwayne.

We arrived at about 10:05 a.m. and had a chance to schmooz with the coffee shop hostess who said, “I know he is here because I saw him yesterday; he’s my favorite.”

Hoping he hadn’t forgotten our date, Dwayne texted Hunter’s cell phone and got an instant reply. “On my way,” he texted.

It didn’t take long to see that Hunter is a most humble person and very family driven, said his aunt Dawn. He quickly learned more about his family as Dawn and Dwayne relayed the latest on their kids.

Hunter was asked about his arm that was broken on March 6 in spring training. He said it is doing well. He returned to the Giants lineup on May 16.

He also talked about his girl friend, Alexi Cozombolidis, a producer and production coordinator at IGN. She puts together segments and shows for one of the youngest and hippest entertainment

sites on the Internet. Check out <http://www.playertwolves.com/mlb/san-francisco-giants/hunter-pences-girlfriend-alexis-cozombolidis/>.

Hunter said Alexi filmed a piece about ghost tracking at the Pfister Hotel. “This hotel is supposed to be haunted, and we wanted to scare Brandon Belt, my teammate,” Hunter explained. He said he and other Giants teammates managed to get into Belt’s room and orchestrated some crazy sounds and music as Belt arrived. “Check it out on YouTube,” Hunter said.

Hunter said he loves to go to the ballpark hours ahead of time. He was taking a taxi to the park after he met with us, and that would put him at the park six hours early. He has his own warmup routine. Hunter lives only six blocks away from the park in San Francisco. He makes the trip by scooter.

“I work hard but my success is not just me, lots of other people have been a part of it,” he said. “I live for the moment and try to do the best at whatever I do,” he added.

Although Hunter spends considerable time in San Francisco, he lists Houston, Texas, as his home. He played five years for the Astros. Hunter was actually drafted by Milwaukee. His father Howard is a native of Geneva, Minnesota. He now lives in San Francisco.

During our visit with Hunter, a family of five stopped by our table and asked if he would sign game tickets for three kids. Hunter kindly obliged and asked: “Would you like a picture?” He then posed for a photo.

“I imagine this gets old,” Dwayne said to Hunter. “It’s not bad here, but much worse in San Francisco,” he said. “You learn to say ‘no’ in certain circumstances,” he said. However, he signed autographs at Miller Park for his fans.

He also talked briefly about his paleolithic diet he follows. He eats mainly vegetables, eats low carbohydrate whole and real foods and in particular vegetables and meats.

As we left the Pfister, Dwayne spotted Giants manager Bruce Bochy and introduced himself as



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
San Francisco Giants all-star Hunter Pence (center) had breakfast with his aunt and uncle, Dawn and Dwayne Gross of Blooming Prairie, recently at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Giants won all three games in the series over the Brewers.

Hunter’s uncle. “What a treat he has been to our team,” Bochy said. “He (Hunter) never has a bad day and he’s an inspiration to all of us,” Bochy said. He further stated that Hunter was one of the best players he’s ever managed.

We were spotted by many other Giants fans at the ball park because of our Hunter Pence jerseys. We even had people ask to take our picture when they found out that Dwayne and Dawn were his uncle and aunt. Brewer fans stopped us and said they are competitors but believe Hunter plays the game the way it should be played . . . with hard work.

Hunter has his own routine prior to game time. He runs sprints in the outfield and is constantly stretching. He even stretches when he’s waiting for a play on the batter.

It is quite evident that he is looked up to as a leader. As the bullpen pitchers head for the bullpen, Hunter fist bumps relievers and also hugs tiny

Vincente Romo, chief setup man.

Hunter is most aggressive at the plate and drills the ball when making contact. He was 4 for 12 in the series including a home run.

Pence is a crowd favorite and tossed one ball into the crowd when coming off the field to the dugout on Wednesday.

I have long been a Giants fan, dating back to 1954, the year the Giants beat the Cleveland Indians four games to none for the World Series championship.

If Hunter continues to rack up the impressive statistics, it is very likely he will some day be enshrined in Cooperstown, New York, in the Hall of Fame.

His family can be very proud and they are. Dawn makes a point to constantly inform her mother, a resident at Good Sam’s in Albert Lea, about her grandson Hunter’s success story.

Summer SENSATIONS

Here's your guide to summer fun around the area including Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties. Enjoy summer and please stay safe!

JUNE

Safety Camp

June 4-5 2015, Safety Camp for Kids, Lake Kohlmiere & Steele County Fairgrounds, Owatonna. Children from Steele County who have completed the third grade are welcome to spend a few days learning about safety from professionals.

Straight River Days

June 19-21 2015, Medford. This celebration is a chance to enjoy the weekend in the City of Medford. The events include the parade, 5K run/walk, citywide garage sales, volleyball tournament, craft fair, and the Muni StreetDance. There are activities for all ages. Visit www.straightriverdays.com



Breakfast on the Farm

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. June 20 2015, Clover Glen Farms, 9368 SE 18th St., Claremont. Shuttles to the farm from the Steele County Fairgrounds will be available starting at 8:00 a.m. to last departure at 11:00 a.m. The breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, cheese, milk and coffee for five dollars per person or free for children ages five and under. Fun with barn tours, horse and buggy rides, petting zoo, and picture opportunities will be had!

Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival

11:00 a.m. June 20 2015, Downtown Owatonna. Sit back and enjoy marching bands from around the state compete in the band festival. For more information visit owatonnabandfestival.com.

Ellendale Days

June 26-28 2015, Ellendale. Enjoy a variety of events in this annual celebration of Ellendale's history. Polka music will be heard and good food enjoyed. Event information will be posted at www.ellendalemn.com

JULY

Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

July 4 2015, Blooming Prairie. Blooming Prairie is famous for their citywide Independence Day parade and activities, and the city pulls out all the stops for the event. Past events have included antique tractor and tractor pulls, tractor shows, car shows, run/walk events, competitions, many forms of entertainment, and plenty of food and drink. For more information contact Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce at (507) 583-4472.

4th of July Fireworks

10 p.m. July 4 2015, Owatonna Fairgrounds.

Dodge County Free Fair

July 15-19, 2015, Kasson. The fair includes many of the classic fair activities and opportunities to get involved. There will be a carnival, farm animals, petting zoo, grandstand shows, beer garden, and of course—fair food. For more information, visit www.dodgecountyfreefair.com, contact dodgecountyfair@kmtel.com, or call the fair office at (507) 634-7736.

Relay for Life

Starting at 6:00 p.m. July 18 2015, Steele County Fair Grounds, Owatonna. Take part in a plethora of activities and help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If one would like to get involved, contact Joel Holst at joel@steelecountyrelay.org or 507-213-9950.

Secret Garden Tour

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, July 19, 2015. The gardens on tour will be dispersed in the Owatonna area. Maps of the gardens on tour will be available at the



AUGUST

Elks Car Show

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. August 1 2015, Owatonna Elks Club. This event is a celebration of vehicle history and raises money for the Elks Club. For more information contact Cathy Kniefel 507-455-0798 or Charlie Jarvi 507-456-1520.

Freeborn County Fair

August 4-9 2015, Albert Lea. This fair is known for its top notch entertainment and performers! There are other classic fair activities as well! For more information, visit www.freeborncountyfair.com or call (507) 373-6965.

Mower County Free Fair

August 11-16 2015, Austin. Fair festivities will liven up the area with carnival rides, musical entertainment, animals, food and much more! For more information about the fair, visit www.mowercountyfair.com. For general questions, e-mail info@mowercountyfair.com or call the fair office at 507-433-1868.

Claremont Hogfest

July 31-August 2 2015, Claremont. This festival is a good place to go if you are hungry. Beyond the corn and pork feed and a pancake



SUMMER EVENTS

Farmer's & Artisan's Market 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Every Tuesday, May – October, Riverside Park, Mantorville.

Farmer's Market - 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Every Saturday through October, Central Park Owatonna. For more information regarding rules and regulations, contact John at Little Professor Book Center at 507-455-0969.

Big Iron Classic

September 11-12, Kasson. The Big Iron Classic is the Midwest's largest "Working Class" truck show, and it is the area's largest charity contributors of toys. To find out more, visit www.bigironclassic.com. Direct questions to info@bigironclassic.com, call Jim Finn at 1-507-208-0222 or Brenda Finn at 1-507-254-4007.

Marigold Days (50th Annual)

September 12 & 13 2015, Mantorville. Join in Mantoville's merrymaking in celebration of the Marigold, a species native to the Americas. There are a lot of events and activities scheduled.

Owatonna Arts Center on the day of the day of the tour. If one would like to share their garden for the tour or have any questions regarding the event, contact the Owatonna Arts Center at 507-451-0533 or oacboard@oacarts.org.

Survival Days

July 24-26, West Concord. This weekend long bash is designed with activities to celebrate survival, family and friends. There will be a tractor pull, car show, parade, music, dancing, food and drink. The community will also crown a new Miss West Concord. More information may be found at www.westconcordmn.com

Color Dash 5K Run

2:00 p.m. July 25 2015, Downtown Owatonna. This run is to raise money and awareness for Youth First. For more information contact 507-676-2531 or visit <http://newcolordash5k.ticketmob.com/event.cfm?cart&showTimingID=61117>

Litomysl Summer Festival

11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. July 26 2015, 9946 SE 24th Avenue, Owatonna. This country-style festival kicks off with mass and then the day continues on with music, food, and other festivities. See the website for further information www.litomysl.webs.com

Stage Coach Days

June 27 & 28, Mantorville. Reminisce about Minnesotan history as it was in the early days. There will be historical demos and displays, costume contests, theater, art show, wine and food tasting, and a tractor pull. Visit www.mantorvilletourism.com or the Mantorville Stagecoach Days facebook page for more information.

breakfast, there are two free street dances, a parade, lawn tractor pulls, a car show, volleyball, softball, horseshoe tournaments, keg toss, and a mud bog. Visit www.claremontmn.com for a schedule of events or a list of hogfest contacts. For general information about the event visit www.claremontmn.com or call 507-528-2233.

Festival in the Park (150th Annual)

August 3-9 2015, Kasson. This week is chalked full of fun events, including the week long medallion hunt, movie in the park, and concerts. There are many ways to flaunt your skills and compete in activities such as the Rib and Chicken Cook Off, Kasson Festival Run, corn hole tournament, eating contest, chalk contest, and if one really felt so desired to do so—a belly flop contest. Food and craft vendors will also be present. Visit www.kassonfestivalinthepark.com to find out more, and for general questions call 507-634-4307.

Steele County Free Fair

August 18-23, Steele County Free Fair Grounds, Owatonna. Food, Fun, and Screams in 2015! More information will be filtering through Steele County Times prior to the fair. Visit www.scff.org, call 507.451.5305, or e-mail steelecountyfreefair@scff.org for more information.



These events will take place in various places around town and include the antique & flea market, the flower show, the quilt show, the car Show, melodrama performances, music, a 5K run, a baseball tournament, fireworks, and a parade. The schedule of events and locations can be found at marigolddays.com. General questions about Marigold Days may be directed to marigolddays2015@gmail.com.

Culturfest

September 26 2015, Wilson Elementary School, Owatonna. This event celebrates dance, music, craft, and food of many cultures. The mission of this event is to enrich the community's cultural understanding!

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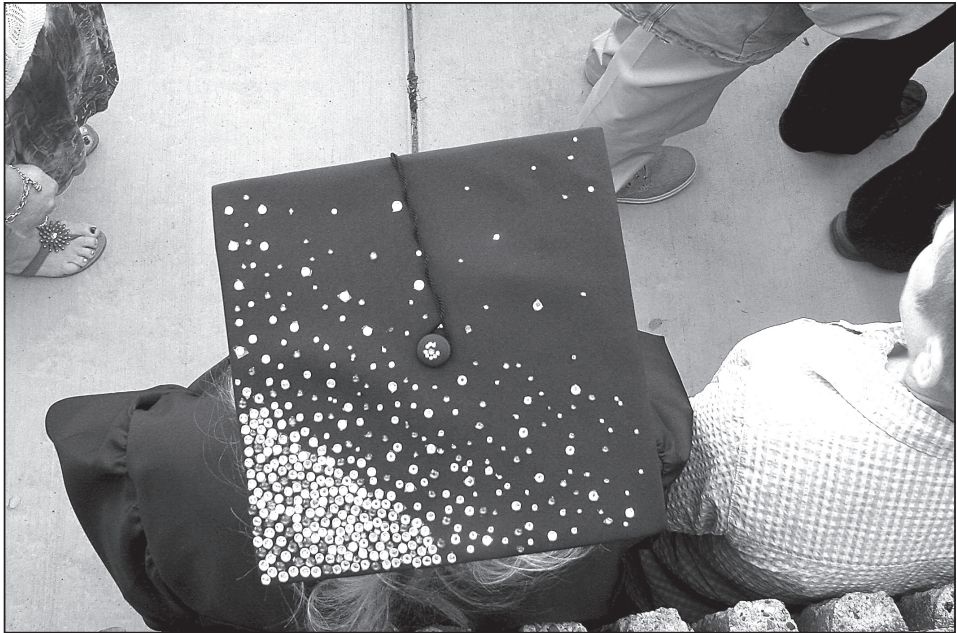
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Ellendale-GenevaLiving

NRHEG Class of 2015

NRHEG graduation was held on Sunday, May 31, in the New Richland gym. Below are some photos of the ceremony.

Staff photos by Anna Segner



NRHEG graduates are on stage waiting to receive their diplomas.



Many hugs and tears were shared among the graduates, friends and family members.



Katelyn Christianson performs 'Don't Forget to Remember Me' during the ceremony.



Shanna Stencel and Samantha Pettet sing a duet 'For Good.'

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Thomas Wear walks with a flower toward his family members.

MedfordLiving

Medford High School celebrated its 100th graduating class last Friday, May 29. This year's graduating class had 56 students.

Staff photos by Shannon Kinley



School board member Bill Cronin gives graduating senior Jennifer Larson her diploma.



ABOVE: Graduating senior Eli Reiter gets a congratulatory hug from teacher Rebecca Mohr after receiving her diploma.

LEFT: Graduating seniors AJ Chappuis and Lucas Cronin enter the gymnasium during the fanfare and processional.

RIGHT: Graduating seniors Lucas Cronin (left), Quinn O'Connor, Shelby Gramse and Bailey Rogotzke pose for a picture for their friends and families after commencement.



New activities at Straight River Days

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Medford's 44th Straight River Days celebration is less than a month away and is sure to be one of a kind as there are many new festivities happening at this year's event, along with the Medford High School All-School Reunion.

Straight River Days dates back to 1971, with the celebration of the new wastewater treatment facility and included a parade, carnival, canoe derby, street dance and the Miss Medford Beauty Pageant. The Medford Civic Club organizes the celebration.

"It is important for Medford because we all get to celebrate as a community our town that we all choose to live in," said Civic Club President Erin Sammon. "You get to come down for a weekend, chat with your neighbors and catch up with people. It is such a nice laid back feeling of a weekend."

One difference to this year's celebration is that it is longer. Last year's event didn't have any events on Thursday, only a parade on Friday, a few activities on Saturday and a couple on Sunday. However, this year the event kicks off on Thursday, June 18, with the Miss Medford Pageant and continues through Sunday, June 21, with kid's activities all afternoon.

"We wanted to stretch it out to a little bit longer of a weekend," Sammon said.

Also new to the event this

year is Saturday's canoe paddle and the designated Kid's Day on Sunday.

The Canoe Paddle, hosted by the Canon River Watershed Partnership, will be a leisurely paddle down the Straight River starting in Clinton Falls at 9 a.m. and ending in Medford around 11 a.m.

"We wanted to incorporate the river since it is Straight River Days," Sammon said.

The event costs \$10 and participants must supply their own canoe. Children are allowed to participate as long as they are accompanied by an adult and wear personal flotation devices.

The Civic Club decided to add a Kid's Day after receiving many requests to have more activities geared toward kids and families at last year's event.

From 12 to 3 p.m. kids will be able to participate in a variety of activities including games hosted by the National Honors Society and the student council, archery lessons with the Straight River Archery Club, tour a fire truck and watch a fire demonstration by the Medford Fire Department, get their face painted, find coins in a volleyball pit during a Penny Dig hosted by First State Bank, the first ever Amazing Kids Race and to wrap it up a Brodini Comedy Magic Show at 2 p.m.

Sammon says the most popular events last year were the volleyball tournament and the beanbag tournament, which she guesses will be big hits again this year. Sammon is particular-

ly excited for bringing back the entertainment after the parade Friday night.

The entertainment will be Diesel Drive. The lead singer Matt Heaser is a Medford Alumnus.

Mayor Lois Nelson is excited for the Medford All-School Reunion commemorating the 100th graduating class.

"The last All-School Reunion in 2003 at the time of Medford's Sesquicentennial had over 1,000 alumni in town for the week-end events. We are looking to better that number this year," said Mayor Lois Nelson in an emailed statement. "As an alumni, I, too, am looking forward to catching up with classmates and others in town for the weekend."

The Civic Club, made up of around 10 members, first started meeting to plan the event back

in September and typically met once a month for around two hours.

"It is important for me that my daughter will grow up with these fun memories too. I think that is why a lot of us do it. We don't want to see Straight River Days come to an end because those are some of our favorite childhood memories," Sammon said.

"This is an excellent time for local residents and businesses to participate in the local celebration and serve as hosts to visitors and families from all over the country," Nelson said.

The complete schedule, activity information and registration forms can be found online at straightriverdays.com.

Weekly crossword on Page 6D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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RECIPE CORNER

Mexican Chicken Casserole

- 5 c. crushed tortilla chips
- 1 (10 oz) bag of frozen corn
- 4 c. cubed cooked chicken breasts
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1 (16 oz.) jars salsa
- 2 c. shredded cheese

By Amy Johns

Grease 9x13 in. pan. Add 3 cups lightly crushed chips on the bottom of the pan. Mix together chicken, salsa, corn, sour cream and 1 cup shredded cheese. Pour over layer of chips. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Take pan out, add remaining chips and cheese on top. Bake for 10 more minutes.

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A HEAD TURNING FACT!

Birds can turn their heads almost in a complete circle, partly due to their S-shaped cervical curve. Giraffes lack a curve, severely limiting their mobility.

How's your curve?

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OwatonnaLiving

Kids Korner Educare to offer new program in fall

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Many times parents with children whose birthdays fall within June through November have to make the decision of whether or not to send their children to kindergarten or to wait a year. However, this fall parents have another option.

Kid's Korner Educare in Owatonna is launching a new program, Kinder Prep, which aims to help children who fall within that group of being too young or missing the cut off date of Sept. 1.

"It is really to meet an unmet need in our community. We want to make sure that we are challenging those young children to be cognitively engrossed as much as we can possibly get them in their academic day and prepare them for kindergarten," said Executive Director Dan Buck.

Kid's Korner is a non-profit organization that aims to promote the strengthening of the family unit by creating a safe, supportive and nurturing environment that offers care, education, health, nutrition, developmental services and character development to children ages six-weeks up to 12 years old.

Dan founded Kid's Korner in 1991 and his wife, Jennifer, joined the staff as the education director in 1994.

The Bucks along with the board of directors have been discussing the Kinder Prep program for a little over a year now and decided that it was especially a need in the community after

the Owatonna School District decided to implement all day kindergarten.

The purpose of the program is to get those children, who were for whatever reason, not eligible or not ready to enter kindergarten and prepare them for when they do start their education.

"There are several studies out there that show that the more you can engage that child's brain before they are 10 years of age, the more academic retention they are going to have as they grow older," Dan said.

Jennifer added, "It is to bridge that gap for kids who are on the cusp of going, just missed or just not ready for their first academic year. We want to build that solid foundation so that when next year comes around they are ready to step into that and it is not just another repeat of preschool."

The program will run Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., although parents are able to drop children off as early as 6:30 a.m. and pick them up as late as 5:30 p.m.

Jennifer says for the first year there will be two classes of up to 10 students each with two teachers making it a 1:10 teacher-student ratio.

The curriculum, which meets all the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education as well as many other standards, consist of independent learning, group learning and teamwork exercises.

"It is not going to be preschool curriculum fluffed, nor is it going to be kindergarten curriculum dumbed down. We want to

make sure that they are ready when they go the next year," Jennifer said.

Each day there will be blocks of time set up for all the core subjects such as math, social studies, science and reading all of which will include hands-on activities instead of the traditional sitting in a desk format.

Jennifer says there will also be a heavy social-emotional component to prepare students by teaching them social skills as well as the various emotions and what the appropriate reactions to those emotions are.

"I believe what we do here builds foundations for families. This program meets needs of our families, our kids and thus you have competent, compassionate kids that are understood and have that extra time to become compassionate and competent adults," Jennifer said.



Staff photo by Shannon Kinley
Kid's Korner Educare students Paige McGrath and Ryan Cornell work on some art projects during the 'school day.' Both McGrath and Cornell are future students of the Kinder Prep program.

Owatonna is a good place to make new friends

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Owatonna is one of 30 cities in the United States to recently be deemed as one of the best places to make new friends by AARP. Owatonna was the only city in Minnesota to make the list.

Other cities in Owatonna's category, which have populations in between 25,000 and 100,000, include Rapid City, South Dakota; Bismarck, North Dakota; Kearney, Nebraska; Wheeling, West Virginia and South Portland, Maine.

"It is a big-small town. We are a small enough town where you know people and we have such a generous population of forefathers and mothers that we have a level of amenities, culture and opportunity here that is very rare in a community that is as small as we are," said Chamber President Jennifer Libby. "We are humbled and grateful to have this distinction. One of the reasons this means so much is because this is not a list we apply to be on."

Cities that made the list have residents who look out for family members and neighbors, join civic groups, vote in high numbers and have easy access to the digital world. This earns cities a high score in the category of engagement on the Livability Index Tool.

The online tool, which was developed in April 2015, awards a score on a scale of 100 in seven categories: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement and opportunity.

"One of our top priorities at AARP is that people are able to age with independence and dignity. The vast majority of people that we talk to, members and non-members alike, they want to for as long as possible remain in their homes and in their

communities," said AARP State Director Will Phillips. "We developed this index as a tool so citizens as well as policy makers and elected officials can use to make sure that we are building communities that enable that to happen."

A city is judged on civic engagement meaning how many opportunities are available for people to get involved with civic, social, religious, political and business organizations as well as voting rates. The city is also judged on social engagement meaning how often do people interact with their friends and neighbors as well as how many performing arts companies, museums, concert venues, sports stadiums and movie theaters there are.

"It clearly made the list because as a community it seems that Owatonna has put value of putting in place things, features and functionality that enables people to connect with one another. In the end, that is what this score is all about," Phillips said. "Owatonna scored exceedingly well in all of those areas and put them at the top of the list where people took advantage of

all the offerings and opportunities that are available there."

Libby could not agree more. "It is just a fabulously friendly community, but I think it also translates into what makes it such a great environment for people to do business, raise their families and to try to make an impact in social ways," Libby said. "It is just part of the culture here. What is neat about it is that people don't even think about it, it is just how it happens."

Libby added the reason it is so easy to make friends in Owatonna is because people's basic needs are being met.

"It goes back to Maslow's hierarchy. If you take care of people's basic needs such as to be safe or to earn a living then they can focus on higher level things," she said. "We have a great community, fabulous law enforcement and fire department and we also have great businesses that allow people to have good careers and provide for their families. When those needs are taken care of people can focus on being friendly and reaching out to help others."

Owatonna scored:

- Internet access: 52.3 percent of residents have high-speed, low-cost service compared to the median US neighborhood at zero percent.
- Civic engagement (opportunity for civic involvement): There are 13.1 organizations per 10,000 people compared to the median US neighborhood at 7.3.
- Civic engagement (voting rates): 71.3 percent of people voted compared the median US neighborhood at 55.6 percent.
- Social engagement (social involvement index): on a scale of 0 to 2 Owatonna scored .98, which is also the median US neighborhood's score.
- Social engagement (cultural, arts and entertainment institutions): 1.4 institutions per 10,000 people compared to the median US neighborhood of .6.

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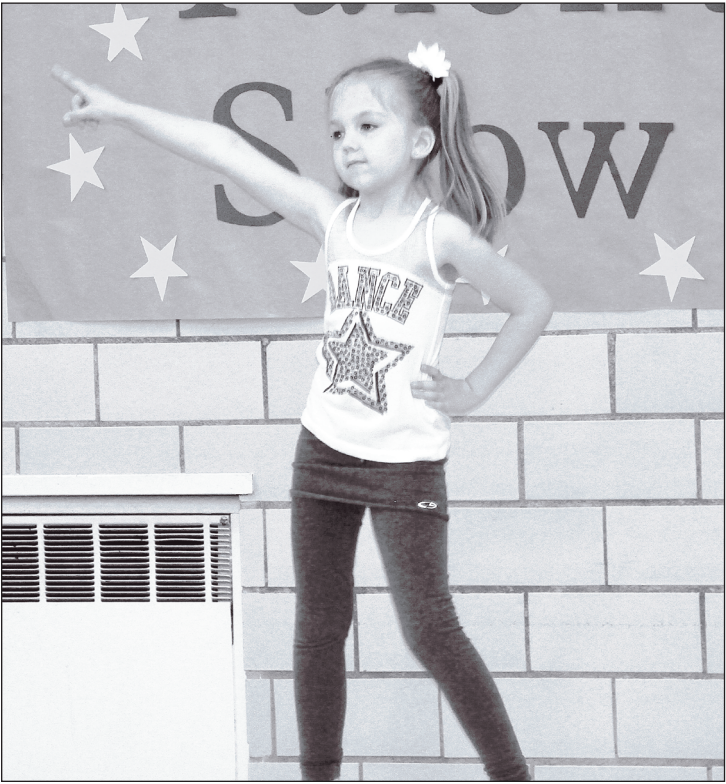
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OwatonnaLiving

Washington Talent Show



Staff photos by Shannon Kinley

ABOVE LEFT: Fourth-grader Shailah Salisbury shows off her gymnastics skills to the audience during the Washington Elementary School talent show on Thursday, May 28.
ABOVE RIGHT: Kindergartener Valentina Ferraro dances to “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift.
LEFT: Third-graders Kali Clauson (left), Makenna Neumann, Laken Meier and Madelyn Fisher show off their dancing skills.
RIGHT: Fifth grade band members Ella Peterson (left), Alex Huemoeller, Charlea Underwood and Jaci Burtis play some tunes for the audience.



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THE VOTE

Continued from Page 1C

project than we are currently at. We feel we have done the work,” he said. “I am speaking individually, but I know of no alternative plan. We have never discussed it. We are confident that the public believes this is a need for the district and is in the best interest of the district to do it.”

A second school board member, Joann Maloney, said the school district had a series of meetings in Ellendale and New Richland doing its best to make sure the public was aware of those meetings. “I’m sure school board members have had one-on-one conversations with members of the public,” she said, adding she is confident that the opportunities have been made for community input.

Tax burden for members in the district

Schultz said the most popular question he faces daily is the responsibility that persons bear on such a referendum. “I feel that property assets within a school district are always obligated to finance building facilities in any public school system,” he said. “We knew that when we purchased the property that we are operating.”

As it currently stands, Schultz said agriculture does have a large portion of the referendum to bear. He said he also understands that everyone’s financial situation is different. “I am concerned and I take extremely to heart of the fact of the burden this does put on certain taxpayers,” he said. “I hope they look it as a true investment because that is the way I see it. The thing that does scare me is the financial burden that could put on certain individuals. I respect that, but I hope that they can see through that and justify it.”

According to information on the NRHEG website, a farmer or producer that owns 80 acres of land will see an estimated impact of \$340.32 in 2016. Someone living in a \$150,000 home will see an estimated impact of \$97.18 that first year and a commercial or industrial owner with a \$250,000 value will see an estimated impact of \$327.01 that first year.

“Part of my reasoning for supporting this is the fact that I feel the figure that we’re going

Voting

June 9, 2015
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

New Richland Secondary School
306 Ash Avenue South
New Richland

Ellendale Elementary School
600 School Street
Ellendale

forward with is manageable,” Schultz said. “Obviously, age isn’t as successful as it was maybe two to five years ago. This is a 20-year term. I’m hoping the law of averages equals that out.” He fears that a failed referendum will just increase the costs and interest rates and the project will grow where it would be financially devastating to the age economy. “I think support would be even more difficult to justify,” he said.

Justifying a referendum with no increased enrollment

Lori Routh said enrolment is stable and has been stable for a period of time. “Unlike some districts in our area, the enrollment hasn’t necessarily been stable,” she said. “And I recognize for some people, they question that. What we’re looking for are upgrades to our facilities to serve the current population and future student population.”

For example, Routh said that for Ellendale it would improve the climate control so it is a good environment to educate student’s in. “The teaching team is our greatest asset,” she said. “But if you have a building that is 90 degrees with 90 percent humidity it’s difficult to educate your students in that environment.”

She added that the school board also wants to assure safety as the people enter the building or at the school bus drop off. “Adding classrooms is not necessarily for potential new students, but for different programs for the students that we have.”

She has heard frequently that the gym in the New Richland building has served the school district well for many years. “The gym is well maintained, as is every part of our building.

That’s because people put a value in maintaining the building,” Routh said.

But there are regulation changes and different student needs and more sports and art opportunities, she said. “We need more facilities that more appropriately meet those needs.”

Routh also believes that the flex space and new gym will offer more opportunities for students to stay active. “Activity increases their ability to learn. Lots of studies support that,” she said. “(There are) a lot of studies that support involvement in the arts.”

wViews from around the district

Travis Routh, who lives in the Hartland area, said he hasn’t heard a negative thing about the Ellendale project. When we first started this project there were some suggestions and we took them seriously, Routh said. “We actually integrated them into our plan,” he said.

Maloney, who resides in New Richland, said the feedback in community forums has been positive and supportive. “I think people have been talking and understanding why the new gym is necessary and keeping the old gym as flex space for auditorium area,” she said.

Moxon, who also lives in New Richland, added that the band, choir and arts performing space have long been left by the way-side and the referendum would allow for improvements for facilities to assist those students.

She added that the school district has had support in all of the towns and the surrounding communities. “We’re a district that is really large, if you’re talking acreage wise,” Moxon said. “If you live in Geneva and you want to drive to see a concert you want to make sure there is a place for you to sit and to hear. Community-wise the improvements should benefit everybody.”

Maloney said the four communities that make up the school district are strong communities. “In order to keep those communities strong and vibrant, we have to keep our schools strong and vibrant. It is essential,” she said. “Without a strong school system, it is going to be very hard on these communities.”

And I want to thank you for saving my life.”

In closing I offer some suggestions on connecting with others, since isolation and loneliness contributes to mental distress. Reaching out to our friends and family members, share what you may be going through. Be sure to find one person to talk to about your feelings. Also keeping up with social activities is key. Help someone else by volunteering, join a friend for lunch – take that lunch break from work, call or email an old friend, go for

a walk with a workout buddy, meet new people by joining a class. Keeping a healthy balance in your life brings you resilience to survive stressors. Healthy life skills are also part of a recovery plan for those who have been through emotional crises.

Steele Talkin’ is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Carolyn Wheeler is the executive director of the South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Myrna Peterson of Owatonna is putting her flower touch around the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna

the fly as she plants. “I don’t have a game plan,” Peterson said. “I plant as I go. It’s a fun challenge for me,” she added.

The petunias are her personal favorite because “they are so productive and so colorful,” she said.

Throughout the summer, Peterson and other staff members at Cedar Valley will bring out clients with special needs to assist with watering the flowers. “There are no happier people in this world than the ones I work with,” Peterson said of the folks with disabilities. “We could all learn lessons from them. They are happy, happy folks.”

Peterson came up with the idea herself to plant flowers at the fairgrounds. “I drove through here and looked at these bleak old fairgrounds and thought we needed some neat flowers to brighten it up,” she said.

She approached former fair manager Elmer Reseland, who right away jumped on board with the idea. Nearly two decades later, she’s still planting the flowers for everyone to enjoy.

“People come out here to look at the flowers,” Peterson said. “I like to come to the fair and listen silently to what people say about the flowers. It’s real rewarding to hear the comments people have about them.”

Cedar Valley allows Peterson to continue with this project “as a payback to the community,” she said. “It’s so rewarding at such little expense,” she added.

BLOSSOMS

Continued from Page 1C

vices in Owatonna where she has worked for the past 26 years.

She has no plans to skimp on any flowers around the grounds. “I like the beds full,” Peterson said. “There’s never a lot of dirt showing after I plant the flow-

ers,” she added.

Peterson comes up with the overall design of the flowers and a color scheme. “I like a lot of color so I try to have a bit of everything,” she said, adding she usually creates the designs on

OWATONNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Greetings from Owatonna Parks & Recreation

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JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH! Mark your calendars for July 17-19, and look for more details on the events planned. Due to limited space, all of our offerings cannot be listed. SO check out our website at WWW.CI.OWATONNA.MN.US/PARKSRECREATION and join our Facebook page by friending us at Owatonna Parks & Recreation. Enjoy the summer in **YOUR PARKS!**

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RIVER SPRINGS WATER PARK OPENS – JUNE 4TH
Little Tykes Sports Session 8 – June 4th
Little Tykes Sports Session 4- June 4th
Steele County Safety Camp – June 4th&5th
Therapeutic Rec Summer Bowling League starts – June 8th
T-BALL STARTSS – JUNE 8TH
Session 1 Private Swim begins – June 8th
Little Adventurers-Tadpoles Session 1 starts – June 8th
Learn to Skate Starts – June 9th
Squirt Ball Starts – June 9th
CHEERS PABLO PAINT & SIP EVENT – JUNE 12TH
Kid's Friday Camp Begins – June 12th
River Springs Ducky Dash - June 14th
Little Tykes Multi-Sport Session 1 – June 15th
Session 1 Swim begins – June 15th
Session 2 Private Swim Begins – June 15th
2-Gal Best Shot at Brooktree Golf Course – June 17th
MOVIES IN THE PARK “ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY” – JUNE 19TH
Young Life Tournament at Brooktree Golf Course – June 20th
Father's Day Special at River Springs – June 21st
Little Adventurers-Tadpoles Session 2 starts – June 22nd
Session 3 Private Swim Begins – June 22nd
River Springs Summer Party – June 28th
Session 4 Private Swim Begins – June 29th
EXCHANGE CLUB TOURNAMENT AT BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE – JUNE 29TH

JULY '15

TRACK STARTS – JULY 6TH
Session 2 Swim begins – July 6th
Session 5 Private Swim Begins - July 6th
JUNIOR GOLF STARTS – JULY 6TH
Little Tykes Multi-Sport Session 2 – July 6th
Little Adventurers-Tadpoles Session 3 – July 6th
KEN BEY CLASSIC TOURNAMENT AT BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE – JULY 11TH
SeniorPlace Trip MN Lynx Game – July 12th
Little Adventurers-Tadpoles Session 4 – July 13th
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Senior Focus

Activity ideas that build the body

Any activity that encourages physical movement will help you build your body. However, before you embark on any new exercise regimen or physical activity, get your physician’s approval.

Silver sneakers

Silver Sneakers is a program that offers Medicare-eligible adults memberships to participating fitness centers. The program encourages healthy living through fitness classes, social gatherings, and seminars on healthy living. Seniors can also have access to a program advisor and online support to help address seniors’ unique health needs.

Senior Olympics

The National Senior Games Association oversees the Senior Olympics. Seniors compete on a state level in a variety of sports with a goal of winning a national championship. Check the directory for your state’s games to learn how to get involved.

Walking

A walk in your neighborhood, at the mall, along the beach or around your favorite park is a great way to start the day. For variety, combine walking with another activity such as bird watching, a scavenger hunt, or letterboxing (an outdoor activity that combines hiking and treasure hunting). If you have a handheld GPS or Smartphone, geocaching(similar to letterboxing but using GPS coordinates) might be your thing.

Biking

Many communities are building bikeways along abandoned inter-urban railway lines. Your local or county parks department can provide you with bike path locations and even maps, or you can look on Trail Link, the trails to rails conservancy, to see if there are paths near you.

Boating

Canoeing and kayaking are excellent ways to get outdoors, get some exercise, and see nature. Best of all, you don’t have to buy a boat. Canoe liveries rent everything you need at reasonable rates.

Fishing

Walking along the bank of your favorite stream or lake in search of that elusive trout or catfish, can provide a wonderful, low-impact workout. If you happen to hook a “keeper,” you’ll have all the exercise you can handle and then some.

Swimming

Whether swimming vigorous laps or lazily dog paddling around the pool, water can provide rigorous and beneficial exercise for seniors. It is a great way to increase circulation, and it is the perfect exercise for those who struggle with arthritis, since it places no pressure on the joints.

Sports

You could join a senior league or play with friends at the local park or rec center. Your choice of sports is limited only by your physical condition and interest. A few of the possibilities include:

- Golf
- Tennis
- Croquet
- Badminton

Softball

Dancing

Dancing is a great aerobic exercise. Options include ballroom dancing, line dancing, tap, folk dancing and much more. If ballroom or tap isn’t your thing, but you still love dancing, try Zumba Gold. Zumba’s a high-energy Latin-inspired dance workout, and the Gold variety was designed with seniors in mind. You can find these classes at gyms, community centers, and dance schools.

Activities that challenge the mind

Keeping the mind sharp is important for people of all ages, but becomes even more important as you get older.

Take a class

Many colleges and universities have lifelong learning programs. Taught by professors, seniors can enjoy programs that cover topics, from architecture to cultural views of Iraq and women’s

studies. Many of the classes are rich with discussion, guest speakers, and field trips. Some programs are seniors-only, while others allow attendees to audit undergraduate classes.

Hobbies

Why not consider adding a hobby that you never had the time to develop before? Some ideas include:

- Sewing/quilting
- Arts and crafts
- Jewelry making
- Scrapbooking
- Photography
- Raised bed gardening
- Gourmet cooking

Music

Music nourishes the brain. A study by Brenda Hanna-Pladdy, PhD, and Alicia MacKay, PhD, found that seniors who played musical instruments performed better on cognitive tests than those who did not play an instrument. If you have always wanted to learn to play the trumpet, saxophone, or guitar, go to

your local music store and ask about private lessons for senior beginners. Better yet, check out the New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA), a non-profit organization that provides entry points to music making for adults, including those with no musical experience as well as those who were musically active but have not been for a long time.

Reading and writing

Work on your memoir or learn to write poetry. Books at your local library or bookstore will teach you the basics and get you started. Try writing your thoughts and memories down in a journal. Journaling is great emotional therapy. Who knows? You might even discover a hidden talent for writing. Join a book or writer’s club in your community. It does not have to be just for seniors. Intergenerational discussion can be stimulating for everyone in the group.

Activities that enrich the spirit

Humans are social animals. While there are certainly spirit-enriching activities you can do alone, including meditation, group activities are, by far, more satisfying for most people. Involvement in church or civic organizations or time simply spent with family and friends are all spirit enriching activities you can and should do.

Senior centers

Most senior centers provide venues for bridge, checkers and other card games as well as craft classes and even exercise programs. Senior centers also organize group trips and provide lunches for participating members for a nominal fee.

Red Hat Society

Red Hat Society founder Sue Ellen Cooper believes that women of a certain age can live life with élan, interest, and gusto. What started as a few friends over 50 going out for

tea in their red hats in the 1990s has swelled to an international “dis-organization.”

SCORE Put your long-acquired business acumen to good use as a mentor in SCORE. Originally an acronym for Service Corps of Retired Executives, today SCORE is a powerful tool for small businesspeople and entrepreneurs. If you are considering starting a new business of your own in retirement, you can benefit from this service as well.

Traveling

Whether it’s a tropical vacation or a trip to a local attraction, there are plenty of fun places to explore. Groups, such as Elderhostel, organize trips that are ideal for seniors. If you are part of a couple, turn travel into a romantic getaway at a bed and breakfast.

Senior Activities
Continued on page 2D



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Senior Focus

Senior Activities

Continued from page 1D

Volunteering
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Volunteer opportunities include:
Hospitals
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Relaxing
It is not necessary or even desirable, to be active all the

time. You can set your own schedule and do as you please. Set time out of your day to sit back and relax. After all, you have worked hard. Take time for yourself and enjoy the quiet of the day.

Finally, celebrate life!
Now is the time to do the

things you love. Figure out which activities make you the happiest, make a list, and dive in. Don't be afraid to explore new activities, especially if it's something you have always wanted to do. Enjoy your time as an independent senior and let the good times roll!



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MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	SEPTEMBER 11 - 13, 2015	\$449
FALL MYSTERY TOUR - All new 6 day tour!	SEPTEMBER 15 - 20, 2015	\$879
NEW ENGLAND FALL COLOR TOUR	SEPT 26 - OCT 7, 2015	\$1719
WASHINGTON DC & GETTYSBURG	OCTOBER 12 - 18, 2015	\$1099
KANSAS SPEEDWAY - SPRINT CUP & NATIONWIDE RACES	OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2015	\$569
AUTUMN IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS	OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2015	\$899
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 6 - 9, 2015	\$579
<i>Pam Tillis & Lorrie Morgan, A Tribute to Patsy Cline, Presley's Country Jubilee, A Tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons</i>		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 13 - 16, 2015	\$579
<i>The Osmond Brothers & The Lennon Sisters, The Famous Herman's Hermits, A Tribute to Marty Robbins, Legends in Concert Tribute Show</i>		
CHRISTMAS BRANSON	NOVEMBER 20 - 23, 2015	\$579
<i>The Texas Tenors, The Famous Lettermen, Dixie Stampede Dinner Show, Charley Pride</i>		
A COUNTRY CHRISTMAS IN NASHVILLE, TN	DECEMBER 1 - 6, 2015	\$1199
HAWAII - COMPLETE PKG W/ AIR	JANUARY 16 - 24, 2016	\$3649
DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	MARCH 5 - 18, 2016	\$2149
SPRING MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 7 DAY TOUR!	APRIL 11 - 17, 2016	\$999
MYRTLE BEACH & CHARLESTON, SC	APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2016	\$1349
NEW ORLEANS & LAFAYETTE, LA	MAY 6 - 16, 2016	\$1699
HOLLAND, MI TULIP FESTIVAL	MAY 13 - 15, 2016	\$459
NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO, ONT	JUNE 6 - 11, 2016	\$899
NW CIRCLE & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	JULY 7 - 22, 2016	\$2349
CALGARY STAMPEDE & CANADIAN ROCKIES	JULY 9 - 17, 2016	\$1559
GRANDPARENTS, GRANDKIDS & FAMILIES TO KANSAS CITY	JULY 14 - 17, 2016	Adults \$449 Kids \$299
ALASKA - LAND & CRUISE - COMPLETE PKG W/ AIR	JULY 27 - AUG 7, 2016	starting at \$5199
CODY, WY & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	AUGUST 14 - 20, 2016	\$1029

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

14-098208 NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 29, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$142,640.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Curtis J. Van Otterloo, a married person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1000389-0001005736-7
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Voyager Bank
SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 2, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000344700
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6, Block 1, Cedar Cove Townhomes 4th Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 188 Cedar Cove Ln NW, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-561-0106
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$137,070.83
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 30, 2015, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on December 30, 2015, or the next business day if December 30, 2015 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: May 5, 2015
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee

12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/12, 5/19, 5/26
6/2, 6/9, 6/16

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions

of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 30, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$172,430.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 4, 2009 as Document Number A000368124 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 13, Block 3, North Country Addition No. 3, City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 2450 TIMBERWOOD LANE NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$170,176.95
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 175940313
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 16, 2015 at 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 16, 2015.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Shannon C. Vick and Alicia J. Vick
“THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE A B A N D O N E D . ”

Dated: April 23, 2015
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
MORTGAGEE
SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(14-1898-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/28, 5/5, 5/12,
5/19, 5/26, 6/2

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 9, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$81,632.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin R. Hanenberger, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on January 22, 2009 as Document Number A000361645 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 1/2 of Lot 5, Block 1, Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 317 2ND AVE NE, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$81,423.66
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC series a dba Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware limited liability company
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 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

15-100350 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: February 23, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$330,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Bonnie L. Petersen, unmarried
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed March 27, 2009, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000362972
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Real Property in Steele County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 28, Township 108 North, Range 20 West, thence North 1312.97 feet along the East line of Section 28 to the Southeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of said Section; thence West at right angles 50.0 feet to the West right of way line of State Aid Road No. 1 and the point of beginning; thence West along the South line of the Northeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter, a distance of 205.75 feet; thence North 190.0 feet, thence East 205.75 feet to the right of way line of State Aid Road No. 1; thence South 190.0 feet to the point of beginning. And Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 28, Township 108 North, Range 20 West, thence North 1502.97 feet along the East line of Section 28, thence West at right angles 50.0 feet to the West right of way line of State Aid Road No. 1 and the point of beginning; thence continuing West 205.75 feet; thence North 214.35 feet, thence East 205.75 feet to the right of way line of State Aid Road No. 1, thence South 214.35 feet to the point of beginning.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3890 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 12-028-2106 & 12-028-2105
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$185,006.54
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: July 23, 2015, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on July 23, 2016, or the next business day if July 23, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: May 21, 2015
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee
SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP
BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

6/2, 6/9, 6/16
6/23, 6/30, 7/7

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 24, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$149,454.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Beth M. Smith, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Homeservices Lending, LLC Series A DBA Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware Limited Liability Company
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 2, 2010 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 17836 as Document Number T000066673 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on December 27, 2010 as Document Number T000066678 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 25, Block 1, Radel Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 595 24TH STREET NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$147,196.86
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Homeservices Lending, LLC Series A DBA Edina Realty Mortgage, a Delaware Limited Liability Company
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.271.0125
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None
THAT no action or proceeding

has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 7, 2015 at 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 7, 2016.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Beth M. “THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.”

Dated: May 11, 2015

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

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-0801-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

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

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-1019

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

Estate of
John Franklin Williams,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 7th, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, March 24, 2015, (“Will”) and for the appointment of Thomas Nesvig, whose address is 550 22nd St. NE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

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

Dated:
2015-05-18

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

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

5/26, 6/2

Legal Notices/News

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

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

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

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

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No 74-PR-15-992

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

Estate of
Ila M. Buss,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 7th, 2015, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated, January 7, 1998, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Marcia R. Hand, whose address is 1635 Mosher Avenue, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

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

Dated:
2015-05-13

BY THE COURT

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court

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

5/26, 6/2

BP School Board

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015 HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, June 11, 2015 Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room

7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 15, 2015 Open Public Forum–High School Media Center

7:15 p.m.
Monday, June 15, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRPERSON

II. ROLL CALL – CLERK

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

V. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

- A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignation
Employment
B. FY '16 Preliminary Budget
C. Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

- A. Graduation Honors
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

6/2

Owatonna resident graduates from Carthage College

Mark Dickson of Owatonna has graduated from Carthage College. Dickson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Management.

A weekend of activities culminated in the May 24 Commencement ceremonies, as Carthage awarded 530 degrees in the N. E. Tarble Athletic and Recreation Center Fieldhouse.



Staff photo by Anna Segner

Smoking with Steele

Seven-month-old Silas joins his father, Chris Malecha, for some quality time at the Smoking with Steele event on Friday and Saturday in Owatonna.

Public Record

Steele County Births February 2015

Evelyn Rose Duffner, Parents: Jessica and James, Feb. 1.
Jameson Timothy Wendel, Parents: Chelsea and Brian, Feb. 2.

Cora Lynne Gramstad, Parents: Tricia and Derek, Feb. 2.

Kennedy Lynn Hedberg, Parents: Jes and Luke, Feb. 2.

Emery Marie Clayton, Parents: Katy and Michael, Feb. 3.

Ezra Jeffrey Simmerman, Parents: Kathryn and Micheal, Feb. 3.

Noah Allen Ehmke, Parents: Ashley and Derek, Feb. 4.

Charlotte Avery Stoetzel, Parents: Charity and Steven, Feb. 4.

Olivia Jeanne Nelson, Parents: Megan and Garrett, Feb. 4.

Collin Dean Cords, Parents: Sherrie and Dean, Feb. 4.

Nyla Ann Seid, Parents: Laura Seid and Michael Dickman, Feb. 4.

Bodie Travis Ladwig, Parents: Katie and Travis, Feb. 5.

Shekinah Hadassah Gonzalez, Parents: Maria and Edgar, Feb. 5.

Elizabeth Abby Joachim, Parents: Nicole and Mathew, Feb. 6.

Violet Blair Hamer, Parents: Natalie and Tony, Feb. 7.

Dexter Dennis Benjamin, Parents: Ginger and Barry, Feb. 9.

Brayton William Motl, Parents: Katelyn Joenks and Joseph Motl, Feb. 11.

Nikolai Jeffrey Gibbs, Parents: Alison and Trevor, Feb. 11.

Mya Lucille Vrzal, Parents:

Katie and Scott, Feb. 12.

Kendra Dyann Sammon, Parents: Erin and Joseph, Feb. 12.

Fredrick Andrew Bomar, Parents: Valerie and Louis Jr., Feb. 13.

Izabella Grace Hall, Parents: Michelle Moeckly and Wayne Hall, Feb. 15.

Louisa Marie Rohe, Parents: Amy and Jason, Feb. 16.

Maisie Kaye Pierce, Parents: Philina and Monte, Feb. 17.

Lorenzo Carlton Davis, Parent: Magdaline Abrams, Feb. 17.

Connor James Peterson, Parents: Rachel and Matthew, Feb. 18.

Amelia Celine Drilling, Parents: Steffany and Derek, Feb. 19.

Titus Owen Price, Parents: Amy and Jason, Feb. 22.

Johnathan Dennis Swedberg, Parents: Jillian and Joshua, Feb. 25.

Harper Diane Louks, Parents: Sabrina and Shawn, Feb. 26.

London James Grant, Parents: Courtney Rahn and Dakota Grant, Feb. 26.

Annabel Kathryn Mielke, Parents: Stacy and Bryan, Feb. 27.

Jacob Riley Kummerfeldt, Parents: Kayla Spielman and Joshua Kummerfeldt, Feb. 27.

Addison Dawn Terpstra, Parents: Caitlin and Derek, Feb. 28.

Landon Brian Bemis, Parents: Katie and Nicholas, Feb. 28.

Steele County Deaths February 2015

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 5/12/2015

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. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the agenda. Ayes all.

2. Schultz/Brady to approve the Board Minutes of April 28, 2015. Ayes all.

3. Ebeling/Brady to approve the Tobacco License for Finch's Pub in Hope, Minnesota. Ayes all.

4. Brady/Schultz to approve the following Memorial Day Appropriations: Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club \$125, American Legion of Ellendale \$125 and American Legion of Owatonna \$1,375. Ayes all.

5. Ebeling/Brady to approve Conditional Use Permit #393 for Matthew and Sarah Keller to expand their Feedlot in Section 03-108-19 of Merton Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.

6. Glynn/Schultz to approve Conditional Use Permit #394 for Aaron Fitzgerald for 3 wind turbines in Section 02-108-20 of Medford Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.

7. Glynn/Ebeling to hold a public hearing adopting amendments to Section 1508.02 of the Steele County Zoning Ordinance on Tuesday June 9th at 7:15 p.m. Ayes all.

8. Ebeling/Brady to authorize advertising for a Highway Maintenance Aid or Technician to fill a vacant position. Ayes all.

9. Detention Center Presentation was given by Sheriff Lon Thiele.

10. Schultz/Glynn offered a Resolution that Steele County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of May-17-23, 2015 as "National Public Works Week." Upon the vote being taken five commissioners vote in favor thereof, none absent not voting.

11. Glynn/Brady to approve the Agreement with Life Style Management beginning June 1, 2015 to manage the rental property at 121 E. Mill and 315 S. Cedar contingent on County Attorney review. Ayes all.

12. Glynn/Ebeling to approve the recommendation for the Four Seasons Centre High School locker room remodel with costs and financing plans to be brought back to the County Board for final approval. Ayes all.

13. Schultz/Glynn to formally accept CSAH 34 (26th Street) Traffic and Infrastructure Improvements Needs Study. Ayes all.

14. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the 4 Seasons Centre Tobacco Policy. Ayes all.

15. Brady/Schultz to approve the Steele County Outdoor Recreational Facilities Smoking Policy. Ayes all.

16. Glynn/Brady to approve the recommendation of designated tobacco areas at the Steele County Free Fair. Ayes all.

17. Schultz/Glynn to approve the Personnel Actions. Ayes all.

18. Commissioner Reports: Schultz reported on his attendance at the Steele/Rice Joint Powers Board, Steele County Historical Society and SEMCAC. Glynn-no report. Ebeling reported on his attendance Steele/Rice Joint Powers Board, Steele/Waseca Ribbon Cutting for Sober Project.

Brady reported on his visits with Townships and his attendance at the SE MN Water Resources meeting. Huntington reported on her attendance at

Doris Diane Schuette, 86, Owatonna, Feb. 3.

Jane Theresa Starks, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 3.

Bernadine Mae Butler, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 4.

Alice Joan Henry, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 4.

Harvey Carl Ernst Schmidtke, 96, Owatonna, Feb. 6.

Charlotte Helen Olds, 75, Owatonna, Feb. 9.

Gerald Edward Schiltz, 83, Owatonna, Feb. 10.

Randolph Roy Randall, 58, Owatonna, Feb. 12.

Sharon Marie Katzung, 70, Owatonna, Feb. 13.

Diane Marie Evenson, 66, Minneapolis, Feb. 14.

Helen Inez Jean Larson, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 16.

Jesse Bertram Pike Jr., 73, Owatonna, Feb. 17.

Angeline Kent, 91, Owatonna, Feb. 18.

Robert Louis Dube, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 21.

Jean Mae Weber, 69, Owatonna, Feb. 22.

Gary Erling Utoft, 72, Owatonna, Feb. 23.

Lawrence Leonard Schwartz, 86, Austin, Feb. 24.

Chiwako Kondo Resler, 84, Owatonna, Feb. 25.

Mardell Lorraine Robison, 86, New Richland, Feb. 25.

Jean Alvira Hanson, 88, Owatonna, Feb. 26.

Steele County Marriages February 2015

Anthony Eugene Wadley and Roxanne Rochelle Evans, Feb. 14.

Roberto Antonio Menendez Alfaro and Leidis Elena Pajares, Feb. 21.

Jonathan James Palm and Sarah Elizabeth Maloney, Feb. 28.

Jesus Bermudez-Dominguez and Madline Casiano Cancel, Feb. 28.

Jordan Daniel Wiersma and Frances Anne Bail, Feb. 28.

Daniel Zambrano and Diana Gomez, Feb. 28.

Steele County Divorces February 2015

Debra Lynn Phillips and Ralph Eugene Phillips.

NOTICE

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

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

5/26, 6/2

the Criminal Justice Committee meeting.
19. Glynn/Schultz to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 5/12/2015

30th Place, LLC	17,827.99
3D Specialties	3,968.64
4 Imprint, Inc.	5,987.24
A'viands, LLC	17,908.64
Adjusters International, Inc.	2,772.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.	8,154.33
APG Media of Southern Minnesota, LLC	3,161.70
Jessica L. Bendzick	2,000.00
Block Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	4,189.25
Businessware Solutions Corporation	2,390.03
Central Valley Cooperative	7,189.74
City of Blooming Prairie	2,994.19
Computer Professionals Unlimited, Inc.	4,142.72
D & M Construction & Landscaping	2,331.05
ESRI, Inc.	6,433.89
Express Services, Inc.	3,240.00
Goodhue County Treasurer	4,850.00
Harlands Tire & Auto Center	5,215.99
Integra Telecom	2,974.26
MN Counties Insurance Trust.	2,500.00
MN Pollution Control Agency	67,049.49
MTM Recognition Corporation	2,052.96
NEC Financial Services, LLC	4,269.61
Owatonna Public Utilities	22,970.76
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	2,632.87
Steele County Central Services	2,076.17
Steele County Treasurer	4,351.48
Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc.	48,538.37
Turnkey Corrections	3,689.22
Waste Management of WI-MN	204,984.94
140 Warrants under \$2,000	49,626.49
TOTAL:	\$522,474.02

20. Ebeling/Glynn to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 7:55 p.m. Ayes all.

6/2

Classifieds/News

Area Briefs

‘Cause for Cancer Ride’

The fifth annual ‘Cause for Cancer ride’ will be held on June 27 in Blooming Prairie.

Registration will be held at J&H Liquors on Blooming Prairie’s Main Street from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. This is a benefit ride for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

The fee is \$10 per rider and \$25 car maximum. Registered paid riders will receive a ticket for door prize drawings held at J&H Liquors at 5 p.m. The ride leaves at 10:30 a.m. sharp. The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will cater a

meal at 5 p.m. at J&H Liquors.

For more information, contact J&H Liquors at 507-583-7557, Cheri Krejci at 507-583-2801 or 2046 or Jennifer Milton at 507-583-2504.

Painting for a Cure

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is sponsoring Painting for a Cure from 6-9 p.m., June 10 at the Pizza Cellar.

Cost is \$45 per person and includes doors prizes, free appetizers and deserts. There will be everything you need to create a 16x20 piece of art. Clinks and Canvas will provide step-by-step

instructions.

All proceeds will go to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Summer programs underway

Summer programs are underway at the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club. The club is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Last year, an estimated 153 youth, ages 6-18, attended Boys & Girls Club programs throughout the summer. That is an increase from the previous year.

On June 8, STEM Camp will start and run through the summer. Youth will do activities involving science, technology, engineering, math, recreation and arts.

Ribfest set for June 27

The Boys & Girls Club Ribfest will be held on June 27 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. The event starts at 3 p.m. and will continue until the ribs run out.

This year’s event will be different. There will still be 10 -15 cookers that will be judged. However, the event in-

cludes a steak cook off and 10 youth will be able to cook hamburgers to see who the best burger cooker is.

The Boys & Girls Club will provide the hamburger, buns and grills. The young cookers need to bring the seasoning. The top three cookers will get a trophy.

There will also be a silent auction and a dinner at a cost of \$15 per plate. Raffle tickets will be sold for two 1/2 hogs and \$250 in cash.

Thank You

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52 of Blooming Prairie sincerely thanks everyone who generously contributed during the 2015 Poppy Day campaign.

Special thanks to all volunteers who distributed poppies at various places in BP, businesses that provided the campaign areas, Steele County Times, KRFO radio and F&M Bank for their publicity.

Proceeds from the campaign are invested in local programs for the benefit of veterans and active duty military members and their families.

Sharon Lea
Poppy Chairperson

ADVANCE NOTICE
CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. June 27 • 9 a.m

Located: Hamilton Auction Company
off I-90 at Dexter, MN, exit #193,
then 1/4 mile east on Hwy. 16

Consign your farm machinery,
tractors, hay equip., construction
equip., trucks, trailers, pickups,
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5th of June to have items listed
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www.hamiltonauctioncompany.com
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The Steele County Times has an opening for an intern through a summer youth employment program. Candidate must be a high school student or 2015 graduate between the ages of 16-19. This is a great opportunity to gain experience in writing, photography, advertising sales or graphic design. You pick the area you'd like to focus on. Contact managing editor Alan Van Ormer at bpalan@frontier.com for more information or call 507-583-4431.

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411 East Main St.,
Blooming Prairie, MN
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Birthday

Birthday Party/Open House
60 / 80
Fran Njos-Bramstedt
Kelly Njos
BP Servicemen's Club
Sat. June 13, 5-9 p.m.
No Gifts Please

Garage Sale

HAYFIELD CITYWIDE
GARAGE SALE
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Saturday June 6th.
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Sunscreen rating
4. Military mailbox
7. 12th month (abbr.)
10. Sunrise Mount of Shandong
11. Escape from the law
12. Similar suffix
13. Pyrole
15. Anger
16. Blue-billed diving ducks
19. J.K. Rowling's pseudonym
22. Projecting part of a rampart
23. What St. Helens did
24. Large integers
25. Adhesive or digital
26. Writing providing information
29. Inscribed upright stone slabs
33. The night before
34. Black tropical

American cuckoo
35. Heartache from loss
39. Hush money payer
42. Geological times
44. Types of fish eggs
45. Young pilchard
48. Lack of momentum
52. "Blue Bloods" A.D.A. actress
54. Rust fungi
55. Make lace
56. Small larids
57. Energy Savings Measure
58. Before
59. __ Lilly, drug company
60. Comic book character rooted in Japanese mythology
61. Radioactivity unit
62. Tear apart

CLUES DOWN

1. Posts or stumps (Scot.)
2. Painter's board
3. Containing more fire
4. In a way, adjusts
5. 1/100 Serbian dinar
6. Breakfast egg dish
7. Throw into disorder
8. Prisoner on the lam
9. 1st Hindu month
13. Treats high blood pressure (abbr.)
14. A plural of zoon
17. Ouray Res. Tribe
18. Doctor of Philosophy
20. Large quantities
21. Ladies undergarments
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Macao monetary unit
28. Prefix denoting "in a"
30. Research workplace
31. Midway between NE and E
32. Title of respect
36. Somewhat crimson
37. Folding paper art
38. Gradually diminish
39. Too osseous
40. Go in again
41. A citizen of Israel
43. Irish, English or Gordon
44. Had a wild disturbance
45. Helps little firms
46. They __
47. Brown, wild & long-grained
49. Thysanopterous insect
50. Gandalf actor
51. Initials of Dannielynn's mother
53. "Dragon Tattoo" actress Rooney

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Dressbarn celebrates 20 years

By SHANNON KINLEY
County Staff Writer

Even though store manager Jennifer Anderson has only been at the Dressbarn in the Medford Outlet Center for three years, she hopes to still be at the store for the 40-year celebration.

In March, the store celebrated being located at the Outlet Center for 20 years.

“I so believe in the mission here, it brings me to tears to think about it. Their mission and sole purpose is to inspire women to look and feel beautiful and to understand the real body,” Anderson said.

The company itself has an even longer history, as it was established in 1962 by Roslyn Jaffe, a mother of three who dared to work and launched a new era of women’s fashion including pencil skirts, sheer blouses, flares, furs and leather coats. Today the store has 830 stores nationwide.

Anderson, who is originally from the Rochester area, has worked in the retail industry for over 20 years. Before coming to Outlet Center, she worked at J. Jill in Rochester until it closed, at Shopko as a customer service and apparel manager and then as the assistant manager of the Dressbarn in Rochester for a year. She then transferred to the center after the manager position opened up.

“I thought that was what my path was going to be working in big box retail, but I missed the customer interaction, the one-on-one,” Anderson said. “We get that here and we get to build a relationship with her (the customer) and really help her find herself here in the store.”



Staff Photo by Shannon Kinley

Long-time store associate Kathy Krueger (left) and store manager Jennifer Anderson stand in front of a display at the Medford Outlet Center’s Dressbarn. The store celebrated its 20th year of being located at the center in March.

I get to not only inspire my team but inspire women to feel beautiful. I love the idea that we get to be her best friend when she walks into the store. We get to be her advisor when her best friend is not in the room.

—Store manager,
Jennifer Anderson

Anderson says she enjoys working for the company because of its values including that an employee needs balance between work and their life outside of work.

She also enjoys being able to help women.

“I get to not only inspire my team but inspire women to feel beautiful,” she said. “I love the idea that we get to be her best friend when she walks into the store. We get to be her advisor when her best friend is not in the room.”

Although Dressbarn’s traditional target customer is in her 40s, Anderson says they are seeing more and more young women coming into the store. When asked why the store has lasted 20 years at the Outlet Center she said, “Be-

DRESSBARN
Continued on Page 7D

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DRESSBARN

Continued from Page 6D

cause we are her hidden secret. She can come here and get everything she needs... her work clothes, her play clothes and that dress for date night in one spot.”

Anderson said her experience at the Outlet Center has been great not only because of the community it is situated in, but also because of the Outlet Center’s General Manager Sharon Paulson.

“The energy is great and the people are great, it is like a close-knit family,” she said. She added Paulson is great about touching base with all of the store managers to see how things are going and to help with marketing.

Anderson’s hope for the future is that the store can continue to grow, inspire women and remain at the Outlet Center for another 20 years.

Long-time sales associate Kathy Krueger, of Owatonna, has worked with the company for 11 years and the Outlet

Center for nearly 20 years. Before becoming an employee at Dressbarn she worked at Petite Sophisticate until it closed its doors.

“I filled out an application, was in a few times to check things out and here I am,” Krueger said. “I like the clothing, there are always changes going on and it is a fun place to work.”

Beside the constant changes in product and styles, Krueger enjoys the customers. She says what sets the Outlet Center apart from other malls is “We are country folk and we are there to help.”

When asked why the store has lasted so long, Krueger responded, “Because the company works with us... they let us know if there is a problem or we let them know and then we correct it.”

Krueger’s hope for the future is that the store can continue

selling product and remain at the Outlet Center for many years.

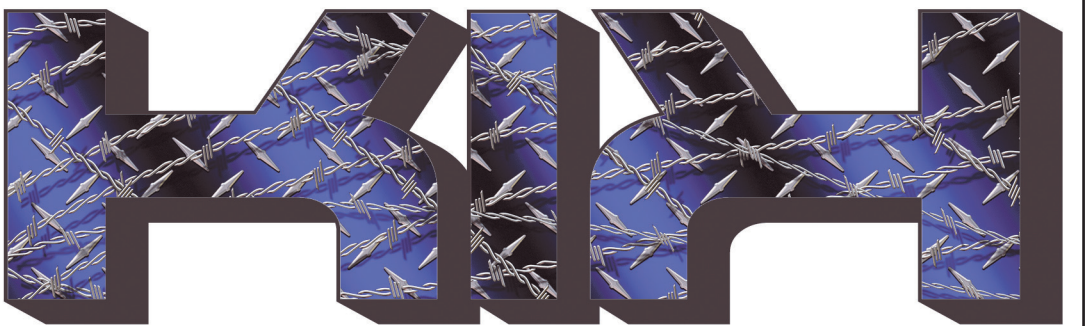
New this year for all Dressbarn locations along with the website is the DRESSBAR, a collection of dresses made by designers including LUXE by Carmen Marc Valvo, Mixt by Heidi Weisel, Lovely by Adriana Papell or Dressbarn’s Fashion Studio.

Online, customers can also search for dresses specific to the occasion such as a wedding, a date night or weekend fun along with how she is feeling including compliment ready, daring or fun and femme.

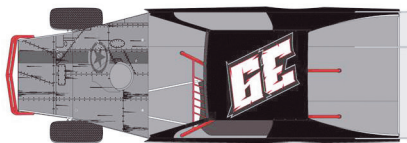
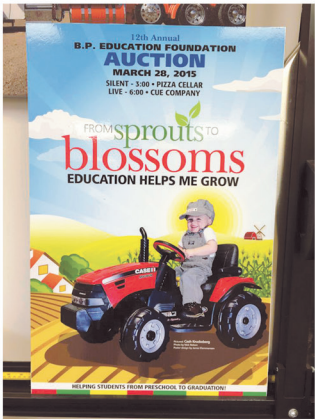
“When you think about it some of these designers their average price points are well elevated and we wanted to make sure that we came in at her value pricing. You are going to be able to get this red carpet designer at a fabulous price,” Anderson said.



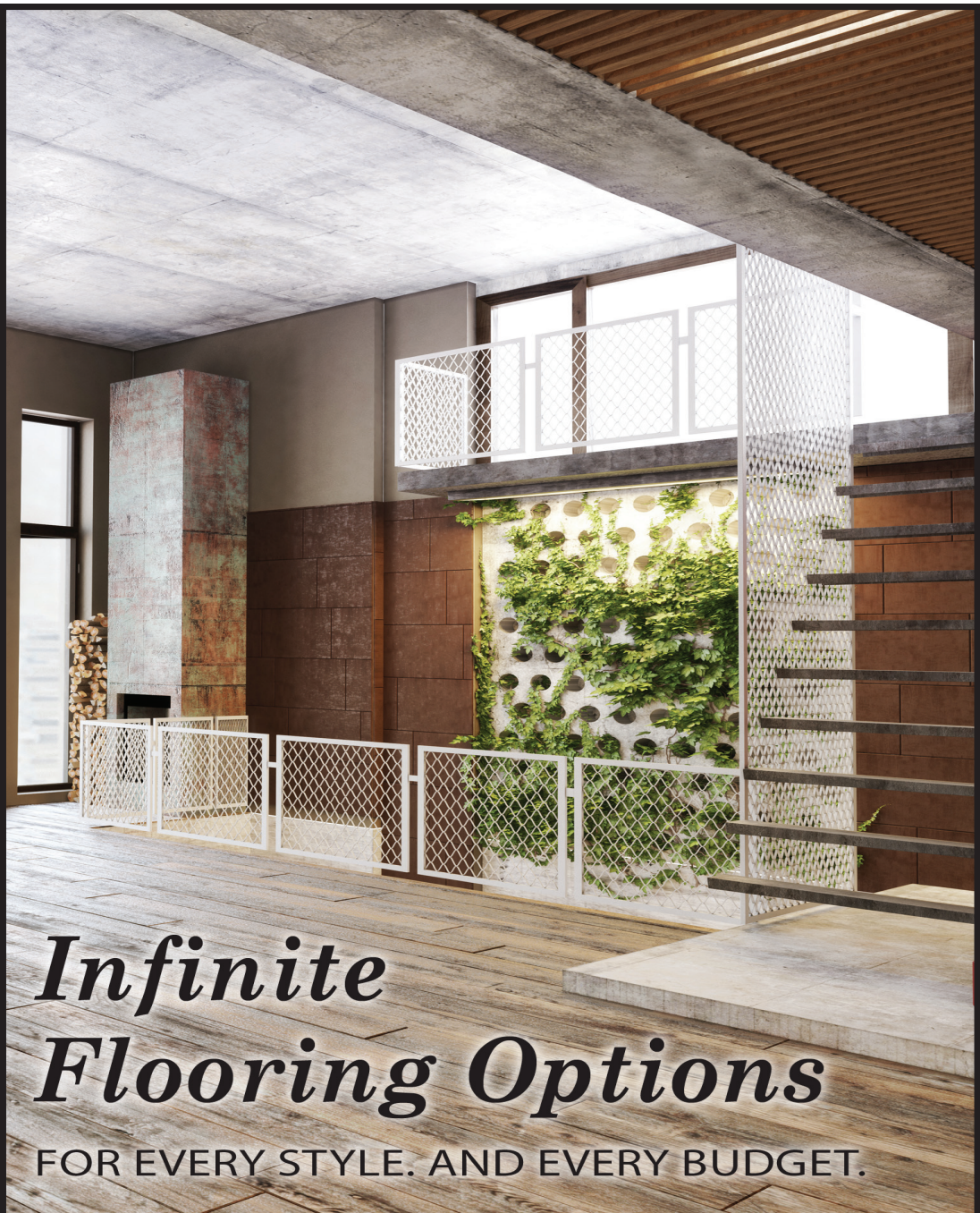
Staff Photo by Shannon Kinley
Dressbarn store manager Jennifer Anderson puts a sweater on a mannequin at the Medford Outlet Center location. Anderson has worked for the company for four years, one year in Rochester and three at the center.



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Employment CONNECTION

Things to consider when looking at changing careers

Making a big career change is never easy, especially if you’ve got kids to support, a mortgage to pay, and a car to worry about. People will tell you you’ve got it great where you are and that the grass is always greener on the other side. What they don’t know is what’s best for you. Switching careers doesn’t have to be the daunting process everyone makes it out to be if you are organized, practical, and thorough with your research.

Tackle the golden question: If you had all the money in the world, what would you be doing with yourself? Don’t hold back. This is brainstorming time. Make a list of all the things you’d rather be doing with your time. Your first few answers will probably be something like: Take a tropical vacation, spend more time with the kids, etc. But push your thinking beyond that. Ask yourself if you are content with stringent working hours, accounting to higher authorities, etc. If this is what you don’t like, then strive for a self-actualizing job that gives you exactly what you desire or hope to achieve.

Consider careers that interest you. You might have studied accounting at college for the sake of job security and financial certainty. But all the time, perhaps you really wanted to be a park ranger or a freelance troubleshooter. Think back to what once motivated you when you were younger—you will often find the kernel of the things that still motivate and thrill you there.

Write a list of the things you loved to do once and the career ideas you had.

Add down the ideas for preferred careers that you actually have now. Don’t hold back for such reasons as “lack training” or “no resources to risk it”. At this stage, write down the career paths you’d really rather be following.

Think of jobs that allow you to do what you really want to do, at least in some form. In what ways will you be able to apply your skills and talents every day? Be creative and open-minded. Focus on what your inner feelings guide you to do.

Make a list of everything you want in your new job. It’s also a good idea to make one of everything you don’t want, such as revisiting tedious aspects of your current job. Having this dual list of preferences to guide you will make it easier to check



off the jobs that fit and delete the ones that don’t; the list helps you to be more discerning and less ready to jump into the same situation.

Be prepared to work gradually towards your needs and wants; steady accomplishments will make the career transition less risky and more likely to work out for you.

The list helps you to listen to your gut reactions and not ignore warnings that something isn’t a good match for you. You are changing careers precisely because you want to remove yourself from the warnings, so heed that feeling if it arises. Conduct informational interviews. Informational interviews are a gem twofold: you get straight

talk about your considered profession from actual professionals, and you achieve face time with individuals that possibly have the power to hire you later down the line.

Ask people you know or to whom you can be introduced to lunch or a coffee shop to share their experiences and knowledge with you. Remember that you are taking up their time, so be generous by offering to pay for their drink and food on this occasion. Many people are happy to share their career experiences and will be grateful for your considerate approach to it.

Consider your financial situation. Are you willing to lower your standard so that you can take a job that pays less? You

might be surprised how you can whittle down current expenses in return for greater freedom and fulfillment to pursue what you really care about. For quite a number of people, financial rewards are all that keep them at the treadmill, so it can be a bit of a catch-22. If you feel you need the higher income to survive, it may just be that the higher income helps you survive an otherwise tedious or unfulfilling career; avoid confusing the two motivators!

How much does it cost, on a monthly and annual basis, to support your current standard of living?

Try to supplement your income in other ways. Small investments or a part time busi-

ness can financially make up for the deficit, should your new career pay less.

It takes a great deal of courage to do something your heart desires at the cost of some financial loss. However, this courage can pay off in the long term; if you find a career in which you feel satisfied, you’ll likely adjust your spending and expectations, gain greater experience over the years that will justify increased financial reward and if you’ve chosen well, you may be able to work beyond retirement years in an enjoyable, self-paced and fulfilling fashion as an “expert” or simply as someone who really loves what he or she is doing.

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Employment CONNECTION

Why you should take that summer job seriously

Making the most of your short-term employment can help your long-term career.

Whether you're a student, recent graduate or someone who's simply raking in extra cash this summer, here's why you should take that seasonal job seriously and how to make the most of it:

The why

You gain new skills and real-world experience.

"It takes more than a degree to be employable when you graduate," says Debbie Kaylor, director of the Career Center at Boise State University in Idaho. "When employers are recruiting and interviewing, they're looking for the whole package." That package includes skills and experience you're unlikely to gain in college alone, she says, but that you could pick up in a summer job, where "you're learning initiative, time management, integrity, teamwork and communication skills." And yes, she adds, that goes for slinging iced coffees at a cafe, taking tickets at an amusement park and completing other tasks seemingly unrelated to your long-term career. Even in those roles, you're practicing your professional interactions with supervisors and customers, solving problems – the cash register is on the fritz! – managing time to complete your duties, working in a team of co-workers and so on.

In a 2014 Forbes article titled

"The Two Key Traits Employers Need From Today's College Graduates," guess what the two traits are? Effective communication skills and real-world critical thinking skills. By practicing both this summer, you're already distinguishing yourself from the candidates you'll compete against for long-term employment. (Those are the folks splashing in the pool as you sell refreshments at the cabana.) As Robert Farrington, author of that Forbes article summarizes: "No matter how high your GPA, or whether you graduated with honors, if you can't communicate clearly in an interview and demonstrate that you can solve a real world business problem, employers will not want to hire you."

You can network. "When you're working at a coffee shop, who's going there every morning? Local professionals who are heading out to the community to their jobs," Kaylor says. At the pool, you interact with neighbors. At the amusement park: parents. At the restaurant: locals. "If you make a good

impression on those people, they're going to remember that and be part of your network when you go out and look for other jobs," Kaylor says.

You secure references. Do a good job, and those supervisors and co-workers today can praise your work to potential employers later.

The how

Work harder than everyone else.

"If you can step it up a little bit, you can really make an impact on the organization and what people think of you," Kaylor says. At the most basic level, this means wearing the proper attire every day and, according to brand marketing leader and former U.S. News blogger Tim Tyrell-Smith, arriving early and staying late. Doing so "will help you pass the first-impression test with your bosses and co-workers," he says in this blog post about turning a summer job into a full-time gig. Plus, "[I]t makes you look

hungry for the job and is an obvious way to show off your interest," he writes.

Perform your duties the best you can, which means ditching your phone when you're on the clock and being "present at what you're doing," Kaylor says. Instead of eyeing your Instagram feed, observe your work environment to "identify areas of improvement and to suggest changes," she says. This may be as simple as cleaning your work area, or it could be as forward-thinking as proposing a way to streamline hostess duties at your restaurant or boost employee engagement at your pool by creating a co-worker softball team. "Summer jobs are great opportunities to take initiative," she adds.

Connect with regulars. Remember the repeat patrons of your coffee shop, pool and restaurant mentioned above?

Get to know them, and in turn, let them learn about you. No one is suggesting a "Can I take your order and also have a salaried job at your company?" approach. However, if you hit it off with regulars who ask about you, Kaylor suggests opening with lines like: "I'm a marketing major at XYZ University." Or: "I'm excited to try my hand at public relations." Then, as you wrap up your seasonal work, Kaylor advises asking these patrons for their contact information so you can add them to your network.

Ask your boss for feedback and references.

There's unlikely to be a performance review planned for a three-month job, so Kaylor suggests requesting one. In the review, ask your manager about what you did well on the job and in which areas you can improve, Kaylor says, and ask for feedback on specific skills, such as communication and teamwork. With this assessment, "you have something to think about and something to work toward in your next job," she says.

If the manager was pleased with your work, see if she would be your reference, and log her job titles and contact information. You can do the same for co-workers, too. However, when you plan to use them in the future, "contact those references in advance to let them know what's going on," Kaylor says. "You don't want them to be blindsided."

Get an outside

perspective so you can build your professional story. Soon after you finish your summer job, Kaylor suggests meeting with someone from your university's career services center, a parent or a mentor to hash out what exactly you did that summer and how to convey your valued contributions to future employers. Otherwise, if you just throw "pool attendee" or "hostess at restaurant" on your résumé without debriefing, you'll undersell the experience and likely forget about the suggestions you proposed, connections you made and initiatives you took when you need to describe the experience in a future interview. "Having someone else on the outside looking in changes the perspective," Kaylor says, because he or she can ask questions and prompt you to look more closely at what you achieved. How did the co-worker softball team you created affect employee engagement, for example, or what was the result of the streamlined hostess duties you proposed? Log these results in your running résumé, she says, and shape the experiences into a narrative.

"Think about what employers are interested in from that experience, and figure out how to articulate that," she says. "Create a compelling story to help them understand what those transferable skills are."



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