

Opinion

Our view

School spirit isn’t just for students

As August continues to heat up, it’s easy to pretend that the start of the school year lies in the distant future. In reality, however, the upcoming school year is just around the corner.

This fall, many area communities will turn their attention to “school spirit,” or developing a direct involvement and support of the school. As the school year season approaches, students and staff alike will be encouraged to sport their school colors and cheer on their classmates as they aim to achieve in academics, athletics and other school-related activities. But, the concept of school spirit is something that extends far beyond the classrooms and the bleachers alongside the athletic fields. It’s a concept that all community members can embrace, whether or not they have a direct connection to a student or staff member at an area school.

Especially in smaller, rural communities, schools are viewed as an epicenter of activity. Many local people choose to become directly involved with the school, serving on their school board or volunteering their time to assist with academics, school sports or extracurricular programs. Others choose to attend events, from games, plays, concerts and other club-related fundraising events. Many area businesses also take time to sponsor these activities and events, or offer resources and funds to supplement educational initiatives. All of these avenues of support greatly benefit the students and school staff. In turn, they also directly benefit that school’s community.

When schools receive support from local people, businesses and organizations, they often use that support to make a positive impact within their community. Schools often turn to their local businesses to purchase necessary supplies and services, and also employ a significant number of area residents. At the very least, schools strive to help local youth learn and grow, encouraging them to become thinkers, leaders and well-informed, engaged citizens. Schools rely on the support of their communities to provide the best education possible for their students, and it’s up to area resident to provide that support in every way possible.

This year, consider making a contribution to your local school. There’s countless ways to contribute, regardless of your personal experiences or budget. Showing your support can be as simple as showing up to free school-related events, or wearing your favorite school shirt with pride when you’re out and about. For ideas to get involved, contact your local school and prepare for an appreciative, and enthusiastic, response.

The more resources and support we provide our local schools, the stronger our community will be.

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

This week’s question:

How often do you interact with your local school, or attend school-related events?

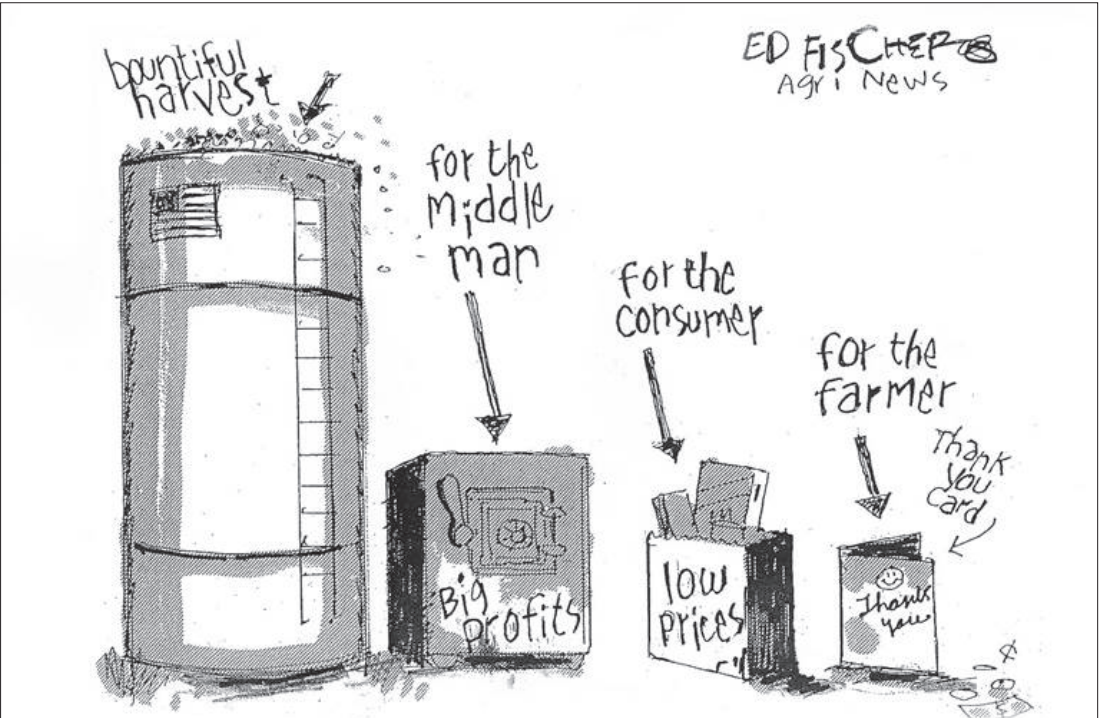
- *I know someone affiliated with the school, so I am very involved with school-related activities.
- * I don’t know any staff or students at the school, but I still make an effort to show my support for the school.
- *I don’t know any staff or students at the school, so I rarely take part in school-related initiatives or events.

Last week’s question:

Have you ever been the victim of fraud or identify theft?

- *Yes. 75%
- *No. 25%
- *Someone made an attempt to scam me, but I didn’t fall for their scheme. 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.



Volunteers are key to fair’s success

Folks over at the Steele County Free Fair sure know how to throw a party as thousands will find out this week when the county fair kicks into action.

Ever since I took over the paper nearly six years ago, I have marveled at how great the Steele County Fair is. It’s, without a doubt, one of the greatest shows on the face of the earth. I am continually in awe of how such a festival comes together and the work that goes on behind the scenes.

A big part of the answer to my curiosity came Sunday night.

Prior to this week’s extravaganza that has become touted as Minnesota’s largest and best county fair, local fair officials celebrated the contributions of all their volunteers. The fair hosted an appreciation dinner for many of those who donate their time and talents to the fair. I found it takes hundreds of volunteers to pull off such a gigantic event each year.

The fair honored several volunteers with recognition awards during the special appreciation. Among them were Todd Hale, the fair’s publicity and entertainment director. He’s only been filling that role for 25 years.

As he reflected on his years of service, Hale lamented about all the changes that have happened since he joined the fair in 1991. At the time, he thought he could do a better job at finding entertainers for the fair.

And now more than two decades later, Hale is especially proud of his work with booking the entertainment for all ages to enjoy.



PURSUIT
Rick Bussler

“There isn’t an entertainer that doesn’t enjoy coming to the Steele County Fair,” Hale says. “They think it’s the greatest thing in the world. We’re obviously doing the right thing.”

Hale admits that one of the greatest hurdles he comes across is deciding what type of entertainment to bring out to the fair. “The biggest challenge I have at my age is putting entertainment out there that will appeal to young people,” he said.

He finds that 50s and 60s music is the most popular and “still packs the place.”

As for old-time music, Hale wonders if it will ever go by the wayside. But he sees no sign of that happening. “It hasn’t died,” he said. “People of all ages enjoy the old-time music.”

When asked why the entertainers like the fair so well, Hale said it boils down to the size of the fair and the good experiences they enjoy every time. For some of the entertainers, the fair is the largest venue in which they play throughout the year, Hale noted.

Mailbag

Raising a Stink

In a recent article in Minnesota Lawyer, Raising a Stink, the author showcases a pending nuisance lawsuit initiated by a group of local farm families against a large swine feedlot operation in Todd County, Minnesota. Attorney Jack Perry, a lobbyist and litigator, represents the Gorley Brothers, large swine operators in the State of Iowa, who are erecting a large sow production facility in central Minnesota. Of significance, the Minnesota Pork Producers Association finally acknowledges that they “kicked in some funds” for litigation costs.

The average farm family does not have the financial resources to challenge these huge CAFOs. My parents, Lowell and Evelyn Trom, are challenging the 11th hog confinement facility near our family farm in rural Dodge County, Minnesota. Not surprisingly, Jack Perry represents one of the defendants, the largest swine operator in Dodge County. When we tried to work with local citi-

zens to adopt local planning and zoning to control development of further CAFOs in the township, the township officers (who are all tied into the hog operators and have manure easements with the feedlot operators) hired Jack Perry. So, is the Minnesota Pork Producers Association funding legal activities in Dodge County, too?

It is a hardship for rural farm families to challenge Big Ag and groups such as the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. The only hope for most farm families in the fight against Big Ag and installation of large CAFOs is help from outside groups such as the Humane Society, which occurred in Todd County. These large swine operations are huge polluters and, if Minnesotans want clean air and water, they need to help fund the fight against Big Ag and groups such as the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. We need to level the playing field.

Sonja Trom Eayrs
Maple Grove

Where’s other opinions about feedlots?

I find it interesting that for the past few months we have been reading in The Steele County Times how high a percentage of contamination to the environment is caused by feedlots. It’s also interesting that only two members of the Concerned Citizens of Dodge County, both having the same family name, write letters. Does no one else have an opinion? What’s the real concern? I wasn’t aware that animal manure was toxic.

I would like to ask you, Ms. Sonja Trom Eayrs, if your father, brother or whoever farms your land, sprays chemicals on the soil to kill weeds and insects? If so, they also contribute to the pollution of the soil, ground water and air. You live in the city. Do you have a lawn service spray your lawn for crab grass, dandelions, weeds, etc.? If so, you are contributing to pollution. Those

Rural broadband necessary, not just nice



By Lt. Governor Tina Smith

In 1922, the Minneapolis Tribune ran an article touting the benefits of electricity. “Don’t sell your farm, but electrify it, is the message science sends to farmers. The day will come soon when farms are run by electricity, just as the other great industries are.” The newspaper marveled that the relatively new technology was creating new economic opportunities in rural Minnesota, and was making work more efficient and life a little easier.

Eventually, Minnesota farms were electrified, but it didn’t happen for everyone for nearly 15 years. In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act to assist rural communities finally replacing kerosene and wood stoves with alternating currents and wires. Access to electricity revolutionized farming and dramatically improved quality of life.

Today, nearly 80 years later, we are at a similar juncture for broadband Internet access. Increasingly, farmers are recognizing the importance of high-quality, affordable Internet. This year, the annual FarmFest trade show in Redwood County has declared Tuesday, Aug. 4 to be “Broadband Day,” further raising awareness of the issue.

Right now, only three of Minnesota’s top ten agricultural counties have broadband availability that meets the state’s standards for accessibility. In fact, five of these counties are below 60 percent availability for broadband.

BROADBAND
Continued on Page 4A

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.
USPS 058-340
Published weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address changes to: Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: (507) 583-4431
Fax: (507) 583-4445
bptimes@frontiernet.net

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015
Seven state awards.

2014
Three state awards.

2013
Seven state awards.
Two national awards.

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



STAFF	
Publisher	Rick Bussler
Managing Editor	Alan Van Orner
Staff Writers	LeMar Nelson
News Editor	Laura Berndt
County Sports Editor	James Knoop
Office Manager	Lynn Borchert
Sales Manager	Julie Snyder
Advertising Sales	Shauna Christiansen
.....	Eileen Johnson
Graphic Designers	Miranda Wadewitz
.....	Jamie Klemmensen

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

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower	\$38
Elsewhere in Minnesota	\$40
Out of state	\$42

Second Front Page

MCA SCORES

Continued from Page 1A

like any other schools, there are areas for improvement but, also commented, “I’m thinking we did better than most districts.”

He added that they there were areas of growth. “We need our students to meet those standards, which means matching teaching to those standards.”

At all grade levels tested, Blooming Prairie scored higher than the Minnesota state average in reading. Tenth graders achieved over nearly 13 percent higher than the statewide average of tenth grade students. There were mixed results in math, with some grades falling above or below the state average.

Blooming Prairie High School students were the only students in Steele County to not fall below state average in the science portion of the standardized test. Blooming Prairie scored 4.1 percent higher than the state average for high school students. Unfortunately, the fifth and eighth graders of Blooming Prairie fell short of the state average in science by about 5 percent.

Medford saw strengths in lower elementary math and reading in fourth through sixth grade. Medford superintendent Rich Dahman admitted that Medford’s areas of concern were reading at the seventh and eighth grade level.

Like all Steele County schools though, Dahman said that science was also an area of concern for Medford, especially for students in middle levels and high school.

“We’ve got some things in place to address these areas of concern during the upcoming year,” said Dahman. “This will be the first year that we are adding a seventh grade reading course. We’re focused on the state reading standard.” The entire K-12 Medford school has an updated math program that will be in effect this school year.

“Over these few weeks, our math and English teachers have been coming in to look at our standards and identify ways to improve,” explained Dahman. “We look mainly at our school and compare those test scores to

the state average. We’d like to see those scores at the state average and higher.”

The scores from Owatonna students fell short in science, especially Owatonna eighth graders, who scored 27 percent when the state average is state average 45.9 percent.

Owatonna saw strengths in math in all grades and exceeded the state average, except for early the early elementary grades third and fourth. Owatonna fifth and sixth graders readers scored higher than the state average; however, early elementary, seventh, eighth and tenth graders scored below the state average.

Owatonna Junior High School Principal Jason Hunt commented that the students in the junior high building increased proficiency from 2014 to 2015. “Our building saw just over 7 percent increase in math scores and about a 1 percent increase in reading from 2014 to 2015. It’s exciting. Not where we want to be, but exciting!”

Hunts said that the entire Owatonna school district got to-

gether on Aug. 11 to discuss and interpret the scores. “We interpreted the scores and then spent the rest of the day speaking specifically about our building, asking questions like ‘How did we get these scores?’ and ‘What can we do next year to improve our scores?’

In response to the argument against simply “teaching the test,” Principal Hunt said, “Why wouldn’t we teach the test? We’ve developed the test based on standards we want the students to learn.” Hunt said that he would like to see the stigma surrounding standardized tests be eliminated.

In Dodge County, the Kasson-Mantorville district soared above the state average in science in all three grades tested. Eighth graders from the Kasson-Mantorville school district actually scored 14.4 percent higher than the state average. Kasson-Mantorville tested above the state average in all areas and grades, except for tenth grade, reading with a score of 53 percent (comparing to the state av-

erage of 57.2 percent.)

Triton did not do as well. Triton fell far below the state average in math for fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade math, but third and fourth graders did exceed the state average in math.

Triton scores were mixed, but testing for the upper middle school and high school all came in far lower than the state average. Triton eighth graders fell 26.7 percent below the state average for math. Tenth graders landed 16.3 percent lower than the state average in math and 14.9 percent lower than the state average in science.

Many school districts in the area commented that there have been some inconsistencies in the vendor of the test provider. Some schools, like Medford, experienced major technological difficulties. Superintendent Dahman, of Medford, said that students actually experienced program freezing while taking the test at the computer, which meant they had to continue the test later.

Another struggle with MCA

testing is always student motivation, since the tests do not impact student’s grades or graduation status.

Principal Hunt said that they try to get kids “pumped” for the tests by having a school forum and passing out treats for those taking tests. “It is hard to sustain that energy over the entire length of the testing period, but we try to tell them that this is their opportunity to express what they are learning,” said Hunt.

Many schools also said that the MCA tests can point to an individual student’s areas of strength, or areas that they might need to work harder at.

“Our hope is to make every student college or career ready, the MCA test can be like a check point for students throughout their education,” said Hunt. “The MCA tests give a lot of feedback, not just for the student, but for the school, as well.”

List of 2015 area MCA test scores

Parenthesis next to schools indicate the grades of students participating in the test from that school. Many schools in the area have a different approach to middle school groupings.

Steele County

Owatonna Senior High School (9-11):

Math: 53.7%
Reading: 45%
Science: 36.7%
Owatonna Junior High (7-8):
Math: 57.2%
Reading: 51.4%
Science: 27%
Willow Creek: (6)
Math: 58.4%
Reading: 58.7%
Lincoln Elementary (3-5):
Math: 64.2%
Reading: 62.4%
Science: 65%
McKinley Elementary (3-5):
Math: 61.8%
Reading: 53.3%
Science: 59.6%
Washington Elementary (3-5):
Math: 72.9%
Reading: 63.3%
Science: 67.4%
Wilson Elementary (3-5):
Math: 60.2%
Reading: 53.3%
Science: 44.3%

District scores per grade:
MATH:
Third grade: 63.3% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 67.2% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 62.9% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 58.6% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 55.5% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 58.2% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 50.4% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 51.3% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 53.6% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 67.6% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 69.1% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 54.4% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 48.1% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 44.4% (State Average 57.2%)
SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 58.8% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 27% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 35.6% (State

Average 54.9%)

BLOOMING PRAIRIE:

Blooming Prairie Secondary (grades 7-11):

Math: 53.2% (State Average 53.4%)
Reading: 64.5%
Science: 51.4%

Blooming Prairie Elementary (grades 3-6):

Math: 68%
Reading: 67.2%
Science: 54.2%

District scores per grade:

MATH:
Third grade: 76.9% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 83% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 42.4% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 70% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 62.5% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 56.8% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 35.3% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 67.7% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 60.4% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 71.2% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 68.6% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 60.4% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 61.4% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 70% (State Average 57.2%)
SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 54.2% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 40.9% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 59% (State Average 54.9%)

MEDFORD:

Medford Secondary (grades 7-11):

Math: 35.6%
Reading: 44.8%
Science: 32%

Medford Elementary (grades 3-6):



Math: 66.6%
Reading: 62.6%
Science: 62%

District scores per grade:

MATH:
Third grade: 77.3% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 69.2% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 62.5% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 57.7% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 31.9% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 45% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 29.2% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 55.4% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 59% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 71.2% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 68.1% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 38.4% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 42.4% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 54.8% (State Average 57.2%)

SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 54.2% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 35% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 27.9% (State Average 54.9%)

NRHEG:

NRHEG Secondary (6-11):

Math: 58.1%
Reading: 48%

Science: 35%

NRHEG Elementary (3-5):

Math: 79.2%
Reading: 62.4%
Science: 56.4%

District scores per grade:

MATH:
Third grade: 90.5% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 79.5% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 66.7% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 61.3% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 53.2% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 52.9% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 64.6% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 74.3% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 50% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 63.8% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 66.1% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 47.6% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 39.4% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 47.2% (State Average 57.2%)

SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 56.5% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 21.7% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 51.9% (State Average 54.9%)
Dodge County
Kasson-Mantorville Senior

High (9-11):

Math: 57.4%
Reading: 53%
Science: 62%
Kasson-Mantorville Middle School (5-8):
Math: 69.3%
Reading: 67.5%
Science: 68.9%

Kasson-Mantorville Elementary (3-4):

Math: 84%
Reading: 70.9%

District scores per grade:

MATH:
Third grade: 84.8% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 83.3% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 75.8% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 68.4% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 63.3% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 70.1% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 57.4% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 73.2% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 68.5% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 69.8% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 77.4% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 59% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 64.3% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 53.0% (State Average 57.2%)

SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 77.2% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 60.3% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 62% (State Average 54.9%)

Triton:

Triton High School (9-11):

Math: 31.1%
Reading: 40.9%
Science: 40%

Triton Middle School (6-8):

Math: 33.6%
Reading: 51.7%
Science: 27.7%

Triton Elementary (3-5):

Math: 60.9%
Reading: 57%
Science: 43%

District scores per grade:

MATH:
Third grade: 72.5% (State Average 70.9%)
Fourth grade: 71% (State Average 70%)
Fifth grade: 40.2% (State Average 59.7%)
Sixth grade: 31.6% (State Average 57.9%)
Seventh grade: 38.8% (State Average 55%)
Eighth grade: 31.3% (State Average 58%)
Eleventh grade: 31.3% (State Average 48.7%)

READING:
Third grade: 62% (State Average 58.9%)
Fourth grade: 61.7% (State Average 57.9%)
Fifth grade: 48% (State Average 66.7%)
Sixth grade: 64.2% (State Average 63.9%)
Seventh grade: 51.2% (State Average 55.7%)
Eighth grade: 41.6% (State Average 56.2%)
Tenth grade: 40.9% (State Average 57.2%)

SCIENCE:
Fifth grade: 43% (State Average 59.3%)
Eighth grade: 27.7% (State Average 45.9%)
High School: 40% (State Average 54.9%)



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

**INJURED AT WORK?
DISABILITY DENIED?**

**Contact Us Today
For Free Advice**

Workers’ Compensation
Long-Term Disability
Social Security Disability

1-888-343-5375
www.GetFields.com

Your Blue Ribbon
State Fair Tradition

**Park. Ride.
Find your fun.**

Buy your ticket in advance and save!
metrotransit.org/StateFair

MetroTransit

Call Now 800-259-1096

Their Price
Celebrex™
\$832.60
Typical US Brand Price for 200mg x 100

Our Price
Celecoxib*
\$75.56
Generic equivalent of Celebrex™
Generic price for 200mg x 100

Are You Still Paying Too Much For Your Medications?

You can save up to **93%** when you fill your prescriptions with our Canadian and International prescription service.

Viagra™ \$4,287.27
Typical US Brand Price for 100mg x 40

vs

Sildenafil* \$132.00
Generic Price for 100mg x 40

Get An Extra \$15 Off & Free Shipping On Your 1st Order!

Call the number below and save an additional \$15 plus get free shipping on your first prescription order with Canada Drug Center. **Expires December 31, 2015.** Offer is valid for prescription orders only and can not be used in conjunction with any other offers. Valid for new customers only. One time use per household. **Use code 15FREE to receive this special offer.**

Call Now! 800-259-1096

Please note that we do not carry controlled substances and a valid prescription is required for all prescription medication orders.

Use of these services is subject to the Terms of Use and accompanying policies at www.canadadrugcenter.com.

+ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048 1049 1050 1051 1052 1053 1054 1055 1056 1057 1058 1059 1060 1061 1062 1063 1064 1065 1066 1067 1068 1069 1070 1071 1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 1080 1081 1082 1083 1084 1085 1086 1087 1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1098 1099 1100 1101 1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1107 1108 1109 1110 1111 1112 1113 1114 1115 111

News

BROADBAND

Continued from Page 1A

Broadband in Minnesota’s rural communities is not just nice, it’s necessary. As the world’s population continues to grow, Minnesotans are producing more food, fuel and fiber to help meet the growing need. Precision agriculture and technology-based solutions are essential tools for farmers as they increase efficiency and maximize production. And these tools require high speed, affordable, reliable broadband internet access.

Last year, the Governor and I worked with the Legislature to invest \$20 million in rural broadband access. Our plan was to create a partnership with local communities and local private providers to fill in the gaps in underserved or unserved rural communities.

This spring, we announced 17 projects located across the state from Luverne and Roseau to Tower and Becker. Working in partnership with private providers like Ottertail Telcom and Consolidated Telecom, we are expanding access across Greater Minnesota. By 2017, an additional 6,095 households, 83 community institutions and 150

businesses will have access to high-speed broadband Internet.

During the 2015 legislative session, the Governor and I proposed an additional \$30 million investment in rural broadband in 2016. This appropriation would have expanded access to 8,500 additional unserved households. Unfortunately, House Republicans started out proposing \$0 in funding for rural broadband access. Only after public outcry and the efforts of the Greater Minnesota Partnership, did they agree to \$10 million in additional.

At half of what we invested in 2014, I think this is a big missed opportunity. If we expect Minnesota farmers and rural communities to successfully compete in the global market, we also must provide them the tools and infrastructure they need.

Just as the federal government helped make the rural economy work through electrification in the 1930s, we need to connect rural Minnesota to broadband access. Let’s work together to get this done, and build an economy that works for everyone in Greater Minnesota.

BEST COUNTY FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

ward with technology. This year the fair has added a “QR Code” on all printed materials. Fairgoers can shoot the code with their iPhones and it will take them to the fair’s website to find out any information they want to know.

“We’re trying to reach more people and we want to reach the younger folks,” Gleason explained about the technology upgrade. “It’s just another convenience thing we’ve added.”

Added Deml: “We’re on the cutting edge.”

Screams will likely fill the air as thrill-seeking kids enjoy two new rides on the midway, including a second Zipper ride and Twist and Drop.

For those wanting to watch others enjoy thrill-seeking adventures, a showcase attraction on the midway is back again for a third straight year. The Human Cannonball will be blasting across the midway every day.

David Smith Jr. will be shot out of a 35-foot cannon and 150-foot into the air. His daring stunt will take place at 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The cannonball man holds the “Guinness Book of World Records” for the longest cannonball shot at 194 feet and the highest height at 77.5 feet.

Prior to Smith performing at the recent fairs, his father did several stunts at previous fairs before 2009.

The grandstand will feature seven shows this year. The kickoff will be live bull riding at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Tuesday). The Battle of the Bands will take place at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday followed by Lost Highway concert.

Hairball will return as the major headliner Thursday at 7:30 p.m. The band has gained huge popularity around the Midwest in recent years.

Other grandstand shows include a NTPA tractor/truck pull at 7:30 p.m. Friday, antique tractor pull classic at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, endure race at 6 p.m. Saturday and the demolition derby will close out the fair Sunday at 4 p.m.

There will be free entertainment at various stages around the grounds throughout the entire fair. There are also four new



Staff photo by Rick Bussler
Concession stands line up outside the Steele County Fairgrounds early on Monday morning in anticipation of lots of food, fun and screams at the Steele County Free Fair, which runs Tuesday through Sunday.

bands performing in the beer garden this year.

The fair is conducting an on-line survey this year to get a gauge of what people think about the local extravaganza. This will be the first time in a decade that a survey has been done, according to Todd Hale, publicity director.

“We like to know what people think of our fair and what suggestions they may have,” Hale

said, noting the survey is short and should take no more than ten minutes.

Fairgoers can access the survey as well as other information by going to the fair’s website. The Times has created a link that can be accessed by clicking on the fair’s banner ad on our homepage at steeledodgenews.com.

MAIN STREET MAY BE CLOSED, BUT BUSINESSES ARE STILL OPEN!



Road construction has started in downtown Blooming Prairie. Main Street businesses want you to know that they are open for business as usual despite the construction.



Always local, all the time.

We're open.

Please use clinic entrance, follow the signs

507-583-4431

411 East Main St.

Please don't forget us during construction over the next few months!

Our livelihood depends on your patronage!

This message sponsored by these Main St. businesses:

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce

Please continue to support our local businesses during the construction.

507-583-7573

138 Hwy Ave S



Our drive up will remain open during the entire road construction.

507-583-6688

245 E. Main St.



HOMETOWN INSURANCE

We will be open.

507-583-6691

348 E. Main St.

Henefield Law Office, LLC

We will be open, please use front entrance as long as possible, back will be open.

507-583-6663

415 E. Main St.



Please use front entrance as long as possible, back will be open 50% off Backroom of bargains. Will be open all summer.

507-583-7637

330 E. Main St.



Please use front entrance as long as possible, back will be open.

507-583-2200

308 E. Main St.

J&H Liquors

Bar/Off-sale Entrance available off of Main Street and the back doors. Customer parking available in our North parking lot.

507-583-7557

340 E. Main St.



During construction 30% off if you use the front door Please use front entrance as long as possible.

507-583-7001

341 E. Main St

HOLMAN AGENCY, INC

Please use front door. The back entrance will also be open.

507-583-7294

421 E. Main St.



Please use front door. The back entrance will also be open.

507-583-4469

323 E. Main St.



We will be open. Please use side entrance.

507-583-6604

402 E. Main St.



We will be open.

800-248-3855

500 Minimizer Way SE



Use front entrance as long as possible, the back will be open.

507-583-2276

322 E. Main St.

How to reduce your medication costs

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you recommend any tips to help me save on my medication costs? I currently take five different prescription medications that are very expensive even with insurance.

Searching Susan

Dear Susan,
There are actually a variety of ways you can reduce your out-of-pocket medication expenses without sacrificing quality. Here are a few strategies that can help, whether you are covered by employer-based health insurance, a health plan on the individual marketplace, or a private Medicare Part D drug policy. Know your insurance formulary rules: Most drug plans today have formularies (a list of medications they cover) that place drugs into different “tiers.” Drugs in each tier have a different cost. A drug in a lower

tier will generally cost you less than a drug in a higher tier, and higher tier drugs may require you to get permission or try another medication first before you can use it. To get a copy of your plan’s formulary, visit your drug plan’s website or call the 800 number on the back of your insurance card. Once you have this information, share it with your doctor so, if possible, he or she can prescribe you medications in the lower-cost tiers. Or, they can help you get coverage approval from your insurer if you need a more expensive drug. You also need to find out if your drug plan offers preferred pharmacies or offers a mail-order service. Buying your meds from these sources can save you some money too. Switch to generics: Ask your doctor or pharmacist if the medications you’re taking are avail-

able in a generic form or a less expensive brand-name drug. About 75 percent of all premium drugs on the market today have a lower-cost alternative. Switching could save you between 20 and 90 percent. Pay for generics yourself: Most generic medications cost less if you don’t use your insurance. For example, chains like Target and Walmart offer discount-drug programs (these programs will not work in conjunction with your insurance) that sell generics for as little as \$4 for a 30-day supply and \$10 for a 90-day supply, while some insurance companies charge a \$10 copayment for a 30-day supply. Ask your pharmacy if they offer a discount-drug program and compare costs with your insurance plan. You can also find free drug discount cards online at sites like NeedyMeds.org, which can be used at most U.S.

pharmacies. Split your pills: Ask your doctor if the pills you’re taking can be cut in half. Pill splitting allows you to get two months worth of medicine for the price of one. If you do this, you’ll need to get a prescription from your doctor for twice the dosage you need. Try over-the-counter drugs: Ask your doctor if a nonprescription medication could work as effectively as a more expensive prescription drug. Many over-the-counter drugs for common conditions such as pain-relievers, allergy medications, anti-fungals and cold-and-cough medicines were once prescription only. But be aware that if you have a flexible spending account or a health savings account, you’ll need to get a doctor’s prescription for the over-the-counter drugs (except insulin) to get reimbursed.



THE SAVVY SENIOR
Brought to you by:
Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus



220 3rd St. NW,
Bloomington, IL
583-4434

Shop around: Drug prices can vary widely from drugstore to drugstore, so it’s definitely worth your time to compare prices at different pharmacies. To do this use GoodRX.com, a Web tool that lets you can find prices on all brand name and generic drugs at virtually every U.S. pharmacy. Search for drug assistance programs: If your income is limited, you can probably get help through drug assistance programs offered through pharmaceutical companies, government agencies and charitable organizations. To find these types of programs use BenefitsCheckUp.org, a comprehensive website that lets you locate the programs you’re eligible for, and will show you how to apply.

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

Correction

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2005
Elsie Slinger, Editor
No curling irons or hair dryers or Women’s Day magazines are visible at Jack Shaw’s Barber-shop on Main Street. Jack, who has been cutting hair in Blooming Prairie for 50 years, only cuts men’s hair, and actually prefers it that way. Jack came to Blooming Prairie in 1936 when his dad opened Shaw Drug on Main Street (now the party room of the Pizza Cellar.)

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1995
Elsie Slinger Editor
It was a night of remembering the end of the biggest war in the history of mankind, but it was

also a time to share whereabouts when World War 2 ended. In the background music from the early 1940s, friends talked about Aug. 15, 1945, and where they were and what they were doing when the news came that Japan had surrendered to American troops. By combined new 35mm air photography with forest tree inventory data, foresters are finding out that the destruction resulting from the storms of July 13 and 14 is more extensive than anticipated.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Aug. 26, 1965
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
Rev. Charles I. Wilson, pas-

tor of Trinity Lutheran Church, rural Blooming Prairie, and Aurora Lutheran Church, will be installed at a special service on Sunday, Aug. 29, starting at 3 p.m., in the Aurora church. Eleven Blooming Prairie youths will be competing at the world’s largest FFA show, the Minnesota State Fair, starting Friday of next week, Sept. 3. The livestock will leave Friday morning and return Tuesday. Truman Tilleraas, advisor and the members will be housed in the dormitories of the swine barn while at the fair. Farmers in Minnesota were reminded today that children under 16 years of age are not permitted to work on farms during school hours, under federal law.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Aug. 22, 1940
Walter K. Mickelson
Editor and Publisher
Spontaneous combustion, caused by newly-stored alfalfa hay, was responsible for the destruction of the large barn on the A. A. Harmer farm, near Claremont, last Thursday. Henry El-sner, farm hand employed on the farm, had finished milking when he noticed an odor of burning hay. Calling Will Harmer, the two climbed to investigate. As they climbed up over the hay, El-sner plunged into a hole up to his waist. As he managed to pull himself free, the heated hay exploded and burst into flames. William H. Smith and Marshal George T. Weber, of the

village of Edina, stood at a busy intersection, where Smith was shouting speed warnings to motorists. It seems that Smith was tagged for driving 39 miles an hour and, irked by the action of the constables, took a stance on the road outside of town warning motorists of the speed trap. When the facts were brought out at Smith’s trial on the speeding charge, the justice decided Smith’s idea was a good one. So, he stayed a five-day jail sentence on condition Smith act as “warner” to speeders between 5 and 6 p.m.

In the August 4 edition of The Steele County Times, Devin Raschke’s name was misspelled. The Times sincerely regrets the error and apologizes for the misspelling.



Splash into Summer

Call Julie today!
507-583-4431
bpjulie@frontier.com

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Place your ad today

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



Johnson & Doerhoefer P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
Tamzen R. Johnson
Certified Public Accountant
319 East Main • Blooming Prairie
888- 933-6828 • Fax: 507- 583-2389

Automotive



ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners
Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317
Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com
FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact the Steele County Times Today!
STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

507-583-4431


Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact the Steele County Times Today!
STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.



Construction



Johnson Construction & Tree Service
Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured
KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Siding & Windows

J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.
Siding & Windows
Lic. #20533878
•Maintenance Free Siding
•Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
•Custom Trim Work
•Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
•Lifetime Warranty
For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413
Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselves!



Dental Care

BLOOMING PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER
“Dentistry for the whole family”
Jeffrey A. Schwert, D.D.S.
132 2nd Ave. NE
Bloomington ~ 583-6613

Video Production

Telling Your Story on Video
Limberg Productions
• Marketing Videos • Picture Slideshows • 8mm Film Transfer
• Training Videos • Video Transfer • DVD Duplication
• Event Recording • Picture Scanning • DVD Label Printing
Owner/Manager of OwatonnaLive.com

Dental Care

**Main Street Dental Clinics**
comfortable dentistry

Bloomington 405 E. Main St. 507-583-2141	Owatonna 1170 East Frontage Rd. 507-455-1000	Mankato 287 St. Andrews Drive Suite 100 507-720-0250
Rochester 3110 Wellner Dr. NE. 507-536-7700	New Richland 132 Broadway Ave. N. 507-463-0502	

Funeral Planning

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING
**507-583-7561**
www.worlein.com
Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans
Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S., Bloomington, MN

Garbage

**319 2nd St. SW • Blooming Prairie**
507-583-7562
William P. Walsh, Owner
Garbage Service, Inc.
“A family-owned, hometown business operated locally for over 45 years.”
Residential & Business Hauling

Insurance

Holman Insurance Agency
For all your insurance needs
Keith & Carol Holman
421 E. Main Street
• 507- 583-7294 •


Lumberyard

**IGENEVA Lumber Company**
For all your Lumberyard & Home Design/Drafting needs.
Stop in and see Jon or Tait today!
413 West Main St. • Geneva • 507-256-0045

Recreation

**MINERS Outdoor & Rec**
Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,
Parts & Accessories
Hwy 218 S.
Bloomington
www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service

**SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.**
656 3rd St. NE
Bloomington, MN
Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
583-6620

Community

Obituaries

Darrin Orlen Stemson, 48, Ocala

Darrin Orlen Stemson, 48, of Ocala, Florida, formally of Austin and Owatonna, Minnesota, passed away July 30, 2015, at Ocala, Florida, Hospital from a brief illness.

Darrin was born on May 28, 1967, in Austin, Minnesota, Mower County, to Orlen and Darlene Stemson. He grew up in rural Austin and was baptized and confirmed at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Darrin served in the United States

Army in 1985 and received his honorable discharge in 1986. He sang at his mother's wedding to Raymond Nichols in Oct. of 1986 and was very contented to have Ray as his step-father.

Darrin enjoyed and loved living in Florida; all the trees that surrounded him where he



lived reminded him of Northern Minnesota. Family and friends were most important to Darrin. There was a small get-together that was held in Florida for his friends.

Darrin is survived by his mother Darlene (Raymond) Nichols of Owatonna; his special friend Lou Hughs of Florida; his uncle Dennis Kressin; cousins Jennifer (James) Meyman and family, Duane, Jeffrey and Rick Johnson and fami-

lies, Bryan Stemson and Debra (Morris) Klouse and family.

He was preceded in death by his father Orlen on June 12, 1985; his grandparents; and aunts and uncles.

A celebration of life was held at 1:30 p.m. at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church rural Austin on Saturday, Aug. 15, 2015. Interment will be at Red Oak Grove Cemetery at a later date.

Local youth find value in 4-H program

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Each year, many 4-Hers bring their knowledge, projects, experiences and animals to the fair. The 4-H program, however, offers benefits beyond the fair fairs.

McKenna Schroht, a local 4-H member, says that being a part of the 4-H program has been very rewarding.

"I have learned so much in the past few years," Schroht said. "I learned to never give up and to always push yourself to be the best."

Schroht, who shows swine, said that she's enjoyed her successful showing days, but has also learned to accept that there are days when she won't earn a blue ribbon. "The sun doesn't shine on the same dog every day," Schroht said. "Not every one can win, but it's all about having fun."

Schroht is an Owatonna High School student and a part of the Meriden Meadowlarks 4-H Club in Steele County.

She says that 4-H is something that opens doors for club members, regardless of which county they live in. Schroht is the Meriden Meadowlarks' treasurer and also serves as a Steele County 4-H Ambassador. As an ambassador, she works to promote 4-H in her area and assists with the club's community service activities.

Schroht adds that 4-H has even helped her family grow closer.

"4-H has been in my blood ever since my grandpa and grandma met," she says, explaining that their love of farming trickled down through the family.

Schroht's parents, Steve and Marisa Schroht, were also 4-H members. Many of Schroht's cousins are a part of 4-H and so are her sisters, 12 year old Mariah and six year old Malia, who will soon become a Cloverbud. Both McKenna and Mariah will be showing swine at the fair this summer.

The 4-Hers also build close bonds with their fellow club members. "So many of my closest friends now are from 4-H," Schroht said. "Meeting new people is always fun."



Mariah and McKenna Schroht are both local 4-Hers who believe in the value of the 4-H program.



McKenna Schroht shows swine at the fair last year.



Members of Northern Country Cooperative Company & spouses are invited to attend your Coop's Annual Meeting

Thurs., Sept. 17th

Sacred Heart School Gym Adams, MN

Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 7:15 pm

Business Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm





OUR POPULAR SMOKED BABY BACK RIBS ARE BACK IN STOCK ONLY \$5.99 LB. GET YOURS TODAY YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU MADE THE SHORT DRIVE TO SEE US.

DON'T FORGET TO SEE US AT THE STEELE CO. (OWATONNA) FAIR AND SIGN UP FOR OUR DRAWING!!

104 E. Main St. • Geneva, MN • 507-256-0025
www.deanssmokeshack.com



Hello hockey fans! Blades Junior hockey is back in Owatonna for another year

Along with that comes a need for families or single individuals to house these young men. They are called billet families. You will house the hockey player for about 6 months. Billet families need to provide a bedroom and meals. As a billet family you will be compensated \$300 a month to offset the cost of food and lodging.

You will also receive season tickets to all Blades season home games.

For more information, contact Mike or Marge at 507-455-0604 (home) or 507-456-4960.

Menus

Seniors Menu
Aug. 18: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, BBQ Green Beans, Melon Wedge, Ice Cream
Aug. 19: Baked Fish, Alt: Beef Pattie, Hashbrown Au Gratin, Spinach w/ Vinegar, Dinner Roll, Walnut Dream Bar
Aug. 20: BBQ Meatballs, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Pear & Grape Cup
Aug. 21: Chicken Enchilada, Tomato/ Cuke Salad, Pineapple

Rings, Strawberry Shortcake
Aug. 24: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli/Cauliflower, Molasses Cookie
Aug. 25: Crab Salad, ALT: Chef Salad, Sweet & Sour Cukes, Grapes, Batter Bun, Rhubarb Rosie
Aug. 26: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Asparagus, Carrot Raisin Salad, Orange Wedge

Splash into Summer
Call Julie today!
507-583-4431

Place your ad today!

The library can help prepare you for the open road

One benefit of your library card is often overlooked – the online databases that are available for you to use on any computer that is connected to the internet. Although the Blooming Prairie Branch Library has a presence on the City of Blooming Prairie website, even more links are available by using the website for our parent library, the Owatonna Public Library. Just go to www.owatonna.info; all the benefits of that site are yours to use with your library card.

One of the newer databases allows you to prepare to receive your Minnesota driver's license. Whether you are a teenager needing a permit and hopefully your first driver's license, some-

one who just moved to the state and needs a new license, or the proud owner of a new motorcycle, this database has tests to help you get ready for the real things.

There are 12 car tests including a MN Department of Motor Vehicles simulated test. Eight motorcycle tests will teach you the information needed and allow you to practice the test until you feel comfortable with it. There are also three Commercial Driver's License tests, as well as links to the official Minnesota driving handbooks. The State of Minnesota no longer provides the handbooks as they did in the past, so finding one can be a problem unless it is downloaded from the internet and then

Library Book Nook



Nancy Vaillancourt

printed out. We have one copy of the general driving handbook that can be checked out from the library.

Let us help you get ready to hit the road, safely. See you at the library!

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays Aug. 18 Loni Christian Diane Vorlicek Megan Fredrickson Barb Blome Allan Severson Cameron Rask Bekah Dennis Denise Krell	Aug. 24 Matthew Zelmer Braxton Lee Samuel Wehner Lanell Sunde
Aug. 19 Jasper Doocy Adrianna Berman Hjelman Noel Tokko Nick Nelson Donna Gullickson Jameson Smith Cheri Krejci	Aug. 25 Mai Tran Cole Lindeman Ruthie Ahrens
Aug. 20 Joanne Newman Mary Morem Brenden Doyle Delores Mortenson Carol Jensen Bill Campbell	Aug. 26 Gerry Oswald Chris Thompson Jim Fiebiger Annie Hanson Bryan Hernandez Jr. Pearl Swanson
Aug. 21 Jaci Hillson Ashley Garcia Kollyn Alwes Cletus Glynn	Anniversries Aug. 18 Justin & Kelly Peterson
Aug. 22 Owen Davis Carl Haflinger Carol Ingvalson Aubrie Brandt	Aug. 20 Denise & Chris Thompson
Aug. 23 Darla Doocy Derek Ashton	Aug. 21 Mark & Bonnie Coughlin
	Aug. 22 Mike & Rachel Grunklee Jeff & Amy Schieck
	Aug. 23 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Trotman David & Rita Goodnature
	Aug. 24 Meinard & Janice Haberman Keith & Jennifer Thomas Bob & Linda Wolf

Milestones is sponsored by:



Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials

ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham	Thursday - Your Choice
Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

The Bakery

Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF OF PAIN TRY...
HOT/COLD PACK COMPRESSIONS
or "Warm Hugs" Corn Bags



15% off

These products are on sale August 17-21, 2015

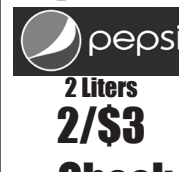
The "Warm Hugs" corn bags make great gifts to soothe a loved ones aches and pains. And don't forget to take care of yourself!

Great Gift for College Bound Students!

PRAIRIE FAMILY & SPORTS CHIROPRACTIC, P.A.
Chad M. Eischens, D.C.
344 East Main Street • Blooming Prairie, MN
583-2271 OR 1-866-5DR-CHAD
drchad@drchad.org • www.drchad.org
Massage Therapy Available



Prices Good 8/18-8/22

7Up Products  2 Liter 99¢ 6 Pk 8 oz \$1.99 Check Out Our Insane Hand-Crafted Fishing Lures!	RC Ten, A&W Ten, 7up Ten 4 pack  12 oz 99¢
Mountain Dew  2/\$7.98	Kool-Aid Bursts 6 Pack 6.75oz 10/\$10 
Pepsi Products  2 Liter 2/\$3 .5L 6Pk 4/\$9	Snapple 6Pk \$3.99 

Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!

237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

Area Church Spotlight



United Methodist Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Day old faith?

Do you enjoy getting a bargain? Are you a bargain hunter? Do you enter a store and your eyes scan for the sale and clearance signs? Do you devise a tactical plan for garage sales? I purchased some books for my library a couple months ago directly from the publisher from their "seconds" shelves. All the pages were there, but for some reason they didn't meet the quality control standards of the publisher and were offered for sale at greatly reduced prices. I was happy not to pay full price since I was willing to accept the imperfections.

Great deals can also be found on day old donuts, bread, and other items. You just have to be willing to accept that those items won't be as good as

the fresh made ones.

It seems to me that we can often carry that "day old" mentality into our spiritual lives. We settle for a stale faith because it is easier than keeping it fresh. Yet the Bible is full of reminders about fresh faith. The Israelites in the Old Testament were supposed to gather their manna daily – with the exception of the Sabbath. This activity would remind them of God's daily provision for them and that he can be trusted. However, in Exodus 16:20, some people tried to live on day old manna. Perhaps they wanted to sleep in that day and not have to go out and gather it. Since they had kept some from yesterday, they figured to just eat day old manna. But the biblical text tells us that those who went for the day

old manna found it full of maggots, and it started to smell.

God doesn't desire a stale, day old faith from his followers. In these dog days of August, commit to keeping your faith fresh with daily readings of Scripture and prayer. Faith that is fresh is far more appealing than something old and stale. Don't settle for less than God's best for you.

*Pastor Dave Breederland
Faith Community Church
West Concord*

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471
Andy & Mary Lerberg

OwatonnaLive.com

Bringing the community together with the power of video

Are you unable to attend weekly worship service?

You can watch video of local services online
anywhere in the world when you have the time.

GO TO WWW.OWATONNALIVE.COM

Country Goods

507-451-5661

**GREAT GIFTS!
FUN THINGS!**

4515 22nd Ave NW • Owatonna



Locally Owned & Operated

237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671



www.minimizer.com

800-248-3855

Blooming Prairie

FLOOR TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

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
Summer Worship: 9:00 a.m.

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.redeemrowatonna.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
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otschool.org
Weekly Church Service Midweek
Services (May - Sept. 2nd) held on
Wed. at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion
Sunday Morning Services
at 10:30am
Holy Communion Offered
Each Wednesday Evening Service
2nd & 4th Sunday Service
of each month
Sunday School
Not at this time

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark



(507) 567-2272
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
8:00 a.m. worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-4447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m. Sunday

Catholic

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Swampy Pothiredy
(507) 465-8217
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
Hayfield
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 477-2256
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Reconciliation: 10:15 a.m. Sunday

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Swampy Pothiredy
(507) 465-8217
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
and 8 a.m. Sunday.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Steve Peterson
(507) 583-2784
Reconciliation: 5 p.m. Saturday
Services: 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
with Children's Church
Family Faith Formation and First
Communion class after Mass with noon
potluck second Sunday of month.

Confirmation class after Mass second
Sunday of month, and fourth Sunday of
month at 6 p.m.
St. Isidore School - 451-5876,
Preschool-fifth grade:
www.stisidoreschool.webs.com

SACRED HEART CHURCH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.,
9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m. Sunday Spanish
Service: 1 p.m. Sunday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
515 E. Main St., Hayfield
The Rev. Emmanuel Sylvester
218-695-2641
Mass & Religious Ed: 11 a.m. Sunday

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna
507-451-4845

Rev. Edward F. McGrath
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. eve 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m. Sunday

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MEDFORD
Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday evening,
5 p.m., 10 a.m.
Monday daily Mass: 9 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
Deerfield
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Easter thru Christmas
Winter at Christ the King, Medford

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Summer services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Non-Denominational

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10:00a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods
building across the
freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Vanessa Syvertsen
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday



3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna
507-451-7121

Garlick's Water Conditioning

Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing



800-722-1282

www.garlickswater.com



FOR THAT HOMETOWN
PERSONAL TOUCH

Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018



Vibrant Living For
Individuals 55 & Older
at a Reasonable Price

Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna



1011 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna

507-451-2585

www.kernelrestaurant.com



"Creating Your Story in Stone"

1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com



Sue Zwiener

308 E. Main Street
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2200



Always local, all the time.

411 East Main Street
507-583-4431

Fun at the Mower County Fair



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Aaron and Ethan Ofstedahl, of Rochester, cool off with a sweet treat at the Mower County Fair on Saturday evening.



Hailey Camacho goes for a wild ride on the bumper cars at the Mower County Fair, in Austin, on Saturday.

Future of South Country Health Alliance remains uncertain

By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

With its future in limbo, South Country Health Alliance and its member counties have appealed a decision by the State of Minnesota to not award a contract to the group for Minnesota Care and Medical Assistance services in the South Country service area.

The appeals, which needed to be submitted by last Friday, request mediation of the state decision.

In late July, Gov. Mark Dayton and Lucinda Jesson, the commissioner for the Department of Human Services, announced the results of a competitive bidding process for the right to provide services for 2016. The state said the process will save the state \$650 million dollars.

But for South Country the decision means a nearly 85 percent loss in membership putting the future of the organization in doubt.

The state Department of Human Services informed South Country officials that South Country would only be offered a contract to provide Minnesota Care and Medical Assistant services in Dodge County, South Country CEO Leota Lind said at the time.

South Country is a multi-county venture that also includes Dodge, Steele, Freeborn, Goodhue, Wabasha and Waseca Counties in southern Minnesota. It also serves Brown, Kanabec, Morrison, Sibley, Todd, Wabasha and Wadena Counties. It provides Minnesota Care and

Medical Assistance in all counties except Freeborn.

The organization is headquartered in Owatonna and overseen by a Joint Powers Board that includes members from each of the County Boards of member counties.

It currently provides managed care to 30,183 individuals receiving medical assistance and 2,096 receiving Minnesota Care. If the organization were only able to offer these services to Dodge County residents it would reduce South Country's managed care clients to 951 receiving medical assistance and 54 in Minnesota Care.

Lind explained to Dodge County Commissioners last week that the state moved to a procurement system for determining who should get the contracts for metro counties in 2012. The process was later expanded to 21 counties outside the metro area and this year is the first the process was used statewide.

At the beginning of the process, Lind said, South Country had expressed a concern about being evaluated on price aspects because as a non-profit agency South Country does not have an outside business which could lead them to being under bid by companies such as Blue Cross and Medica.

She said South Country was told it would be evaluated only on the basis of its technical qualifications, not price.

Lind told commissioners that South Country has asked for an explanation of the evaluation process but has not received a complete answer. She said

she was told that evaluation for Medical Assistance was on technical issues only and that Minnesota Care was evaluated on both technical and financial areas.

Lind added that the most recent performance evaluation from the state ranked South Country among the top health care providers in the state with above average ratings in every category.

If South Country cannot convince the state to change its decision, she said, South Country will not be able to provide Medical Assistance and Minnesota Care services in any of their counties except Dodge. The small number of clients in Dodge County will also make it impossible for the agency to provide those services in Dodge County.

"All of these members will be disenrolled from South Country effective 12/31/15 and will need to be enrolled in a new health plan as of 1/1/16," Lind said in a memo written to Dodge County commissioners. "This will cause disruption in care for many members based on network and formulary differences of the new plan."

South Country offers other services to the counties and these will also be affected, she said. Other programs of South Country will also be affected.

The Community Care Connector would likely not be sustainable at the reduced membership level, she said, and county directors and staff will have limited ability to have a voice in health plan policy and opera-

tions.

South Country also funds a major portion of the staff position for HealthCare coordinators at the Owatonna Hospital and the New Ulm Medical Center. Local primary care clinics will be impacted by loss of revenue through South Country Pay for Performance Programs and the new Healthy Pathways Program would not be available to members, Lind said.

It has not been announced who would be contracted to provide services to the counties now served by South Country but it would likely be Blue Cross, Medica or Health Partners who have the majority of the contracts in the state.

Under the appeal process, Lind told commissioners, South Country can request to be heard before a three-member mediation panel. Each of the counties involved can also request to testify. Each of the counties involved, Lind said, indicated they would pass the appropriate resolutions requesting mediation on both behalf of the county and the South Country Health Alliance.

For Dodge County commissioners the situation was somewhat different because South Country can still provide services next year. Dodge County, however, said in its resolution that denying South Country the opportunity to serve the other counties would in effect deny the services to Dodge County also.

CONNOR

Continued from Page 1A

said, has also been an incredible source of comfort and strength. Both the communities of Blooming Prairie and New Richland have stood behind Connor, offering kind words and prayers.

Other resources, such as child life specialists (who work directly with kids and their families to help them understand their disease and treatment plan) have also been extremely helpful. The ladies of St. Mary's Church in Geneva have filled the family's freezer

with hot dishes, and Father Silva also visited Connor in the hospital.

Other family members and friends have also shown great support for Connor. His aunt, Michelle Miller, made t-shirts that say, "Connor smash cancer" (referencing his favorite superhero, the hulk.) Connor's family members each have their own matching shirt. "This brought a very big smile to his face," April said.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group has also been there

for Connor and his family along every step of their journey. They paid for the family's hotel stay (before they got into the Ronald McDonald House) and offered other financial assistance.

"The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group has been extremely generous," said April. "Having a group like this in Blooming Prairie, that reached out to us before we even had a chance to comprehend what was going on... it meant to so much to

know that that our community actually cares."

There are also multiple ways people can help to provide support for Connor. Donations can be made online at "GoFundMe" (at <http://www.gofundme.com/yaaxn7y>), the State Bank of New Richland (PO Box 68, New Richland, MN 56072) or at Farmers & Merchants State Bank (PO Box 277, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.)

Lately, Connor has been

continuing to show signs of improvement. He loves attending NTPA truck pulls with his Grandpa Mike and Uncle David, with the Nasty Boys, Nasty Habit truck-pulling team. In late July, Connor was able to attend a truck pull once again, and was thrilled to take part in the fun.

April says that, recently, Connor has been more talkative and inquisitive and that his speech has begun to improve.

"He has touched so many people, even before all this happened, with his smile, his joy, his laughter and his quick wit," said April. "He is definitely a very strong little man and he has an unbelievable will and fight to live. I truly believe he was meant for something special in this world, and I'm actually quite excited to see what it is."

ST. MARY'S

Continued from Page 1A

"This system has been known to have faults," Segna said.

Citing safety as being a top priority at St. Mary's, Segna said the decision was made to not open the school and, instead, will move to a different location until the floor is fixed or replaced. It's unknown at this time how long St. Mary's will be displaced from its building.

Segna said the school is working with an engineer to find a company that can do the work. St. Mary's, which is non-profit, is also scrambling to get the fi-

nancial resources in place to handle this crisis.

St. Mary's is home to 315 students in grades K-8. There are 20 classrooms in the school, which was built in the 1950s.

Families have been notified in the past week about the dilemma facing St. Mary's, Segna said.

School is scheduled to open on Sept. 8 and St. Mary's is working extremely hard to make sure that happens. "We made the commitment to have school on the day after Labor Day and we want to fulfill that commit-

ment," Segna said.

Segna said there is never a good time to find out something drastic like flooring issues that force even a temporary school closing, but she is thankful it was found prior to school getting underway.

Despite the last minute building crisis, Segna wants to remind people that the walls of a building do not make St. Mary's what it is. "Our teachers will deliver the same great programs they have delivered within our walls in a different location,"

she said, adding staff members will do great things, wherever they end up.

St. Mary's is planning to be displaced from the building until at least mid-October.

Last week, several people received minor injuries when a portion of a ceiling collapsed during a concert at a bar in Minneapolis.

Said Segna in reaction to the bar collapse: "I took that as a message from God that we are doing the right thing."

Southern Minnesota

WAVE

TV 10

New year...
New teams...
Same dreams!

Basketball Tryouts for Boys & Girls

SMW basketball will be hosting tryouts for the spring/summer 2016 AAU season. Tryouts are for both boys and girls going into 7th grade on up to those in 11th grade.

When: August 29, 2015

Ages: 6th Graders up to 11th graders.

Where: Stewartville HS Gym

Time: Girls 12-1:30PM & Boys 1:30-3PM

To reserve a spot or questions contact Doug Waldner at (605)691-5027 or email: smwave@icloud.com

324 2nd St SE • Blooming Prairie

\$32,000 #4062358 MLS

3 bedroom, 2 bath,
Newer windows, Permanent siding,
Double detached garage

Darcy Ihrke, Broker
507-213-1777

www.owatonnarealestate.com
1880 Austin Road, Suite 1 • Owatonna, MN

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices

PETER PAN

2015 Fall Musical

Blooming Prairie High School

TRYOUTS

We encourage all kids
Grades 9-12 to Tryout!!

TRYOUTS

Sunday August 30, Monday August 31 6:30 PM – 9 PM Choir Room

TRYOUT MATERIALS Available 8/17 at High School Office

QUESTIONS? Contact Tammy Johnson 507-363-3109

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Season begins

The lateness of Labor Day and the unavailability of TCF Bank Stadium forced the Minnesota State High School League to move the high school football season up two weeks. Thus, the Awesome Blossoms are busily preparing for a season-opening contest with last year's section final rival Rushford-Peterson on Saturday, Aug. 22. This will be a home game and is one of three football games that will be played before the school year even begins.

Both teams lost some significant players from last year's teams, and both have some vital holes to fill for this game. The Blossoms probably lost the most talent when record-setting John Rumpza and Cole Byers-Sunde graduated. Rumpza finished his career second in state for career touchdown passes, and Sunde led the team in all-around offense.

The Blossoms are returning from their tenth straight conference title and an undefeated season up to the state quarterfinals. Conference champions are a thing of the past from now on, however, as schools will compete in districts and sections, rather than against traditional conference opponents. The upcoming game against the Trojans is important, as it will pit two strong section teams against one another, and it will also give local football fans some indications as to the success of the 2015 season. It should be exciting.

Meanwhile, the volleyball and cross-country began their team practices this week, as well. A spirited captains' practice found the volleyball girls working hard to get into shape before the team practices began. The cross-country teams also began working out in preparation for another season of strong competition, especially in the always-tough Gopher conference. Both sports have contests next week, as they initiate the seasons.

A reunion

I won't bore readers with family matters this week, but the Nelson clan met for the third time in nine years to reacquaint and reminisce about our history. Six years ago we ventured to Oregon for our very first get-together and three years ago we convened in South Dakota. This time we gathered at North branch, right here in Minnesota.

It scared me just a little to realize that, because I am three years older than a cousin, that I am now the patriarch of the clan. I am going to recommend that we continue these three-year reunions before age catches up to all of us, me especially. I will probably discover a few interesting things over the weekend, which I will inflict on readers in next week's column.

Be ready, although I suppose it might be better to leave any scandals or interesting stories at the reunion. As they say in Las Vegas, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." It's more fun to tell tales though, so we'll see.

Construction continues

I give the downtown businesses and the chamber of commerce high marks, despite a complete upheaval of Main Street for most of the summer. Despite the confusion and messy conditions, the businesses have managed to survive, with alley entrances, long

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

BLOOMING PRAIRIE SPORTS

Teams begin preseason practice

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff sports writer

While the football team was laboring in full pads on the first week of practice, volleyball players were getting into condition through captains' practice in the high school gym.

Football games begin next Saturday, Aug. 22, and both cross-country and volleyball begin the season next week. That is almost three weeks before school actually convenes for the year.

The volleyball team worked a lot on fundamentals during their week of practice without coaches. As senior Lauren Larkoski remarked, "Things have gone pretty well, and I have noticed that there is a good sense of cooperation between team members. We are still experimenting with positions, but things are starting to settle in."

Actually, this is not the first time the girls have gotten together, as the team practiced a couple of times a week most of the summer and worked on fundamentals. The girls also made use of the weight room in building strength for the coming season.

"We have a lot of girls practicing right now," commented fellow senior Abby Wayne, "and we are still trying to help the younger girls get acclimated



Staff photos by Laura Berndt

Bloomington Prairie High School football team practices its offense during a team practice last week.

to varsity conditions. We are still finding girls for various positions, and the back line play-

ers will need to step up for us to be successful as a team."

Junior Courtney Wobschall will probably anchor the front line, but a number of other girls have developed arm strength over the summer and should help on defense. Wayne will probably get the nod as the setter after getting a lot of experience at that spot last year. The team lost some star players last year, and the girls know that they will have to play as a team to win matches.

This week will be the first week with new Coach Ranell Kittelson and her assistants, and the team has just a little over a week to prepare for the season-opening match at Byron on Thursday, Aug. 27. The team will have many new faces in new positions, but the goal is

to improve daily and do well in the conference.

In football, although 2015 will be a rebuilding year in the eyes of many sports fans, the players and the coaches approach the campaign with some optimism and a lot of enthusiasm. After the football camp, in which about 20 players participated earlier in July, most were satisfied with the progress.

As Anthony Nelson commented, "I thought we held our own pretty well against some bigger schools, and we did well in competitions."

That opinion didn't change after the team completed a week of captains' practices. Now, the

full pad workouts begin, and things get tougher.

The high school league has instituted a number of changes trying to avoid injuries, and coaching staffs have undergone some new training rules as well. For example, two-a-day practices can be held only every other day, and full pads have to be curtailed at some practices as well. It will make both players and coaches more cognizant of safety measures in football.

As Assistant Coach Matt Kittelson commented, "The new

PRESEASON PRACTICE
Continued on Page 2B



Freshman Seth Peterson throws during a Bloomington Prairie football practice last week.

U14 girls win league title

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff sports Writer

A softball team of sixth and seventh grade girls steamrolled the opposition to win the league title over several strong teams in the area. A squad picture and the season record accompany this article.

As Co-Coach John Bruns remarked after the season, "This team was truly extraordinary and extremely dedicated the entire summer. All of them

came to all games and practiced hard with the goal of improving steadily. Without this type of dedication and work ethic, there would not be the amount of improvement."

After defeating previously unbeaten Dover-Eyota four straight games in late June, the team moved into first place, and they remained there the rest of the season. Defensively, the team played solidly, and the pitchers threw strikes most of the time. Fielders knew their

jobs and got the ball where it needed to go when it was hit to them.

Offensively, the girls improved a lot as the year went on. At the end of the summer, the batters were aggressive at the plate and usually stroked timely hits off some very good pitchers in the league. Emil Miller, Lisa Bruns and Chad Forystek also helped coach the team, and it proved a very satisfying summer for all concerned.



Submitted photo

Front row: Emily Miller and Marquette Millam. Middle row: Bobbie Bruns, Maggie Bruns, Isabelle Sunde, Rachel Thompson, Alexis Ripka, Reese Millam and Josie Lorenz. Third row: Coach Emil Miller, Coach Lisa Bruns, Maren Forystek, Taylor Wurst, Kiya Thompson, Coach John Bruns and Coach Chad Forystek.

Golf League Standings		
Bloomington Prairie Country Club		
Week 13 - Aug. 10		
Place		Points
1	Lembke Benson Hanson	77.5
2	Grunklee Evans Possehl	76.5
3	Peterson Behnken Bishop	74
4	Strunk Farr Ingvaldson	71
5	Braaten Pirkil Resler	70
6	Kruckeberg Kruckeberg Johnson	68.5
7	Hillberg Wanous Pfiefer	66.5
8	KlemmensenD Drexler Zwiener	64
9	Zwiener Hinzmen Wurst	62.5
10	Morgan Sekora Olson Schuster	
	Iacovino	62
10	Doerhoefer Stalach Olson Worke	62
12	SkalaR Thiele Sammon	61
13	Myer Motl Tollefson	59
14	Lea Lembke Hansen	58.5
15	Skala Jensen Lee	56
16	Koster Long White	55.5
17	Klemmensen J Klemmensen R	
	Anderson	54.5
17	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	54.5
19	Glynn Glynn Esplan	54
20	White Lysne Johnson	53.5
21	Minimizer Minimizer Minimizer	53
22	Hareid Bartsch Wilkerson	48.5
23	Weeks Johnson Caldwell	47.5
24	Clark Blome Skala	45.5
25	Ingvalson Klemmensen Bishop	41.5
26	Haberman Hegal Henefield Hanson	35
Division	Team	Score
A	Peterson Behnken Bishop	31
B	Strunk Farr Ingvaldson	33
B	Lembke Benson Hanson	33
C	Sunde Kittelson Carlson	32
D	Skala Jensen Lee	35

Sports

Football season set to start Saturday

By JAMES KNOOP
County Sports Editor

High school football is set to take Steele County by storm this weekend, with all four county schools set to play on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms and Medford Tigers will both have the pleasure of entertaining their competition, while Owatonna and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva will travel to their season openers. Owatonna has an interesting matchup at Mankato West, as the Scarlets defeated Owatonna 69-0 in Sept. of last year. However, Owatonna will not have to face quarterback Ryan Schlichte, who was named the Associated Press Player of the Year for high school football in 2014. That game is set to start at 7 p.m.

Medford is still searching for a win, after an 0-8 season last year, and ten straight losses dating back to Oct. 2013. Their home game against Lewiston-Altura will begin at 6 p.m. in Medford.

Blooming Prairie will host Rushford-Peterson at 7 p.m., and fans will get their first glimpse of a John Rumpza-less football squad.

Finally, the NRHEG Panthers will travel to Mayer Lutheran to begin the season. The matchup will begin at 7 p.m.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Freshman Seth Peterson warms up his throwing arm during a Blooming Prairie football practice last week.



Staff photo by James Knoop
Head Coach Jeff Williams (right) looks on during practice during offensive workouts.

Faulty breaks cause Minimizer champ truck racer to crash into tire wall



Submitted photo
Pit crew members, including Philip Mulvihill (middle) and Mark Lang (right) fix Trevor Kruckeberg's Team Tested truck after his brakes failed and he hit a tire wall.

PRESEASON PRACTICE

Continued from Page 1B

regulations have given the team a sense of urgency in preparing

for the season. The curtailment of some practices, fewer times

of full contact and a dwindling time all together provide the big-

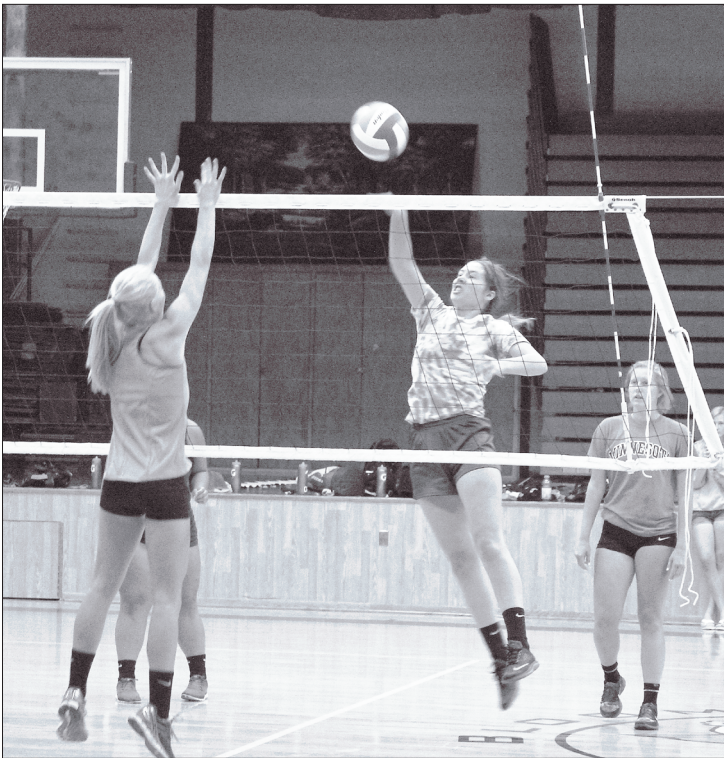
gest difference in this new season."

Last week found the team spending a good amount of time on fundamental blocking and tackling each day, and team passing, offensive, and defensive sets occupied a lot of practice time as well. Junior Connor Getchell commented that he thought things were going pretty well. With the experience at camp and the week of captains' practice, he said, "I think we are on track for a good season."

Assistant Coach Nathan Piller echoed Kittelson's remarks that a sense of urgency resulted from the new MSHSL requirements. "It feels as if we need to get more things accomplished in a shorter amount of time, which is literally the case." It won't be long to wait for a test of those regulations, as the team takes the field next Saturday in the opening game at home against Rushford-Peterson.



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
One Blooming Prairie volleyball player practices her serving during a team practice.



Blooming Prairie volleyball players began practice last week. Their first game will take place on Aug. 27 in Byron.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

walks on both sides of the street, and a commitment to serve and satisfy customers though the three plus months construction.

Just last Wednesday, a celebration of sorts took place in the north alley of Main Street, and a second such event will take place on the south side of Main Street later this month. The affair was a great brainstorm of someone, and a large number of people enjoyed a variety of snacks and good deals in businesses on the alley. It made the hardships of construction almost palatable.

Gifford dies

It came after my deadline last

week, but Frank Gifford, one of the most dominating sports personalities of this era, died last week at the age of 84. Gifford starred in football at USC in college and played with the New York Giant team for 12 seasons from 1952-1964.

He made the Pro-Bowl eight times, led the Giants to the NFC Championship over Chicago and was named MVP in both a Pro Bowl and NFL season. He began a whole new career after his retirement from football by joining the crew of Monday Night Football on ABC TV in 1971 and held that spot until 1997.

He married Kathie Lee in

1986, and they have two children. Gifford also had three children from a previous marriage. He served as a reporter for two Olympic games, plus other network sports programs. He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., but died in Greenwich Conn. He truly became one of the most legendary football players of his era, and he will be remembered for that and for his second career on Monday Night Football.

Recently, two of the local high school's athletic heroes had a last chance to be celebrated, when reporter Todd Walkingstick interviewed recent graduates John Rumpza and Madison Worke on Owatonna's website "Owatonna

Live." Both Rumpza and Worke have had their athletic career accomplishments publicized before, but the interviews this time went into some depth.

The two athletes are both off to Winona State University later this month, where they will continue their athletic careers in football and basketball, respectively. The publicity couldn't come to two more deserving Blooming Prairie High School representatives. Support the Blossoms, keep enjoying summer and we'll talk again.



Lansing, Minn.

These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of August 14.

Hornets Feature —Blake Dorweiler, Ralph Hanks, Cody Hyatt, Patrick Wells, Jordan Loeffler, Dan Lewison, Bobby Blowers, Nick Sillman <i>**Dorweiler's 11th win of the season & 5th in a row.</i> Pure Stock Feature —Ross Spitzer, Brady Krohnberg, Jesse Stahl, Jason Newkirk, Matt Brooks, Stacy Krohnberg, Katie Elward, Ryan Jacobson, Larry Scott, Adam Godeke, Anna Brouwers, Greg Lamers, Bob Schoenfelder Heat Winners: Spitzer & Brady Krohnberg <i>**Spitzer's fourth win of the season</i> USRA B-Mod Feature —Kylie Kath, Kadden Kath, Mark Wytaske, Anthony Condit, Taylor Ausrud, AJ Zvorak, Jayden Larson, Christian Warner, Morgan Schrage, Raey Hastings IV, Blake Arndt, Anthony Jennings, Chris Bruns, Josh Mattick Heat Winners: Zvorak & Kadden Kath <i>**Kylie Kath's seventh win of the year & for the second week in a row younger brother Kadden finishes second.</i>	WISSOTA Street Stock Feature —Kory Adams, Bernie Adams, Brandon Vogt, Zach Elward, Kyle King, Noah Grinstead, Merlyn Hegland, Derek Ludington, Fred Prudoehl, Mike Blowers, Brent Holland, Nick Roemhildt Heat Winners: Blowers & Elward <i>**Kory Adams second win of the season.</i> WISSOTA Midwest Modified Feature —Robbie Franklin, Garitt Wytaske, Jesse Hernandez, Jeremy Misgen, Bryan Hernandez, Brayten Cisneros, Jesse Baer, Ryan Goergen, Ryan Wetzstein, Jake Stark, Darryl Hainka, Luke Hainka Heat Winners: Franklin & Cisneros <i>**Franklin's sixth win of the year.</i> USRA Modified Feature —Jason Cummins, Brad Waits, Neil Eckhart, Steve Wetzstein, Todd Scharkey, Darwyn Karau, Joe Horgdal, Alex Hanson, Michael Wytaske, Doug Hillson, Greg Jensen Heat Winners: Cummins & Waits <i>**Cummins third feature win at Chateau.</i>
---	--

Water Problems?

We can Help! Call Us

AMERICAN WATERWORKS
★ Basement Systems ★

•Free Estimates • Financing Available
Toll Free 1-800-795-1204
www.american-waterworks.com
(Cannot be combined with any other offers) Expires 9/7/15

10% OFF

YOUR PROJECT

Parents... do you know where your kids are?

We can help.
Pool Tables • Dart Boards
Air Hockey • Ping Pong
Family FUN CENTER
The Game Room Store With So Much More!
2207 7th St. NW, Rochester, MN
507-282-7682
FamilyFunCenter.com

Used Car and Truck Parts
U-Pull and Full Service
12880 SW 72nd Ave. • Ellendale
(507) 684-2100

Public Safety

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
Aug. 8
Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report in the city at 10:28 p.m.
Aug. 13
Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the city at 8:01 a.m.

Owatonna Police
Aug. 7
Driving. Officers received a driving complaint at 5:38 p.m. from the 1000 block of Cedar Ave. N.
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Maple Dr. NE at 7:15 p.m.
Aug. 8
Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries in the 700 block of 18th St. SE at 1:31 p.m. A citation was issued to one of the drivers.
Domestic. At 5:19 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Hoffman Dr. NW. They took a subject into custody.
Aug. 9
Death. Police began a death investigation in the 800 block of Lancer Dr. NE at 12 a.m.
Threats. At 12:05 p.m., officers took a report of threats in the 1200 block of Bigelow Ave. NE.
Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE at 6:26 p.m.
Domestic. Officers arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:50 p.m.

Aug. 10
Child Protection. At 10:41 a.m., officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:16 p.m.

Mental Health. Officer took a mental health report at 2:49 p.m. in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 2:54 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 2400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 6:11 p.m.

Aug. 11
Child Protection. Officer took a child protection report in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 7:32 a.m.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 400 block of 26th St. NE at 7:50 a.m.

Drunken Driving. Officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 700 block of Vine St. E. at 9:02 a.m. and at 26th St. NW and Harvest lane NW at 11:07 p.m.

Warrant. At 11:54 a.m., officer made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 200 block of 18th St. SW at 9:18 p.m.

Aug. 12
Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 8:05 a.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation at 10:58 a.m. in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a personal injury accident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:06 p.m.

Disturbance. At 4:46 p.m., police responded to a noise complaint in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:06 p.m.

Animal. At 8:46 p.m., officer took a dangerous animal report in the 800 block of Willowbrook St. NE.

Aug. 13
Suspicion. At 1:34 a.m., officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW. They made an arrest at the scene.

Theft. Police received a theft report from the 600 block of Elm Ave.

N. at 1:59 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:47 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
Aug. 7
Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 8200 block of Austin Rd. at 3:29 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a personal injury crash at 28th St. SW and County Rd. 45 S. at 5:04 p.m.

Probation. A probation violation occurred in the 200 block of 5th Ave. W. at 11:19 p.m.

Aug. 8
Crash. Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 69th St. NE and Kenyon Rd. at 9:47 p.m.

Aug. 10
Animal Bites. Two animal bite incidents occurred throughout the day – at 9:34 a.m. in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW and at 11:50 a.m. in the 7100 block of 14th Ave. SE.

Arrest. Deputies arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 6000 block of Hwy. 14 E. at 11:34 p.m.

Aug. 11
Theft. Deputy took theft report in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:33 p.m.

Aug. 12
Warrants. Deputies made two warrant arrests – at 4:47 p.m. in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW and at 6:48 p.m. at 32nd Ave. NW and 66th St. NW.

Aug. 13
Suspicion. At 2:23 p.m., deputies responded to a suspicious activity report in the 7400 block of 32nd Ave. NW.

Domestic. Deputies took a subject into custody following a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of 8th Ave. W. at 8:18 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 3 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Dana M. Oldeen, 45, Maplewood, NB, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. She was sentenced to \$1,081, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Aug. 3 – 7:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Collin S. Yankoviak, 19, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, \$111.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Katherine E. Andrews, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Mya M. Badillo, 19, Northfield, speeding, \$131; James E. Barta, 53, Faribault, speeding, \$221; Larry D. Bartness, 57, Hartland, seat belt, \$106;
Stanley B. Boniarczyk, 75, Bloomington, speeding, \$141; Elizabeth I. Carlson, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Genaro Duarte Jr., 23, Austin, window tint violation, \$131; Youssef W. El Masri, 28, Minneapolis, speeding, \$221; Courtney L. Erskine, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Lauren Hegna, 47, Olathe, KS, speeding, \$121;
John P. Iacovino, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Trevor D. Kruckeberg, 25, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, \$106; Christopher A. Levy, 23, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121;
Michael A. Pince, 38, Mendota Heights, revoked license, and no insurance, \$481; Po Reh, 43, St. Paul, inattentive driving,

\$121; Jacob H. Schiller, 24, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$121; Jace D. Shaske, 20, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Shawn M. Smith, 43, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Nga T. Stepan, 52, Greenwood, NE, seat belt, \$106;
Kiley A. Swanson, 25, Hatfield, speeding, \$131; Kelly M. TeKautz, 46, Owatonna, failure to obtain new license after information change, \$101; Robert Wallace, 52, Wilton, CT, speeding, \$221;
Joan M. Will, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Daryl L. Windschittl, 43, Austin, inattentive driving, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department
Teresa Alvarez, 49, Owatonna, DWI, \$606, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 208 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Isaac S. Belcourt, 22, Moorhead, seat belt, \$106;
Ryan E. Dannen, 39, Mason City, IA, speeding, \$121; Michelle A. Del Angel, 26, Albert Lea, shoplifting, \$75, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Shane R. Grundhoffer, 33, Waseca, shoplifting, \$131;
Mark C. Hinsch, 59, Waltham, IA, prostitution in a public place, \$2,331, 2 days in county jail, counseling, no access to Internet without approval and 2 years of supervised probation; Bryan D. Karki, 21, Owatonna, DWI, \$281, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation;
Jennifer E. Lee, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Luis A. Martinez, 34, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Josey J. Meurer, 32, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Alan P. Moriarity, 35, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Kimberly A. Morris, 28, Morristown, DWI, \$406, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; James E. Pichner, 39, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Alonna Rae, 43, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;
Mary L. Rich, 50, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Eduardo Rojas-Cruz, 44, Elkton, no insurance, \$281; Jesus E. Rojas-Ortiz, 19, Austin, no MN license and speeding, \$221; Lamario J. Sanders, 29, Owatonna, domestic assault, \$181, 36 days in county jail, domestic abuse assessment and 1 year of supervised probation;
Jace D. Shaske, 20, Owatonna, revoked license and high beams light violation, \$321; Melissa Smith, 33, Minneapolis, revoked license and speeding, \$321; Kevin B. Thompson, 41, Cambridge, no MN license, \$181;
Carl R. Tollefson, 67, Clermont, FL, seat belt, \$106; Atia E. Vick, 21, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Amy R. Villwock, 16, Waterville, stop sign, \$131; Anthony E. Wadley, 40, Owatonna, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;
Tammy S. Winch, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Sarah Baldt, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Kylee S. Cichos, 20, Waseca, illegal use of composite beam and possession of Paraphernalia, \$171; Debby A. Crain, 33, Houston, TX, speeding, \$131; Daniel L. Dickson, 30, St. Cloud, violation of restricted license, \$131 and 90 days in county jail;
Sarah S. Eaton, 27, Owatonna, assault, \$381, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, obtain per-

Blotter spotlight:

DWI. On Aug. 10 at 6:39 p.m., deputies assisted with locating a vehicle that was involved with multiple driving complaints at State Hwy. 56 and US Hwy. 14 in Kasson. One female was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Fight between women leads to robbery charge

A fight involving two women has led to robbery charges against one of them.

Shanda Grundhoffer, 30, has been arrested and charged with felony simple robbery, theft and fifth-degree assault in connection with an incident in Owatonna last week.

Owatonna Police responded to the bike path near Hoffman Drive and Rose Street on a report of two women fighting.

Officers found the victim who reported she was walking on the trail towards the Blast when the Grundhoffer drove up and approached her. According to police, Grundhoffer was mad because she thought the victim was with a man. The victim,

who was holding her daughter at the time, was allegedly assaulted when Grundhoffer came at her and scratched her face and arms.

The victim claimed Grundhoffer allegedly took her phone and left the area.

When police caught up to Grundhoffer, she admitted to some sort of confrontation with the victim and taking her cell phone.



Grundhoffer

mission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Kathryn J. Ewing, 49, Austin, speeding, \$121;
Jordan D. Flugum, 19, Austin, speeding and possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$271; Todd E. Fraley, 55, Albert Lea, speeding, \$141; Susana B. Garza, 47, Owatonna, speeding, \$131;
Raymond L. Gibbs, 77, Dodge Center, stop sign, \$131; Brandon T. Goebel, 17, Minnesota Lake, speeding, \$141; Christopher J. Goettl, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Amanda R. Groll, 20, Claremont, speeding, \$221; Carl A. Hodgman, 39, Mapleton, speeding, \$131; Laurie J. Hovland, 57, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;
Scott L. Jacobsen, 47, Hayfield, speeding, \$121; Aaron M. Krejci, 23, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Noel A. Lopez Ayala, 33, St. Paul, cancelled license and speeding, \$341; Chad C. McAdams, 41, Medford, disorderly conduct, \$181;
Larry Mensing, 57, Medford, violation of order for protection, \$181, 69 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

Crystal A. Moravec, 32, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Caesar K. Musoke, 48, Bloomington, speeding, \$141; Guadalupe Reyna, 39, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Makenzie B. Robertson, 19, Owatonna, failure to signal and license plate light violation; Thania Sanchez, 22, Austin, speeding, \$141;
Hailey M. Schuller, 17, New Richland, speeding, \$131; Sulma M. Soto, 45, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Jesus Z. Vazquez Zavala, 22, Medford, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation, and 1 year of supervised probation; Matthew R. Yokiel, 34, Hastings, speeding, \$141.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 234 complaints for the week of Aug. 5 – 11. Some of them include:

Aug. 5
Larceny. Deputy took a report of larceny in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 4:58 a.m.

Medical. Dodge Center Ambulance and Dodge Center Fire responded to a possible heat exhaustion incident in the 500 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 1:19 p.m. No transport was needed.

Parking Violation. At 5:43 p.m., a vehicle backed through a fence and parked on private property in the 23200 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord.

Damage. A Kasson resident reported at 6:27 p.m. that it appeared someone had hit her tree with a vehicle and that her yard was torn up in the 27500 block of 625th St.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance where a male subject was yelling at a female and waving his arms around in the 100 block of State St. N. in West Concord at 10:39 p.m.

Aug. 6
Drug. Deputies arrested a subject for violating drug court in Mantorville at 1:30 p.m. They transported the subject to the Steele County Jail.

Burglary. A Dodge Center resident reported that a chainsaw was stolen out of his shed in the 700 block of 3rd Ave. NW at 2:36 p.m.

Found Property. At 4:38 p.m., a Hayfield woman reported that her lock box had been located in a Mower County ditch.

Civil. Deputies received a report that a man's ex stole his dog in the 61400 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont at 5:41 p.m.

Suspicious Activity. At 6:41 p.m., a suspicious vehicle came into a yard in the 55400 block of 130th Ave. in West Concord. A male driver got out and asked for the owner by her name and then left.

Ordinance Violation. A Dodge Center resident reported that his back yard was full of smoke due to a fire at his neighbors in the 100 block of 4th Ave. NE at 8:52 p.m.

Aug. 7
Narcotics. Deputies received information regarding narcotics in the 400 block of Main St. W. in Hayfield at 9:12 a.m.

Suspicion. A Dodge Center woman made a suspicious activity report at 2:46 p.m. to report that a male came to her house asking to inspect the chimney in the 600 block of 3rd Ave. NW. No access was granted.

Vandalism. At 6 p.m., deputy took a report that a pop-up canopy had been broken and flowers had been stolen in the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont.

Fire. Deputies responded to a fully engulfed structure fire on an abandoned property in the 21000 block of 650th St. in Dodge Center at 9:07 p.m.

Aug. 8
Domestic. At 1:01 a.m., a domestic disturbance occurred in the 75600 block of 125th Ave. in Blooming Prairie.

Intoxication. Deputies assisted with a complaint that there was an intoxicated male in the Kasson Kwik Trip in the 100 block of 8th St. SE at 3:06 a.m.

Vandalism. A Kasson resident reported at 8:38 a.m. that someone had "blown up the neighbor's mailbox" in the 22400 block of 700th St.

Driving Complaint. At 12:38 p.m., a male was found sleeping in his vehicle at a stop sign at 120th Ave. and 610th St. in Claremont.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 25100 block of 600th St. in Mantorville where a male was out of control and threatening to harm animals at 12:41 p.m. The situation was mediated.

Fraud. At 8:38 p.m., a Hayfield citizen reported being the victim of identity theft in the 600 block of Center Ave. S.

Accident. Deputies, Kasson Police, Mantorville Fire and West Concord Ambulance responded to an ATV accident where a male subject hit a mailbox in the 19200

block of 520th St. in West Concord. He was bleeding from the head, seizing and was not conscious. He was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

Harassment. Deputy took report of threats and harassment in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 5:14 p.m.

Suspicion. At 7:35 p.m., deputies received a report that four people dragged the furniture out of a laundry mat and were loitering outside of it on Main St. W. in Dodge Center.

Harassment. A Hayfield man reported that his ex-wife's boyfriend is harassing him via text message at 7:53 p.m.

Suspicious Activity. Deputies received a suspicious activity report that two males were in the upper level of an unfinished house in the 900 block of 2nd St. SE in Kasson at 11:56 p.m.

Aug. 10
Medical. Deputies, Dodge Center Fire and Dodge Center Ambulance responded to an incident where a male employee was hit in the face with steel in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 9:46 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 3 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

John G. Baker Jr., 34, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aiding an offender to avoid arrest. He was sentenced to \$125, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Aug. 3 – 10:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Nicole K. Cain, 33, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$140; Kathy A. Demmer, 58, Hayfield, speeding, \$140; Patricia M. Ferguson, 81, Rochester, failure to yield right of way, \$130; Jonathan L. Fisher, 28, Rochester, disorderly conduct, \$255, 2 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;
Jonnie L. Hazuka, 22, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Justin L. Jensen, 29, West Concord, domestic assault, \$380, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no contact with victim,

PUBLIC SAFETY Continued on 4B

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

Dyez Boyd – theft - \$700 bail
Ronnie Boyd – order for protection violation (3) – no bail
Jessica Bradley – DUI – no bail
Robert Brantner – property damage - \$500 bail
Kevin Bremer – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Michelle Brodersen – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
Renise Brooks – disorderly conduct - \$1,000 bail

Tina Brown – criminal vehicular operation - \$20,000 bail
Jeffrey Bruce – abandoned vehicles - \$200 bail
Marilyn Bryant – false name - \$6,000 bail
Mario Burciaga Jr. – threats (2) – no bail
Caree Burks – invalid license - \$500 bail
Chioke Burnett – no MN license - \$500 bail
Micheal Bussert – drug possession - \$500 bail

Jose Cabrales – violation of conditions of release - \$12,000 bail
Alfredo Calvario – no license - \$500 bail
Gonzalo Camarillo Jr. – DWI - \$12,000 bail
Shawn Campbell – disorderly conduct - \$3,000 bail
Carolina Campos – no MN license - \$500 bail
Evelio Candanoza – DUI – no bail



SHERIFF'S TIPLINE

866-878-7964

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

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Public Safety/News

Two injured in I-35 accident

Last Friday, two people were injured in an accident on I-35, just north of Owatonna.

According to an incident report released by the Minnesota State Patrol, the incident took place just before 2:30 p.m. in an area where construction was present.

Darrin Klopsten, age 48, of Apple Valley, Minn. was driving southbound on I-35 that afternoon in an International semi. Sandra Treitline, age 66, of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., was also southbound on I-35. Elaine Gherty, age 71, of Woodbury, was a passenger in Treitline’s vehicle. When Treitline slowed down, entering the construction zone, the semi rear-ended the vehicle. Treitline and Gherty sustained non-life threatening injuries. Klopsten reported no injuries at the scene.

The Owatonna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance and North Air Care assisted on the scene.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 3B

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

Owatonna Police

domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; John T. Knudsen, 55, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$140; Sierra D. McKee, 19, Hayfield, assault and obstruction of legal process, no alcohol or controlled substance use, psychological evaluation, 50 hours of community service, chemical dependency treatment and 2 years of supervised probation;

Terri L. Morton, 53, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, \$130; Matthew J. Schuette, 22, West Concord, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, \$180; Leroy A. Timm, 74, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Brandon M. Wright, 19, West Concord, speeding, \$140; Birki T. Yousuf, 20, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$120.

Kasson Police Department

Adam L. Bussman, 35, Rochester, DWI, \$480, 23 days in county jail, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 30 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Justin D. Chounard, 35, St. Charles, seat belt, \$105; Ann L. Driver, 61, Kasson, speeding, \$130; Jeremy L. Gabby, 34, Kasson, seat belt, \$105;

Michael C. Grant, 41, Kasson, DWI, \$1,080, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Louis J. Robinson, 44, Hayfield, possession of Paraphernalia, \$130.

MIN State Patrol Rochester

Marty C. Hinrichs, 41, Eyota, speeding, \$130; Daniel T. Pletta, 24, West Concord, speeding, \$130; Maggie A. Ramirez, 21, St. James, speeding, \$130; Jason P. Roeker, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Dennis W. Ross, 37, Dodge Center, window tint violation, \$130; Matthew C. Sims, 22, Harrodsburg, KY, speeding, \$130.

West Concord Police Department

Gerardo Lopez, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Troy C. Tumbleson, 21, Rochester, speeding, \$140.

Steele Arrests

Shanda Harriet Grundhoffer, 30, arrested at 6:20 p.m. Aug. 8, felony robbery and assault, held for court.

Okuny Okueng Onyongo, 20, arrested at 11:27 p.m. Aug. 9, assault/ domestic assault, held for court.

Lindsey Larae Dwyer-Rode-wald, 23, arrested Aug. 11, DWI and revoked license, held for court.

Michael James Worden, 37, arrested at 7:55 a.m. Aug. 12, felony burglary, drugs and controlled substance, held for court.

Lindsey Larae Dwyer-Rode-wald, 23, arrested at 12:59 a.m. Aug. 15, domestic assault, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Alejandro Vidal Linares Capouch, 26, arrested at 7:20 p.m. Aug. 12, warrant, obstructing legal process, domestic assault, and cancelled license, held for court.

Misty Donell Herrley, 32, arrested at 6:38 p.m. Aug. 12, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail.

Jeffrey Michael Johnson, 19, arrested at 1:57 a.m. Aug. 14, assault and interfering with 911 call, held for court.

Owatonna Fire

Aug. 7 Fire. At 5:22 p.m., fire fighters responded to an outside equipment fire in the 600 block of Bridge St. W.

Crash. Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on 28th St. SW at 5:05 p.m.

Aug. 8 Accident. A personal injury crash occurred in the 700 block of 18th St. SE at 1:34 p.m.

Aug. 10 Crash. Two motor vehicle accidents with injuries occurred throughout the day – at 12:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of 26th St. NE and on Interstate 35 at 9:25 p.m.

Aug. 11 Accident. Fire personnel assisted with a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 7400 block of 38th St. SW at 12:18 p.m.

Ask a Trooper: School patrol

Question: I would like to know more about Legionville School Patrol Camp. I saw your Tweet on Twitter last week. (Twitter:MSPPIO_SOUTH)

Answer: This was my first summer as an instructor at Legionville School Patrol Camp. I taught 155 students from all over the state. They were a great group of kids who were there to learn, but also had a lot of fun while attending this camp.

The Camp is a place where students are taught the fundamentals of school patrol and school bus patrol. It is located just north of Brainerd and is operated by the American Legion, using State Patrol Troopers as instructors. It is believed to be the only school patrol training

camp in the world.

School Patrol training itself was started (informally) back in 1920, when Sister Carmella asked the older boys to help the younger children cross the streets from school in St. Paul.

Earle Brown (former Minnesota Governor and former Minnesota “Highway Patrol” Chief), formalized the program and got the Highway Patrol (now called Minnesota State Patrol since about 1974) involved with the instruction at the Earle Brown Farm in the Twin Cities. Based on records from American Legion personnel, former training locations included the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds and Camp Ripley.

Besides school and bus patrol training by troopers, additional instructors are there to teach

ASK A TROOPER



Troy Christianson

swimming, canoeing, first aid training and many other activities and games. The camp is a very active place.

Parents can pay for their children to go, although there are also a limited numbers of scholarships available each year through local schools, State Patrol Troopers Association, lo-

cal American Legion posts and numerous additional organizations. AAA is also a supporter of the camp.

This year the camp ran from the middle of June, through mid-august August. I am looking forward to teaching a new group of students next year!

If you would like to learn more about the camp you can visit their website at: <http://www.legionville.org/>

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us) Twitter:MSPPIO_SOUTH

Heroin use is on the rise in our area

SHERIFF ROSE



Scott Rose

Your teenage daughter is a good kid. She gets good grades in school. She’s active in school activities and plays on the softball team. Everything seems to be good, but then you start seeing a change: She now has a new group of friends you don’t know much about. She seems to be less and less interested in doing those things she enjoyed – such as socializing, school activities, and engaging with family and friends. She seems to have problems concentrating and staying awake. She seems less concerned about her appearance and hygiene. These could be signs of narcotics use – like opioids or heroin.

We’ve had a handful of heroin overdoses here in the county – two of them actually resulted in the victims being dumped out of their “so called” friend’s vehicles on the side of the road. One survived it, the other did not. Heroin use in our communities continues to increase and it does not discriminate – from school age kids to retired adults, we’ve seen the terrible effects this drug have on people.

Heroin is a highly addictive drug processed from morphine,

a naturally occurring substance extracted from the seed pod of certain varieties of poppy plants. It’s typically sold as a white or brownish powder. The number of heroin cases has been steadily rising here in Dodge County over the last few years. Other opioid medications like OxyContin, Vicodin, Fentanyl, and Demerol can have a similar effect to heroin when not used as prescribed. We’ve also seen these pills being sold in the schools by kids whose stole them from their parents who have prescriptions. Some experts believe that the heroin increase may be due in part to a shift from abuse of prescription pain relievers to heroin as a readily available and cheaper alter-

native. The symptoms of heroin withdrawal can start within a few hours. These conditions may include insomnia, diarrhea, vomiting, cold flashes and leg movements. These symptoms often peak at around three days and can last a week or more.

Overdose is a dangerous and deadly consequence of heroin use because large doses of heroin depress the heart rate and breathing to such an extent that a user cannot survive without medical help.

If you have a friend or family member that you believe is struggling with prescription drug abuse or the use of heroin (or any other illegal drug), do something about it! Confront them about your concerns, talk to law enforcement, find out what help is available from the county, research the area’s local treatment centers. he actions you take may save that person’s life.

Whether you suspect someone in your family with a drug problem or not, be sure to secure your meds and make sure they aren’t accessible to your kids and your kid’s friends. If you have old medications that you aren’t using, bring them to our drop box

at the Sheriff’s Office so we can dispose of them. Also, know who your kids are hanging out with – ask questions. Be involved!

I started working here in law enforcement back in the late 90s when we started seeing meth labs popping up all over SE Minnesota. While meth continues to be our biggest problem in Dodge County, heroin has quickly become our latest challenge.

Heroin is a very difficult drug to detox from, but it’s not impossible – you can do it with a good treatment program, a good support group, and family and friends. We’ve stepped up narcotics enforcement with both patrol and investigations here in Dodge in response to the increase we’ve seen in meth and heroin use. Please talk to your local deputy or one of our investigators if you have any information about narcotics activity in your community, or with any questions or concerns. Remember, as always, you can remain anonymous.

Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose was elected as sheriff last fall and took office in January.

Daughters of Union Veterans Tent Meets

Members of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Barbara Burii Tent, met recently at the Montgomery National Golf Course. They visited the gravesite of Barbara Burii, for whom their Tent was named. The gravesites of Barbara and her husband Benedic are located on the first hole of the golf course. This property was originally settled by this family when they came from Switzerland in the 1860s. The Tent members spent time honoring their namesake, who sent six sons and grandsons to fight with the Union Army during the Civil War. Only two returned. Their descendant Dorothy Dodge, along with Veronica Carlson started the Montgomery Tent in 1978.

Following the graveside visit, the members met at the Clubhouse and held their regular meeting. Plans were made for future activities and business was taken care of.

If anybody is a female direct descendant of a Union Civil War veteran, you are encouraged to apply for membership in this group. They meet every other month at the Montgomery Municipal Hall. For information, call Alyce Ilg at 952- 758- 4596 or Sherry Harbal at 507-455-3173.



Submitted photo
Pictured above, from left to right, are Sherry Harbal, Grace Hosfield, Sheila Meixner, Alyce Ilg and Michelle Walburn. Kneeling are Kim Gwin, holding her son Lucas, and her son Jacob (standing.)

Steele County Humane Society holds Steele County Free Fair Feline Special

The Steele County Humane Society is having a Steele County Free Fair Feline Special. All felines will be discounted \$25. This Feline Special started Saturday, Aug. 15, at their normal Pet Adoption Day at 1010 Hoffman Drive (Retrofit building) from noon to 2 p.m. and runs through Aug. 23, the last day of the fair. They’re also holding a special Steele County Free Fair Pet Adoption Day on Sat., Aug. 22nd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Nelson Decorating Center, 121 Oakdale Street (one block south of HyVee.) There will be special parking for prospective adopters.

For more information, please contact the Steele County Humane Society at 507-451-4512.

DaVINCI ROBOTIC SYSTEM

DID YOU HAVE SURGERY WITH A DaVINCI ROBOTIC SYSTEM

and sustain burns, tears or punctures of organs, blood vessels or intestines requiring additional open surgery and complications?

You may be entitled to compensation.

Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson

1-800-535-5727

Splash into Summer

Call Julie today!

507-583-4431

bpjulie@frontier.com

Place your ad today

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

www.SteeleDodgeNews.com

All your local news, Fit to click!

Local & County News
Sports - Weather - Classifieds
Obituaries - Opinion - Legals
Public Safety and More!

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

News

Koda Living Community opens doors to residents, employees of Owatonna, Faribault Care Centers

Immediately after the Minnesota Department of Health notified residents and employees of Owatonna and Faribault Care Centers that the facilities would be closing, leaders at Koda Living Community extended an offer of assistance to the two care centers.

Koda Living Community has worked closely with the Owatonna and Faribault Care Centers to offer a choice to their residents and staff members to live and to work at Koda. Koda leaders also attended the provider information meetings for residents and their families and job fairs for staff at both of the closing centers. We have accommodated ten residents so far.

We recognize that this is a difficult time for the residents, their families and the staff of both Owatonna and Faribault Care Centers. We want to help them in the best way we can by offering a home to residents who would like to live here and by offering continued employment to the dedicated caregivers.

Many area residents may not know that Koda Living Community is a beautiful new facility located on the Owatonna Health Care Campus, serving those in need of short-term rehabilitation and long term care. With spacious living accommodations, Koda residents also have access to physical, occupational and speech therapy and enjoy many activities including an exercise program, chapel services, beauty salon and a weekly happy hour!

"We are also proud of our excellent results in our recent Minnesota Department of Health annual survey of care and services," said Sharon McLane, Director of Nursing. "The State surveyors noted the significant improvement in results each year and about enthusiasm displayed by our nursing staff. We are proud of their commitment to our residents."

This spring, the Minnesota Legislature made a significant investment in the future of our state's long-term care programs. A new payment system was created that meets the needs of today's and tomorrow's demand for innovative, quality care. The new payment system means there will be additional funding to improve quality of care in a variety of ways and potentially increase wages to help make health care careers a better choice than ever before.

The legislation also offers enhanced funding for nursing scholarships including tuition reimbursement, child care and travel expense. Training classes for nurse's aides are covered. Other new initiatives were approved to ensure that the people of Minnesota have a variety of cost effective options for care services when they need them.

Thank you to our legislators, and to our community members who supported our proposed legislation with their phone calls, emails and letters. Your support made a big difference in making this legislation possible and helps Koda offer prospective employees the promise of a bright future in caring for our community's elders in need.

Koda Living Community is owned and operated by Steele County Communities for a Lifetime in partnership with the Benedictine Health System. Our core values are respect,



Dave Vandergon

justice, hospitality and stewardship. The Benedictine vision is to create living communities where health, wellness and choice come to life.

An integral part of continuum of care services is Park Place Assisted Living located adjacent to the Steele County Fairgrounds. On August 20th Koda will be co-sponsoring "Senior Day" at the fair. We invite fair goers to visit our lemonade garden between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. It is just a half block from fairgrounds between the Four Seasons Center and the Cedarview building. Enter the lemonade garden through the white picket fence gate on the back side of the building.

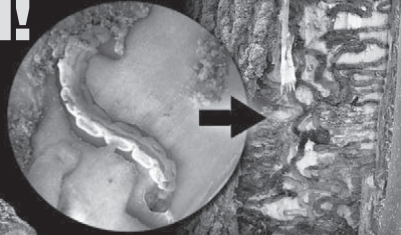
Also coming up on August 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is the Cedarview Garage Sale. While many employees and friends are donating items for the sale to help us raise funds for equipment and Park Place renovations. There will also be tons of old furniture, electric hospital beds, and just about any and everything you can imagine that we need to dispose of. We hope to determine a new use for the Cedarview building in the very near future.

Come to one of the above events to learn more about what is happening at Koda and Park Place, or come for a visit and take a tour to learn more about Koda's services or employment. Koda's business office associates are always glad to help individuals understand their insurance and medical coverage programs. Call us at 507-444-4200 or just stop by. Koda Living Community offers a competitive wage and benefit package. Employment applications and other information can be found online at www.kodalivingcommunity.org.

*Submitted by
Dave Vandergon,
Administrator/CEO – Koda
Living Community*

Don't move firewood!

Emerald ash borer can live in firewood for up to two years!



Minnesota Department of Agriculture

The defeat of JESSE JAMES DAYS

September 9-13, 2015 • Northfield, MN

**BUTTONS AVAILABLE
\$4.00**

Events

Rodeo
Entertainment Center
Arts & Craft Shows
Antique Tractor Pull
Classic Car Show
Carnival
Bingo
Grande Parade
Pedal Tractor Pull
Kiddie Parade
AND MUCH MORE!

Bank Raid Re-enactments

Friday, Saturday
& Sunday



Visit our website for full event listings at www.defeatofjessejamesdays.org

Owatonna Parks and Recreation updates

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end, school will be starting up soon and some of our fall programs are already up and running. The deadline has passed for some of our fall programs but there's still time to sign up for many other fall programs.

We are currently taking registrations for Mini Husky Pup Football (a \$10 late fee will be applied. This program is for kids entering first and second grades and focuses on a different football skill each week followed by games such as flickerball, interception and much more. The program begins Sept. 12th and runs through the beginning of October. Visit our website at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation>, to learn more about this program.

We are also taking registrations for Youth Volleyball (a \$10 late fee will be applied. Youth Volleyball is for those entering third through sixth grade. This program is a fun introduction to volleyball where players will learn skills and play games. The Youth Volleyball Clinic will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 2nd at 7 p.m. at the Owatonna High School Gym. Players should come dressed ready to play.

We are currently also taking registrations for Youth Pickleball. Owatonna Pickleball in partnership with Parks and Recreation will be offering a six session fall pickleball class. This is a great opportunity for youth to learn a new sport, get some excellent exercise and spend an hour with other kids from the community. For more information regarding the Youth Pickleball program visit our website: at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation>.

Starting in late August we will begin taking registrations for Youth Hockey. Skaters work on their skill progression at their own speed with many volunteers on the ice helping them along. A helmet is required for everyone on the ice. An entire bag of protective equipment is available for rent through the Owatonna Youth Hockey Association for \$50 per year. Registration will be available at the Four Seasons in late August or through the Parks and Recreation office. Look for more information to come on our website at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation>.

We are always looking for volunteer coaches for our programs. Volunteer coaches are vital to making our programs successful. The more parents/individuals who offer to coach, the smaller the teams we can

provide. The bonding experience of coaching your child can strengthen your relationship with your child. Having coached my daughter's team, I can attest that it is a great experience. A study with youth soccer showed that having a parent coach can not only be great for the parent, but also for the child (Weiss & Fretwell.) If you are interested in coaching your child's team this fall, please contact our office at 507-444-4321.

Looking for adult programs? We are currently taking registrations for Adult Volleyball teams. The deadline to register a team is Sept. 8. The entry fee for a team is \$235 for Men's and Women's Leagues and \$203 for Co-Rec Leagues. Player fees are \$30 for residents and \$55 for non-residents. Leagues will begin with a practice on Wednesday, Sept. 30 for Men's and Women's Leagues and on Monday, October 5th for Co-Rec Leagues.

Fall is a great time to get out and enjoy the parks. We offer 14 pavilions throughout the city parks which can be rented for exclusive use. A couple of our pavilions even include fireplaces so you can warm up on those chilly fall days. To rent a pavilion call the Parks and Recreation office.

There's still time to get out and enjoy the water park. River Springs Water Park will have an extended season this year and will be open until Sept. 7! Daily admission rates are only \$4 now until Aug. 23 and will drop down to \$3 Aug. 24 through Sept. 7. Check out the River Springs Water Park Facebook page for even more admission specials.

Upcoming Special Events:

Movie in the Park – Our final Movie in the Park will be held

on Friday, Aug. 28 (rain date Aug. 29.) We'll be featuring Big Hero 6 at Central Park. Grab your blankets and chairs and enjoy a movie under the stars! The movie will begin at sunset (around 8:15 p.m.) and concessions will be available.

Park Passport – This fall we'll be featuring our popular Park Passport program again. The first signs will be placed from Sept. 11 through Sept. 24. If you're interested in participating you can print the form off of our website or stop by the Parks and Recreation office to pick up a form.

Brooktree Fall Shindig – Join the fun on the first day of fall, Wednesday, Sept. 23. Golf specials! Taco bar with all the fixings! Pop and beer specials! Pizza specials! Half-price appetizers! And, a special musical guest, Jake Jones, playing on the Patio from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Look for more details on our website, facebook, local radio stations and in local newspapers!

Trick or Treat Trail – Mark your calendars for Oct. 31! Ghosts and Goblins of all ages,

grab your trick or treat bags and head out to Mineral Springs Park for our second Annual Trick or Treat Trail! We've got a "new and improved" trail planned this year! This year's event will run from the trail starting at Brooktree Golf Course parking lot through Mineral Springs Park. Visit local businesses along the trail for treats, games, a photo shoot and crafts, or head to the Mineral Springs Pavilion to warm up with free hot chocolate and even more activities. After you've visited the trail fill up at Brooktree Clubhouse before heading out trick or treating. Brooktree will be offering a special-priced dinner and playing family-friendly Halloween movies. Look for more information to come on our website and Facebook page.

*Submitted by
Jessica Abrahams
Administrative Assistant
Owatonna Parks and
Recreation*

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

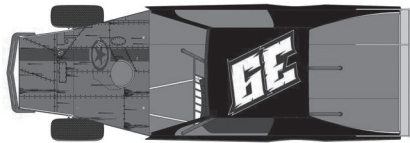
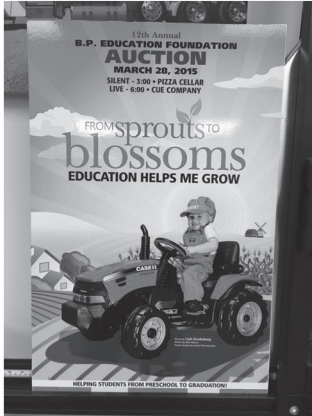
Contact the Steele County Times Today!

507-583-4431

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.



KIK GRAPHICS & PRINTING YOU PICK IT WE STICK IT



**612.360.9934 Tyler@kikgraphics.biz
www.kikgraphics.biz
500 Minimizer Way SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917**



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?

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic

HOMETOWN

EXTRA

Owatonna



Tom Gray carves at his wildlife relief, which features a flying duck.



Staff photos by Anna Segner
The Southern Minnesota Woodcarvers gather weekly to carve and share the joy of creating wooden pieces of art, such as the pieces displayed on the table.

Wood you carve with me?

By ANNA SEGNER
Staff Writer

On most Thursday afternoons, upstairs in Trinity Lutheran Church, one will find eight or so individuals poring over their wood sculptures as they laugh and talk with one another. As they carve away at their hunk of wood, they manage to find something beautiful.

This handful of individuals are the Southern Minnesota Woodcarvers. They meet most Thursdays of the year from 1 to 3 p.m.

Each of them carve different subject matters, different styles and different types of wood. Some are known for their wooden Santa Clauses, gnomes, wild life reliefs, tiny boots or animal sculptures. Many of their creations will be on display at the Steele County Free Fair in the Fine Arts building.

The individuals that gather regularly are Nancy Turnball of Owatonna, Gerry Berg of Blooming Prairie, Earl Smith of Owatonna, Norm Bang of Owatonna, Myron Spindler of Hope, Earl Wheeler of Owatonna and Tom Gray of Owatonna. They gather together to carve on their own projects and receive carving advice from one another, though they laugh that it is more of a “social hour.”

“We do this for fun. Its 50% carving and 50% social,” laughed Nancy Turnball. Many of them view carving as a creative outlet and weekly social activity.

The group was born eight years ago when Whillock Woodcarving had a store in downtown Owatonna. The store hosted classes and sparked an interest in many people’s creativity. Many of the current Southern Minn. Woodcarvers found their interest during those classes.

“I was new to the town at that time. Woodcarving had always interested me, so I thought why not try it out and meet some new people,” said Turnball. She said that while Whillock Woodcarving only lasted about a year downtown, the group decided to continue to meet weekly.

A couple of the years, the group has made ornaments and donated them to the Festival of Trees event that advocates for developmental disabilities. Many of them also make an annual, handcrafted, Christmas ornament to gift to family members.

Many of the members remember why they started carving and laugh about how they all took a liking to carving soap in high school art classes many years ago.

Tom Gray still remembers the first thing he carved. “It was 30 years ago... I bought a book and a few tools and I carved a mule. A somewhat blocky mule. I still have him today,” remembered Gray. He carves a little bit of everything

and has even carved a cake topper for a family member’s wedding.

Myron Spindler began making wood carving tools before he even carved wood himself. Many in the group use at least one of his hand-made knife tools. Spindler is known in the group as “Santa King,” for he carves and sells many Santa Clause figures of all shapes and sizes.

Spindler is also known to carve often and quickly. “We think he carves in his sleep,” said Turnball, when he revealed that he created four welcome signs over the week.

Norm Bang is a retired high school industrialized arts teacher from Owatonna High School. He was an experienced wood worker, but he did little carving in the fine arts. He enjoys creating caricatures and gnomes. Bang is the comic relief of the group, as he often makes deadpan remarks that receive chuckles from the other carvers.

Turnball has turned towards smaller projects since she has noticed her hands becoming more and more fatigued. She has a reputation in the group as the “Conversion Queen,” for she will always begin a project saying it will be one thing which ends up becoming something completely different. For example, she has carved a few tiny wooden shoes, and transformed the little shoes to be canisters for pin cushions.

The group is complimentary and excited about one another’s work. As one talks, another will remind them of another beautiful project they created.

There is a lot to know about wood carving, from the different styles of carving: carving tools, woods and safety. All in the room wore some sort of glove or protection on their hand, and explained that it is for protection from the carving knife.

“Your strokes should always be going away from you, but your hands get pretty sore,” explained Gray. He wears a rubber thimble on his finger to protect from blisters or cuts.

When it comes to painting or finishing works, each has a different approach. Some apply multiple thin layers of acrylic paint to give their piece an aged look, while others might apply one thick layer. Some leave the wood as-is or use stains.

Earl Smith commented that his wife often paints what he carves. “It’s something that we have in common, so I really enjoy it,” said Smith.

The group is grateful that they have the space at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, and they always sweep their wood shavings at the end of each session.

Each Southern Minnesota Wood carver will have pieces on display in the Fine Arts building at the Steele County Free Fair, so feel free to stop by!



The Southern Minnesota Woodcarvers gather around a table to carve and chat.



A man remembered

By ANNA SEGNER
Staff Writer

The Southern Minnesota Woodcarvers will always remember their fellow carver, Ferris Chladek. He was a long-time member of the group until his death on April 15, 2015, at age 95.

Chladek is remembered in this community in many ways. Ferris served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945. Ferris served over thirty years as a volunteer with the Boy Scouts and also served over forty years as a volunteer with the Red Cross, teaching first aid and CPR classes. He was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Legion, VFW and served on many funerals with the Veterans Honor Guard.

While Chladek is known to many in the community as an honored veteran, he was a dear friend to the Southern Minnesota Woodcarvers. They often remember him as they carve. “He would give us all pointers and took an interest in our projects,” said Nancy

Turnball, a member of the Southern MN Woodcarvers. “He cared about wood carving all the way up to the end.”

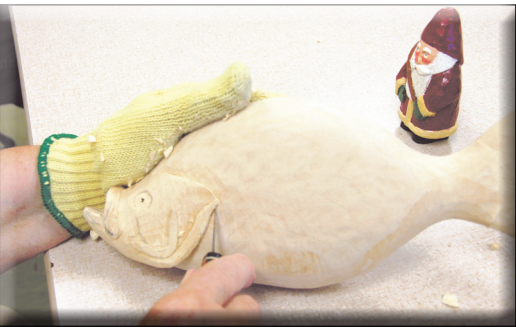
Norm Bang and Chladek worked together in creating hand held crosses that are given to people in hospitals, churches and other places.

Earl Smith, of Owatonna, will have a woodcarving display in the Fine Arts building during the Steele County Free Fair in Chladek’s honor and memory.

“This is not at all about me; it is about Ferris,” said Smith.

The display features individual figures standing around an American flag. The figures closest to the flag are in Boy Scout and Honor Guard uniform. The figures in the background are people of all different walks of life, representing perhaps the wide variety of people that were impacted by Chladek in one way or another.

There will be a sign that reads “Thank you Ferris,” and Smith says that this was just a way to pay respect to Chladek and his influential life.



ABOVE: Gerry Berg shows the craftsmanship and process behind her wooden fish collection.

LEFT: Gerry Berg carves away at a Christmas decoration in front of some of her other finished creations.

Medford gets a head start on the school year

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Before you know it, school will be in session, especially for students of the Medford school district. The Medford school district was one of the few schools in Southern Minnesota and the only school in Steele County that opted to begin school a week early, before Labor Day.

While most students in Steele County will begin school on Sept. 8, Medford will begin school on Sept. 1.

The option to start school before Labor Day became possible when the Minnesota Legislature gave school districts the option to an early start to the school year. The legislative decision was made at the close of a special session in mid-June, which was too late for many schools to create an alternative calendar with an earlier start.

Medford, on the other hand, had two schedules drawn up: one for the legislative decision against the early start and one for the approval of the early start.

“We had the regular calendar approved in early Spring, but was also talked about at that time that if the state allowed the early start, we would have an alternative calendar ready,” explained Medford’s superintendent Rich Dahman. “We wanted to be sure to have the appropriate planning in place.”

While most schools in Steele County have approximately 172 or 173 student days, Medford students have 176 school days.

“Labor Day is very late this year, which pushes us even further into June,” explained Dahman. The 2015/2016 school year for students is scheduled to end on June 2. Dahman said that had they not opted to the early start, school would have ended on June 9.

A major benefit of that early start is that there will be an early out. Dahman commented that

BACK TO SCHOOL
Continued on Page 7C

Blooming Prairie hosts third annual Classics and Customs Car Show



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Jerry and Dory Scherger, of Dodge Center, take a closer look at this 1954 Chevy Bel Air during the annual Classics and Customs Car Show, held in Blooming Prairie on Saturday. Read more inside, and see more photos, on Page 5C.

Owatonna Arts Center makes room for addition

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

After a few growing pains, the Owatonna Arts Center is stretching out. Construction for the addition has begun to the south of the current Arts Center. The new addition will essentially be a handicapped accessible entrance, which will allow for a bit more gallery space.

The driving force of this entry addition was the need for handicapped accessibility. The addition will not be large when it comes to square footage; however, it will have an elevator. OAC Board president Arlan Burmeister said that many people have commented that they wanted to visit the center in the past, but have been unable to because of the lack of an elevator in that area of the building.

The Arts Center is attached to the City Administration building, which does have an elevator, but for many people with handicaps, that is too far from the Arts Center wing of the building.

“We want to make it accessible for people - not just for the



Staff photo by Anna Segner
The Owatonna Arts Center is stretching out. Construction for the addition has begun to the south of the current Arts Center and will include a handicapped accessible entrance and a bit more gallery space.

art galleries but, for all of the events, weddings, and parties that are hosted here,” said Burmeister.

The construction of the entrance addition is a \$1.45 million project. Burmeister said

that OAC received a sum of \$500,000 from a half-cent sales tax increase implemented in 2007, which was money designated for capital projects on the West Hills Complex, the public library, the fire hall and other

city buildings.

“That \$500,000 is a big hunk of this project, but we’ve also had some nice contributors,”

ARTS CENTER ADDITION
Continued on Page 8C

STEELE TALKIN’



Kelli Naatz

4-H on Wheels summer coordinator

The Steele County Free Fair is here, need I say more? The time has arrived where 4-H families are packing up and heading to their annual family trip to the Steele County Free fair. They’re getting ready to spend hours in the barns and finally getting to show off their projects and animals they have been working hard with throughout the whole summer. It’s a time that everyone looks forward to, a time where 4-Hers enjoy all the greasy food, spend time playing cards in the barns, laughing with fellow 4-Hers, the early mornings and late nights but, most of all, enjoying the atmosphere of the biggest county fair in Minnesota. But, once the Steele County Fair hits, I sit back and think, “Where did the summer even go?”

My name is Kelli Naatz, I have spent my summer working for the Steele County 4-H Extension Office as the 4-H on Wheels Summer Coordinator. 4-H on Wheels is a mobile version of the 4-H after-school program but, instead, is delivered at local housing facilities in and around the Steele County area. 4-H on Wheels has been funded for the past eight years by the Steele County Commissioners and provides fun and educational programming for over 300 children. This summer, I visited twelve different locations, including subsidized housing apartments, town homes, manufactured home communities, daycares and youth organizations throughout Owatonna, Medford, Ellendale and Blooming Prairie.

4-H on Wheels seeks to serve families that do not fall under the traditional 4-H club community experience. In an effort to make the Steele County 4-H

STEELE TALKIN’

Continued on Page 6C



Blooming Prairie Proud: Local artist uses talents for a good cause

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Krisi Lillie, of Blooming Prairie, is using her paintbrushes to help fight cancer.

The local artist is currently selling limited edition prints, featuring Blooming Prairie’s iconic water tower, and proceeds will help benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Lillie says that she donated a painting to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Auction last year, but wanted to do even more this year. “Hopefully, I will bring in more to help their fundraising efforts,” she said. “I’ve had a pretty good response so far, which is exciting to see.”

The water tower, said Lillie, came to mind immediately when she began to consider subjects for the special project. “There’s just something about the water

tower that resonates with people in Blooming Prairie,” Lillie said.

The painting is watercolor and ink on cotton paper, complete with a 16x12” white mat, which fits well inside a store-bought frame. Each print is numbered and comes with a certificate of authenticity. There are two options to choose from, “Blooming Prairie Proud” (a more contemporary painting, featuring splashes of blue and purple) and “Blooming Prairie Proud 2” (a more traditional watercolor styled painting, showing a full view of the tower, including grass and sky.) 15 percent of all proceeds will benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

“I chose the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group for the proceeds because, not only do they donate large amounts of money for cancer research, but they also help local people through the com-

munity fund, which is an idea that’s just genius,” said Lillie. The Community Fund is used to help local people who have been touched by cancer.

Lillie said that she’s been creating artwork ever since she was able to hold a pencil, and was especially inspired by her grandfather, Pete Knowlton, who was a wonderful artist. Lillie has only been painting watercolors, however, for the past three years. “I’m making up for lost time,” Lillie said, with a laugh. “It’s a really fun medium to use.” She enjoys painting streetscapes, cityscapes, flowers, urban scenes and much more.

“I enjoy it a lot,” she said. “I think it’s really important to use your skill or talent to help other people in some small way.”

The paintings are available at several Blooming Prairie businesses, including Krejci

Ford, Sportstitch, Main Street Dental, U.S. Bank, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Johnson & Doerhoefer, A Touch of Charm and The Pizza Cellar. They can also be purchased directly from Lillie’s Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/KrisiLillieArt>. Lillie is even willing to mail the paintings to art enthusiasts who may live out of town. Lillie said she appreciates everyone who purchases the paintings because they are making a contribution to a great cause. She also appreciates the help of people who have worked to spread the word about the project, including Connie Trom.

Lillie also hopes to set up a booth at the Sept. 11 and 12 Cancer Auction. The event will take place on both Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. outside Blooming Prairie’s The Cue Company.



Photo by Laura Berndt
Krisi Lillie is selling limited edition prints, featuring Blooming Prairie’s iconic water tower. Proceeds will help benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

HometownLiving

Community Calendar



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Henry Epp, age eight, and his grandfather, Richard Epp, work together to disassemble a VCR during the "Take it Apart" workshop hosted by the Blooming Prairie Branch Library last Thursday afternoon.

J&H LIQUORS
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7557

GO AHEAD WINE ALL YOU WANT ABOUT THE STREET CONSTRUCTION!!
WE HAVE A GREAT SELECTION OF WINE TO CHECK OUT
THANK YOU...TO ALL THE RIDERS, CITIZENS, AND BUSINESSES/ ORGANIZATION OF B.P. AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
YOUR DONATIONS TO THESE TWO BENEFIT RIDES: B.O.B. CRUISE FOR

CANCER RIDE (JUNE 27) AN THE B.O.B. RIDE: TOYS FOR TOTS (JULY 25) MADE THEM VERY SUCCESSFUL AGAIN THIS YEAR. THANK YOU!!
BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 PM
JULY 27, AUG 10, 24 SEPT. 14, 21, 28
ACCESS J&H BAR/ OFF-SALE BY THE FRONT DOOR SIDEWALK OR THE ALLEY DOORS. CUSTOMER PARKING AVAILABLE IN OUR NORTH PARKING LOT

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- Aug. 18:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
4:45 p.m. Boys N Girls Club Brd
- Aug. 19:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
12 p.m. BP Chamber of Commerce
- Aug. 24:**
2 p.m. BPBL Movie Day
- Aug. 25:**
3rd Annual Classics & Customs Show, BPSC
BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
5:30 p.m. BP Ambulance Comm Mtg
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg
- Aug. 26:**
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
6:30 p.m. Wednesday Nite Ladies Bowling Mtg at Bunkies Grill & Lanes

Servicemen's Club

210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

- Raffle drawing first Saturday of every month
- Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIALS
#1 - BRATS & MACARONI SALAD
#2 - CHICKEN SALAD CROISSANT & FRESH FRUIT

LUNCH SPECIAL (8/20 & 8/21):
SLOPPY JOES & FRIES

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

- Aug. 18:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
- Aug. 20:**
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
- Aug. 24:**
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
- Aug. 25:**
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
- Aug. 26:**
5 p.m. Ellendale Fire Department Fundraiser, Community Center

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Waseca | Ellendale | Hope | Member FDIC

fnbwaseca.com | 507-684-2691

OWATONNA

- Aug. 18:**
SCFF
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
9:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books, So Little Time
10:30 a.m. OPL Summer Story Time
2:30 p.m. Caregiver Support Group, OPL
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6 p.m. Caregiver Supper Group, OPL
6:30 p.m. Nat's Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, Owatonna Hospital
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
- Aug. 19:**
SCFF
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
- Aug. 20:**
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
SCFF
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time
- Aug. 21:**
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
SCFF
- Aug. 22:**
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
SCFF
9 a.m. OHS Strive Wellness Run/Walk
- Aug. 23:**
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
SCFF
- Aug. 24:**
OAC Art Exhibit: Brushed Back to Life
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
1 p.m. Redcross Blood Drive, Trinity Lutheran Church
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
www.expresspros.com

812 S. Elm Ave. • Owatonna • 507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002

MEDFORD

- Aug. 18:**
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting
- Aug. 19:**
7 p.m. Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council
- Aug. 20:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
- Aug. 24:**
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

BOB TAYLOR
CONSTRUCTION
MEDFORD, MN
507-838-9646
507-330-4717

Simply Better Buildings
Authorized Independent Dealer of EPS Buildings.
507-330-4717 www.wherequalitymatters.net

SPOT LIGHT

55+ Driver Improvement Program will be offered in Blooming Prairie

The Driver Improvement course is open to the public; pre-registration is required. The four hour refresher course takes place on Sept. 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Blooming Prairie High School (located at 202 Fourth Avenue Northwest) through community education.

A Minnesota Highway Safety & Research Center certified instructor teaches this class. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws and vehicle technology. The fee for the four hour refresher course is \$20 and the eight hour course is \$24. For more information or to register, visit www.mnsafetycenter.org or call toll free 1-888-234-1294.

OTHER COUNTIES

- Mower**
Aug. 18:
1 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Community Cntr, LeRoy
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6:30 p.m. Minnesota Community Sings Event (Part of Austin ArtWorks Festival Week), Veteran's Pavilion, Band Sheel Park,
Aug. 19:
9 a.m. Walking Club, Starting from the Mower County Senior Center
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
12 p.m. Picnic in the Lot, Mower County Senior Center
4 p.m. Free Fall Kids Fest, YMCA of Austin
4 p.m. Our Family Matters: Travel the World, Mower County Senior Center
5 p.m. Grand Meadow Farmers Market
7 p.m. World Music Event: Makem & Spain, Historic Paramount Theatre
- Aug. 20:**
9:30 a.m. Senior Special: Tom Pease, Todd Park, Austin
1 p.m. Family/Children's Program: Tom Pease, Todd Park, Austin
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers Market - Corn Festival
4 p.m. LeRoy Farmers Market
5 p.m. Open House: Jean Formo and Mary Singer Art Gallery Opening, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6 p.m. LEGO Club, APL
- Aug. 21:**
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
2 p.m. Intro to Polymer Clay, Austin ArtWorks Center
6 p.m. 7th Annual Doggy Dip, Austin Municipal Swimming Pool
7 p.m. "The Wizard of Oz", Historic Paramount Theatre

- Freeborn**
Aug. 18:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
- Aug. 19:**
12 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, Crossroads Church, AL
- Aug. 20:**
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
1 p.m. Redcross Blood Drive, Crossroads Church, AL
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
- Aug. 21:**
9 a.m. Redcross Blood Drive, Crossroads Church, AL
- Aug. 22:**
8:15 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, First Lutheran Church, AL
- Aug. 24:**
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers

- Dodge**
Aug. 18:
10 a.m. WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Taco Tuesdays
5:45 p.m. Dodge Center Park Brd
6 p.m. Kasson Park Brd Mtg
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center
6:30 p.m. Canvas Painting Party, K-M
- Aug. 19:**
7:30 a.m. Hayfield Chamber Mtg, Uncle Mony's/ Spare Time Lanes
5:30 p.m. Dodge Center American Legion, Pizza & Bear
6:30 p.m. Knitted Fall Hat, K-M

Minimizer

Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
www.minimizer.com

Blooming PrairieLiving

Hot dogs on the run

Hot dog stand on wheels proves popular with customers in Blooming Prairie

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Hungry for a tasty, juicy hot dog?

When traveling on Highway 218 just south of Main Street, stop by one of Blooming Prairie's newest businesses. It's called Dogs on the Run and in actuality, it is a mobile hot dog stand positioned in front of the Speedy Wash & Pet Spaw.

Steve Cartier and wife Marie of Ellendale are proprietors of this hot dog stand on wheels. The Cartiers transport a Dream-maker hot dog cart on a trailer pulled by an SUV.

The Cartiers have been running the stand for two weeks and report some heavy business at times. Customers include truckers coming through Blooming Prairie on Highway 218 and they also include local residents like Sue Zwiener, who stopped by to buy two hot dogs to take home over the dinner hour.

Main Street construction workers have become regular customers of the Cartiers.

Hot Dogs on the Run also offers bratwurst, chips and soda. The hot dogs are one-third of a pound and are all beef. They can be topped with sauerkraut, relishes, ketchup, mustard and some jalapeños can even be sprinkled on top.

The hot dog stand is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Blooming Prairie from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The noon hour



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Steve and Marie Cartier use a specially made hot dog cart to prepare their products. All kinds of condiments are available including mustard, ketchup, sauerkraut, relishes and jalapeños.

of course is the rush time for business.

On Wednesdays, Cartier takes his stand to Daikin Air Conditioning in Owatonna, across from Wal-Mart. He feeds employees twice a day, first and second shifts.

On Fridays and Saturdays, Steve is busy getting supplies for his food stands. On Sundays, he sets up shop at the Olmsted County Fairgrounds, site of the Gold Rush Flea Market.

Prior to beginning his hot dog business, Cartier ran a small engine repair shop in Farmington, Mo. He and his wife are originally from Florida and recently

were rehabilitating from two separate car crashes.

The Cartiers moved to a ten-acre farm on Highway 30 to be closer to their "grand babies," says Marie. "We wanted to give them space and not move too close to them; we also wanted space to raise some goats, chickens and cows," Steve said.

"Every day I am here, it gets busier and busier," Steve said with a big smile on his face.

Plunk down \$3, add some condiments and you have a mouth watering hot dog on a bun on a sunny, summer day.

Uncovering a piece of history



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Doug Johnson, of Johnson & Doerhoefer, Blooming Prairie, recently uncovered some history in the building his business occupies. He found a fragment of a poster board that dated back to Dec. 15, 1944. It was signed by Burton Knutson, John Brainerd and Dick Jelinek. One side of the board contained a scoreboard legend for Southern Minnesota baseball.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

North Main Street businesses have party in the alley

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Meet me in the alley.

That was the invitation extended to Blooming Prairie shoppers on Wednesday night, Aug. 12.

To remind people that downtown businesses are open during Main Street reconstruction, the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce arranged a "Party in the Lots" to acquaint shoppers with back door entrances of businesses on the north side of Main Street.

Using a theme from the popular movie, "Field of Dreams," Tamzen Johnson of Johnson & Doerhoefer said, "Give them food and they will come." She was right. She and other north side businesses put out the food at two locations, one behind Johnson & Doerhoefer and the other behind J & H Liquors and A Touch of Charm.

An estimated 75 people attended the special event.

Some favorite Hors d'oeuvres included meatballs, canapés and mushrooms made by Johnson. Farr and Hanson were in charge of providing the sweets or desserts.

A steady stream of customers visited the north alley businesses between 5 and 7 p.m. Nancy Farr of J & H Liquors, Leanne Hanson of A Touch of Charm and Tamzen Johnson all said they were pleased with the turnout. All said that, not only did customers enjoy the food, they also took time to enter the back door entrances and do some shopping.

"Blooming Prairie is traditionally early for promotions and by 5:30, everything was rolling," Johnson said.

A south alley lot party is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9.

The main objective of the alley parties is to "make the shoppers comfortable with the back doors of Main Street businesses," Johnson explained. "We as businesses can complain or be angry but instead, we have chosen to do



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Great weather conditions greeted those who visited a Party in the Lots in the north side of Main Street in Blooming Prairie on Wednesday, Aug. 12. Here, Becky Hoffman and her two children, Brinley, 2, and Avery, 6, and friend Amy Trotman pick up some tasty goodies.

something positive," she continued.

Businesses participating in the north alley promotion were: Nick's Cafe, Hometown Insurance, J & H Liquor's (off-sale), A Touch of Charm, Floor Tech, Johnson & Doerhoefer, Pizza Cellar/Cue Company; US Bank, TT Motorcycles, Prairie Family Sports Chiropractic and New York Life.

Fifteen Main Street businesses on both sides of the street are sponsoring different games Mondays through Fridays to bring customers into Main Street stores, and also to give the customers a chance to win prizes and a chance to benefit from special bargains. The second week of the promotion featured a scavenger hunt.

Game sheets are available from A Touch of Charm or B to Z Hardware. When the game sheet is complete, drop it off at A Touch Charm by 5 p.m. each Friday.

A weekly winner will be drawn on Saturdays. Weekly winners and game details are posted in the window of A Touch of Charm. The weekly winner receives \$10 in BP Bucks. All participants during the 14 weeks of the promotion will be entered into the Grand

Finale drawings in November.

Johnson said many business owners have been curiously watching construction as it happens on Main Street. The west side construction is targeted for completion on Nov. 1.

One day last week, the ground was shaking because of work being done with heavy equipment. "We were hoping that our computers would not crash, and they didn't," Johnson said.

The Main Street business people have definitely been proactive and have joked, Johnson said, "Who knows what or who they will dig up."

Mayor H. Peterson attended the north alley party and said he witnessed the discovery of an old cistern/reservoir used for the Blooming Prairie Fire Department years ago. It was designed to last a long time, he said.

All Main Street business owners welcome the make-over of Main Street and agree that the disruption will have been worth the improvement. "If you can get here tonight, you can get here any time; remember the downtown," Johnson said.

Blooming Prairie Council approves 2016 wage grid, additional City Center roof repairs

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

The Blooming Prairie City Council addressed several business items during their recent meeting, including the 2016 wage grid and necessary roof repairs.

That evening, Council discussed two separate pay requests for city projects, following an update from City Administrator Michael Jones. Jones reported that the Sixth Street Northwest project is moving along "slowly but surely." Although the project's original Aug. 1 deadline has passed, he noted that the workers have certainly completed \$77,737.55 of work, the amount approved for the first payment request. Council chose to table a separate, final pay request for the Fourth Street Southeast Extension project and will revisit the matter again at their next meeting.

Jones later proposed options for the 2016 employee wage grid. His proposed options (a 2 or 2.5 percent increase) reflected the Coalition of Greater Minnesota's Cities projected cost of living increase, which is expected to rise between 2.21 and 2.5 percent in the year 2016. Council member Bill Newman inquired how Blooming Prairie's wages compared to other cities with similar staff sizes, and Jones replied that the numbers were very close. Mayor Har-

old Peterson added, "I believe our employees are our greatest asset." Following discussion, Council voted to approve a 2.5 percent cost of living adjustment increase for all City employees in the year 2016. Jones also noted that, as Blooming Prairie is part of a health insurance cooperative, there may be an increase in employee health insurance for 2016.

In other business, Council discussed roof repairs for the City Center, which continues to leak in three places. After contractors investigated the problem,

they concluded that they don't yet know the cause, but that it is something that needs to be addressed before further damage occurs. Jones expressed confidence in the contractors. "I have to admit the cost is a little higher than I anticipated, but, if that's what it takes to fix the problem we can't see, that's what we have to do," Jones said, following Council's decision to approve the repairs.

Council will meet again on Monday, Sept. 14.



MEET the PLAYERS

Wednesday, August 26th, 2015

at the Blooming Prairie High School football field

6:30 p.m. - Mini camp (grades 3-6)

conducted by the varsity players

7:00 p.m. - Meet the players

Enjoy hotdogs,
chips & bars
during this event

Sponsored by: The Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club

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.

Sponsored by:
Krejci Ford

14th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie • 583-2046

**WE UNDERSTAND SMALL BUSINESS
BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS.**



Johnson & Doerhoefer P.A.

583-7528

314 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie

WWW.JOHNDOERCPA.COM



News

Driving the message home

Area communities make pedestrian safety a priority

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

With a new crosswalk on the horizon, Blooming Prairie is attempting to promote pedestrian safety. And they're not alone.

While Steele County SherriFF Lon Thiele said that it's important to keep pedestrian safety in mind during the start of the school year, it's also something that motorists and pedestrians alike should keep in mind all year long. "To keep the public safe, we need to have both pedestrians and people in motor vehicles looking out for each other," he said.

Blooming Prairie City Administrator Michael Jones adds that the city has already pursued ways to increase pedestrian safety and that safety is certainly a priority. "We are concerned about public safety," he said.

Pedestrian safety, said Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad, is something that's been discussed at length recently in his community. After hearing some concerns, the City of Blooming Prairie decided to pursue a lighted crosswalk sign in one key location: the intersection of Highway Avenue South (Highway 218) and Second Street Southeast. "They were right on board," Skillestad said of the City Administrator and City Council.

This location is in close proximity to both local restaurants, businesses and even the local grocery store. Chief Skillestad said that families often cross at the intersection to purchase ice cream treats at Dairy Queen or pick up groceries from Vandal's Family Market. It's also a road that sees high volumes of traffic.

Although Chief Skillestad

isn't certain yet when the crosswalk could be installed, he's hopeful it will happen in the near future. Pedestrians would be able to activate a flashing, LED-lighted sign when they wished to cross the intersection. The light will even be solar-powered.

Jones said that the crosswalk should be installed some time this fall and that he is pursuing grants to help fund the project.

Although motorists are supposed to yield to pedestrians, some disregard or are unfamiliar with the law. "It is state law to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk," said Chief Skillestad. "I have cited people for that. Some people do need to be stopped and educated."

Even those motorists who are aware of their responsibility may not see pedestrians intending to cross the roadway. Skillestad said he's heard of some "close calls" at this intersection and others.

Chief Skillestad hopes that the crosswalk in Blooming Prairie will help draw attention to pedestrians intending to cross the busy highway. "Pedestrians actually have to push it to activate it," Skillestad explains. "This way, you don't have the light constantly going, and motorists don't get complacent. When it's activated, they should know that someone is there and has activated it."

There is another crosswalk nearby, but Skillestad hopes that pedestrians will utilize the intersection with the new crosswalk once it's installed.

Other efforts in Blooming Prairie

Until Blooming Prairie's new crosswalk is installed, Chief Skillestad said that other ef-

forts are also being made to keep pedestrians safe. "The Street Department is making sure the crosswalks are painted and bright," Skillestad said. "We want them to be visible for drivers."

In addition, Jones adds that other measures are also in place. Currently, Main Street is under construction. Once the project is completed, there will be a bump-out, or curb extension, onto Highway 218. "(Bump-outs) are all about pedestrian safety," said Jones. "The whole concept is to shorten the distance from sidewalk to sidewalk."

Jones also notes that the radar sign, located nearby the Fire Department Park on Highway 218, has also been in use for about three years. This sign displays the current speed of oncoming traffic. The sign is designed to get the attention of motorists approaching the downtown area, in hopes that they will adjust their speed accordingly.

Pedestrian safety in other communities

Another city that's recently made improvements designed to increase pedestrian safety is Medford. Mayor Lois Nelson said that, about a year ago, the city took a proactive look at ways to improve the city. "We held open-city forums and town meetings, collecting residents' thoughts on a variety of topics for a comprehensive plan," said Mayor Nelson. "Sidewalks and overall safety was one of the hot topics we heard about."

Nelson said that one roadway in particular seemed to be an area of concern. "In our community, the biggest project was the Central Avenue and County Road 12 total reconstruction,"



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Highway 218, or Highway Avenue, will soon be the location of a new push-button activated crosswalk sign which will flash when pedestrians wish to cross the busy roadway.

she said. "Without sidewalks on that major traffic roadway, we were really concerned about somebody being hit."

Since then, a new multi-purpose path (among other improvements) have been constructed at this location. "This year the multi-path is completed, and it's terrific to see people walking, biking, out with strollers and to see families walking out to McDonald's for an afternoon treat. People are certainly using it, so that's good," she said.

There are also other areas in Medford that could be targeted to improve safety, said Nelson. "We're having discussions in Medford about adding a sidewalk near Veteran's Memorial

on the way to the school," she said. "Hopefully that, too, will happen some time in the future." Nelson adds that the City also believes it's important to keep the crosswalks bright and will ensure that they are freshly painted in the springtime.

How to stay safe

There are also some precautions that pedestrians can take to stay visible to motorists. "Some pedestrians wear bright clothing or reflective vests," Skillestad said. In the early morning hours, and later in the evening, Chief Skillestad adds that he highly recommends wearing some sort of reflective apparel or carrying a flashlight or other flashing bea-

con.

"Visibility is a tremendous factor," agrees Sheriff Thiele.

Above all, motorists and pedestrians need to remain alert. "In this community especially, we really appreciate motorists to slow down and just be observant," Mayor Nelson said. "School starts Sept. 1 in Medford, and there will be increasing activity up the hill."

In Blooming Prairie, the upcoming crosswalk installation may also be one more way to get the attention of both motorists and pedestrians, and to continue a dialogue about safety. "We want to raise awareness," said Chief Skillestad.

STEELE COUNTY
Times
Always local, all the time.

Out-of-Town
BUSINESS DIRECTORY



To join, call
(507) 583-4431

ELLIS BODY SHOP



1231 BRADY BLVD. NW • OWATONNA, MN

507-451-0845
(800) 310-0845
FAX (507) 451-0540

JACK & TRACY ELLIS
Family Owned Since 1978

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

www.expresspros.com

Owatonna Office
812 S. Elm Avenue
Owatonna MN 55060

800-832-3002 • 507-455-3002

CONFIDENCE STARTS HERE SINCE 1952

Harland's Tire & Auto Center



Tires - Brakes - Exhaust
Complete Auto Repair

507-451-3084 - 800-446-3084

211 W. Main St.
Owatonna MN



FARMERS
INSURANCE

Michael Bishman
121 W Broadway St
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-0193 - Fax: (507) 451-6640

BUSINESSWARE SOLUTIONS
www.businesswareolutions.com



YOUR LOCAL TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE!

Hewlett Packard Printers & Copiers
Xerox Printers & Copiers
PCs & Laptops
Servers & Networks
Apple Macintosh Computers & Laptops

(507) 455-2338
1301 South Oak Avenue
Owatonna

sales@businesswareolutions.com

Elite Partner
Microsoft GOLD CERTIFIED
Small Medium Business
Serving Steele County Since 1994





OWATONNA, MN
SETTE
SPORTS CENTER, INC.
507.451.6922

2299 Austin Rd. Hwy 14 E.
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-6922
www.settesportscenter.com

ON-THE-SPOT
Appliance Service

Orrin Mortensen, Owner
*** OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE ***
Phone 507-256-8099 or 507-214-8099
Call Anytime for an Appointment



Morris
FURNITURE
- SINCE 1933 -

Full Line Furniture Store
Mattresses * Carpet * Delivery
WWW.MORRISFURNITURE.COM
1090 East Main Street - Albert Lea, MN
Hours M-F 10-7 ~ Sat. 10-5 ~ Sun. 12 - 4
507-373-6434 or 800-371-6434

Sorenson's
APPLIANCE & TV

101 North Central Ave • Geneva, MN
Open Monday & Thursday till 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday till 5 p.m.
Saturday till 3 p.m.

507-256-7258
www.sorensonsappliance.com



News

Blooming Prairie hosts third annual Classics and Customs Car Show

By **LAURA BERNDT**
News Editor

On Saturday cars, trucks, bikes and tractors cruised to the third annual “Classics and Customs” car show, held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club.

Tiffany Peterson, who helps organize the show, said that there were between 60 to 70 cars and bikes participating in the event on Saturday. Peterson said that she was very happy with the turnout, as there were also other car shows taking place in the area that afternoon.

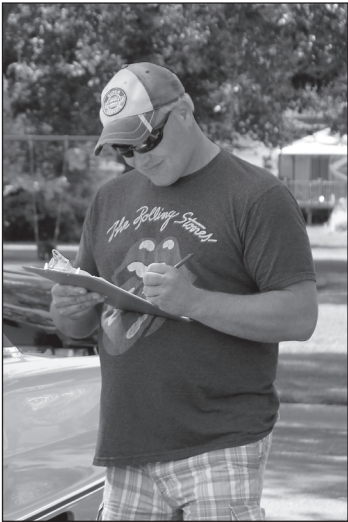
Tiffany’s dad, Greg Peterson, began the car show three years ago, along with Tamzen Johnson and Becky Noble. “It was a really big success the first year,” said Tiffany Peterson. “And, the first year, it was only put together in a couple of weeks.”

Greg passed away in 2013, but Tiffany said the car show tradition has continued, and continued to be a successful and fun event for participants and show visitors alike.

“I like helping with the planning and seeing it all come together,” she said.

This year, the “Car Show Committee” included Tiffany Peterson (of Extreme Powder Coating), Klane Dushek (KOWZ Radio), Terry Trom (TT Motorcycles), Roger Trom (Roger’s Body Shop), Tamzen and Doug Johnson (Johnson & Doerhoefer), Chamber Director Becky Noble, Luke Swenson (Minimizer) and Rodney and Robin Stoen (RS Auto Rebuilders.) Brandon Stoen also designed the art for local advertising and KIK Graphics offered their resources to make the event a success, as well.

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce President Luke Swensonsaid that the event is



Dain Schultz, of Owatonna, served as one of the car show judges on Saturday. Schultz noted that there was a “nice variety of old, new and rare” vehicles.

a great way to draw visitors to Blooming Prairie. “We’re trying to bring people into town, and hopefully, while they’re here, people will see what else we have to offer in Blooming Prairie.”

Usually, the car show takes place on Main Street. This year, however, Main Street is under construction and so the car show relocated to the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. “It’s a great venue,” Swenson said. “It worked really well.” Next year, the event will return to Main Street once again to help showcase the new and improved city street.

The car show, said Swenson and Peterson, would not have been possible without the help of other committee members and the show’s many, many generous sponsors.

“It’s fun seeing all the people and the different vehicles,” said Swenson.



Between 60 and 70 cars, trucks, motorcycles and even a tractor were on display during the annual Classics and Customs Car Show.



Above are the 2015 Classics and Customs Car Show winners at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club on Saturday, Aug. 15.



Barb Peterson and Maveda Peterson-Warner present the Greg Peterson Memorial Award to Duane Hanson, who also earned the “Mayor’s Choice” on Saturday.



Jacob Peterson, a member of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department, and his son, Mason (age four), sit beside the 1954 Blooming Prairie fire truck on display at the show.



Krejci



14th Time Presidents Award Winner

218 Hwy N. • Blooming Prairie

583-2046 www.krejciford.com

Visit all of these advertisers from their ads on our website!

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

www.steeledodgenews.com



Blooming Prairie Branch

236 East Main Street
507-583-6627
usbank.com
Member FDIC

- Personalized Pre-Arrangement
- PreFunding
- Purple Cross Plans
- Continuing Care
- Grief Support Resources



Mary Kittleson
NFDA Certified
Pre-Planning Consultant

418 Hwy Ave. S. • Blooming Prairie, MN
(507) 583-7561





1608 12th St. S.W. • Austin, MN
www.swsalesinc.com
“Quality Used Cars For Less!”
507-437-1316



501 1st Ave. SW Austin MN
Service & Rebuild All Domestic Automatic Transmissions
507-437-0037



Collision & Paint Work
Frame Machine
Alignments & Tires
507-433-4609

25446 US Hwy 218 N • Austin, MN



BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC UTILITIES

146 3rd Avenue S.E. • Blooming Prairie
(507) 583-6683
For savings go to:
saveenergyinbloomingprairie.com
or
smmpa.org

MedfordLiving

Preparing for another year at Medford Schools

The summer weeks are flying by, and it won't be long before the school hallways are once again filled with students. It has been an active summer at Medford School, and the month of August will be quite busy for school staff members, as we prepare for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

During the months of June and July, Medford School facilities were actively used, as we hosted many athletic camps, weight room sessions, open gyms and Community Education classes throughout the summer. The school was also the site of a Red Cross Blood Drive and the community play "Pinkalicious" by the Medford Family Theatre. In addition to these events, the highlight of the summer was the All School Reunion, with alumni from all over the country coming back to Medford to celebrate 100 years of graduates from Medford High School.

As we move into August, our fall sports athletes are returning for practices and competitions in cross country, football and volleyball. Many teachers are taking part in training and planning

sessions and are also meeting to write curriculum and hone their instructional techniques. School administrators continue their summer work, developing schedules, planning for the upcoming school year and hiring new staff.

In the past week, the Minnesota Department of Education released the 2014-2015 test data from the MN Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs.) These tests show how well students in grades three to eight, ten and 11 have mastered the MN standards in Math, Reading and Science. At Medford School, there are test areas where we have shown strong growth, and other areas where we need to continue to improve. Teachers and administrators analyze the test results, and plan how we can continue to work toward ensuring that every student is successful.

Coming up later in August, there will also be opportunities for parents and families to get in to the school. Our Family Technology Night is scheduled for Aug. 18, New Student and Seventh Grade Orientation will be on Aug. 20 and our annual

Open House/Education Celebration will be held on Aug. 26. A mailing with more information on these activities has gone out to all Medford parents, and we hope to see many parents at the school for these events.

An exciting change for the upcoming school year is the addition of a new member to our school board. In May, the Medford School Board voted to add a student member to the board, and at the August 17 school board meeting, Ciera Duchene will begin her year as the student school board member. Ciera, a senior at Medford High, was elected by students to be our Student Council President and she will represent the student body on the school board throughout the year. The Medford School Board is looking forward to having Ciera join them for their monthly meetings.

We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Rich Dahman,
Superintendent
Medford Public School

BACK TO SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1C

weather is starting to get nice in early June, and students are ready to get outside and play.

Dahman also commented that the earlier schedule will allow students to have one more week of curriculum before the MCA testing, which is taken in spring.

"We have not gotten a lot of comments regarding the early

start; however, we have received a few comments leaning both ways," said Dahman.

One hesitation in the early start was that the State Fair, which is Aug. 27 – Aug. 7 (Labor Day.) The early school start conflicts with the "Great Minnesota Get-Together," especially for those involved in 4-H or FFA.

Dahman said that they want to be clear that if students are involved in the State Fair on a particular day that their absence will be excused. Dahman and other members of the faculty expect that the early schedule will be a positive change.

New guide helps parents teach teenagers safe driving habits

The Safe Roads Alliance, Cenex and West Bend Mutual Insurance have partnered with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) to produce a new guide that provides parents and guardians with a simple, easy-to-follow plan designed to help teens to get the experience they need to be safe, smart drivers.

"Drivers between 16 and 19 years old are more than twice as likely to be involved in a crash as drivers in other age groups," said Donna Berger, director of the DPS Office of Traffic Safety. "Parents play a critical role in their children's education. This guide encourages parents to expose teenagers to a variety of enhanced supervised driving experiences that will help them become knowledgeable and safe drivers."

The Parent's Supervised Driving Guide is filled with information and lessons on driving basics, parental pointers, and licensing qualifications that are helpful to parents of new drivers. The guide is supplemented by the Safe Roads Alliance RoadReady mobile app, which can track the required supervised driving time of 50 hours, including 15 hours of night driving.

tings, city and heavy traffic routes, and various times of day. According to a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia study, Driving Through the Eyes of Teens, teen drivers whose parents are highly involved in the teen driver education process were half as likely to get in a car crash, 71 percent less likely to drive intoxicated, 30 percent less likely to use a cell phone while driving, and twice as likely to wear seatbelts.

As part of its commitment to safety education, CHS Inc. – and its Cenex® brand – also helped fund The Parent's Supervised Driving Guide through sponsorship. "Getting a driver's license is an exciting moment in a teen's life, but it demands a new level of responsibility. Practice and preparation are key components to new driver success," said Akhtar Hussain, CHS refined fuels marketing manager. "Research tells us the single most important thing parents can do to help their teens stay safe on the road is to allow as much supervised practice behind the

wheel as possible. Driving with a parent builds a new driver's confidence, and we hope this new resource will help parents and teens make the most of this time together."

The free guide is available at driver licensing offices around the state. The RoadReady mobile app is available at the Apple Store.

Traffic crashes are the second leading killer of Minnesota teens. (In 2013, 33 teens ages 13-19 were killed in traffic crashes.)

Teen drivers are over-represented in crashes due to factors like inexperience, distractions, speeding and taking risks. (In 2013, driver inattention/distraction was the leading contributing factor of crashes involving teen drivers at 20.5 percent.)

The greatest crash risk occurs during the first months of teens driving independently. (In 2013, driver inexperience contributed to 12.9 percent of single-vehicle crashes involving drivers ages 16-19, compared to just 4.1 percent of drivers ages 20-23.)

Medford Outlet Mall hosts school supply drive



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Alissa Hullett (left) was just one of many shoppers who donated school supplies during Saturday's school supply drive at the Medford Outlet Mall. Also pictured is Dana Chadderdon, Old Navy's General Manager. Supplies donated on Saturday will be distributed by the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of America. This is the second year that Old Navy has participated in the supply drive, but this marked this first year that the mall itself also took part, offering store vouchers and special gifts to visitors who made a donation.

Sand and gravel pits: a dangerous place to cool off

The recent string of hot humid days serves to remind us that we should choose to swim only in safe areas and preferably where lifeguards are present. Medford did not have a community swimming pool until the late 1970s and, unfortunately, area gravel pits have taken their share of lives since the 1930s. Let's go back and look at two separate drowning incidents that occurred in the Medford area just two years apart.

"No inquest will be called in the Medford sand pit tragedy which Sunday cost the life of David Taylor, 21-year-old Merton Township farmer," reported the Owatonna Photo News on June 30, 1938. "And we nearly saw similar drowning of Clarence Hamman, of Merton, and Martin Stava, who dived into the deep waters of the huge pit on the property of the Medford Washed Sand and Gravel Company to rescue them. Stavia, the only swimmer in the group of seven young men had gone to the pit, a favorite bathing place, was nearly dragged under in the struggles of the other youths. He dragged Hamman to shore, where the latter was revived."

The paper identified the "other young men, all about 21, at the scene of the Sunday incident north of Medford were Harold Schlobohm, Emery Borwege, Harold Borwege and Wilfred Kelsey. Coroner O.W. Roberts' investigation disclosed that the young men had gone to the pit for an afternoon of bathing and that the drowning occurred about 3:45 in the afternoon."

Little more than two years later, on August 8, 1940, the same newspaper described another drowning accident which, this time, claimed two lives. "Sunday afternoon's tragedy took the lives of George Tuttle, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Tuttle, and Lawrence Schuldt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schuldt. Both of the local boys were 13 years old, their birthdays separated by only two days. A third boy, Robert Gilman, escaped drowning as he reached shore safely."

ANOTHER TIME



John Gross

The paper stated, "the trio were sailing on a raft near the center of the pond when the accident occurred. The Tuttle and Schuldt boys are reported to have been unable to return to the surface after falling from the overturned raft."

A week later, the same paper wrote: "Medford hired a lifeguard for the ill-fated Rafdahl gravel pit this week as its campaign for swimming safety moved forward with extensive

preparations. The guard, Lende Anderson, is a graduate of St. Olaf College and a former member of the swimming team. He holds a Red Cross certificate and life guard examiner's certificate."

"Meanwhile," continued the Photo News, "contributions were pouring in to the committee in charge of the drive headed by C.J. Larson, mayor. Nearly \$100 had been received by the committee during the first few days of the campaign."

The story concluded by stating, "Plans are being prepared for extensive modernization of the swimming spot next season. All contributions that do not go to the salary of the lifeguard will be placed in a fund for the improvement of the pool. Plans call for the establishment of a sandy beach and bath house facilities next year. The modern pool will be expected to attract bathers from many surrounding towns."

GRIEF RELIEF



Sometimes children don't seem to care. It's not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show

little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child's honest expression and don't make the child feel guilty or pressured.

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

Look who's now reading Steele County Times RECENT NEW SUBSCRIBERS:



LOCAL ALL THE TIME!

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

The times are right...join the crowd and subscribe to Steele County Times today! 507-583-4431
www.steeledodgenews.com

Blooming Prairie
Joann Nielsen
Ellendale
Marty Shultz
Yuriel Justin
Geneva
James Beenken
Owatonna
Mark McDermott

Owatonna Living

Grocery Store Guru hits Hy-Vee

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Owatonna Hy-Vee has a new director, Mike Graham, and he is ready to go! He has lived and breathed grocery stores since his youth. From bagging groceries to stocking shelves to managerial positions, Graham has worked his way through various roles to the director position.

Graham replaces former store director Matt May. May left in early July to take a store director position at a Hy-Vee in Perry, Iowa, to be closer to family.

Graham’s first day at the Owatonna Hy-Vee was on Sunday, June 26. “I got the call Thursday and I was here Sunday,” laughed Graham. “I’ve enjoyed me first few days. It’s a beautiful new store and the staff are fantastic. The community is nice and customers are great, too.”

One of Graham’s first jobs was in his uncle’s local, independent grocery store in the Des Moines area. After Graham’s son was born, he attended the University of Minnesota and ran a grocery store in the cities. He graduated in three years and, during that time, his daughter was born.

“I took Tuesday/Thursday classes, and then three night classes. And I would work early mornings,” said Graham. “My wife laughs that my daughter didn’t know me until she was two.”

His undergraduate degrees are in Psychology and Economics, and he later received his master’s degree in Business Administration.

Throughout and following his graduation, Graham worked as a general manager, manager of perishable foods and store operations manager in Hy-Vee stores. Most recently, he was a



New Owatonna Hy-Vee director Mike Graham sits in his new desk and office.

merchandising supervisor in a Des Moines area Hy-Vee.

Graham said that the director position does a little bit of everything, including the management of about 300 employees. However, an important aspect of the position is community outreach and relationships. Therefore, Graham will become familiar with Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, the fair and other local organizations.

“The store director acts as a liaison between the store and the community,” said Graham. “As a director, I get to incorporate what matters to me and the community.” Graham said that he has been a big advocate for animals and health, so he has done programs with the grocery store and organizations, such as the Humane Society.

“There is an amazing amount of autonomy in each Hy-Vee store. No store is run the same,”

remarked Graham. “It’s cool to put your stamp on a store.”

He said that the Hy-Vee staff and community has been very welcoming towards him. He admits that he has a lot of people to meet and that it might take him a while to meet all of the “moving parts” of the store, from the companies that do the floor to the people that mow the lawn.

“Getting to know all of those people can be challenging and time consuming,” said Graham, though he already knows much of the staff by name.

An area of grocery store function that holds a lot of value for Graham is customer space, so he said that he wants to make sure that each customer feels they have enough room to shop comfortably.

“Every director has an idea or thought process regarding how the store should look,” explained Graham, “I don’t like too much product on the floor or

those huge carts (used to stock) sitting out. I want customers to be able to maneuver their carts and have a good shopping experience free of frustrations.”

While Graham is becoming more familiar with the Owatonna Hy-Vee and community, he is also working with his wife Tracy and their two children to set up home here. His son Brooks is 11 and daughter Reagan is nine. Graham commented that both kids are just young enough where the move is not too hard on them with school and friends.

“We really enjoyed Minnesota when we lived here before, and my favorite season is winter, so it’s perfect,” joked Graham.

He encourages customers to not be shy. “Stop and say hi. That’s why I’m here, smiling and wearing this name tag,” said Graham, with a laugh.

Owatonna Rotary to host annual STRIVE Wellness Run/Walk

Area residents are invited to participate in the 12th annual STRIVE Wellness Run—and new this year, two-mile fitness walk—on Saturday, Aug. 22. The event is co-sponsored by the Owatonna Noon Rotary Club; Owatonna Hospital, part of Allina Health; Owatonna High School and the Steele County Free Fair.

Bob Olson, director of Facilities for the Owatonna School District, will take over as this year’s race director.

“Good nutrition and physical activity are both very important to good health,” says Olson. “Moderate physical activity is highly encouraged and we wanted to accommodate all fitness levels so adding this walk was very important.”

The four-mile run and two-mile fitness walk begins at 9 a.m., and has a \$25 advanced

fee and \$30 day-of-race fee. The Kids 400M/800M runs (12 years old and under) begins at 8:15 a.m. and has a \$1 entry fee and registration takes place from 7:30-8 a.m.

Race day registration is \$30. Run packet pick-up and race day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Owatonna High School, Saturday, Aug. 22.

The course starts and finishes on Prospect Street, next to the Owatonna High School and crosses through the east residential area of Owatonna. Proceeds from the event are used to provide student scholarship awards to Owatonna High School Seniors who electively participate in the Owatonna Rotary’s STRIVE (Students, Taking, a Renewed, Interest in the Value of Education) Program.

Search for Miss Teen Steele County Announced

If you are single (never been married between the ages of 13 to 18 years) applications are being accepted for the title of 2016 Miss Teen Steele County!

Miss Teen Steele County will represent her county at the Miss Teen Minnesota pageant, which will be held at the Ritsche Auditorium, on March 12, 2016 in the city of St. Cloud.

The young lady chosen as “Miss Teen Steele County” will become an ambassador from the Steele County area and will receive an official title and sash.

The lady chosen as Miss Teen Minnesota will also receive a prize package and college scholarship totaling \$30,000 and the chance to represent Minnesota at the 2016 Miss Teen International pageant.

The American Heart Association’s “Go for Red for Women” is the official Charity of the Miss Teen Minnesota Pageant.

The current reigning 2015 Miss Teen Minnesota is Nicole Doyle, of Lakeville. As Miss Teen Minnesota, Nicole speaks

out on “Kids Get Arthritis Too” (Juvenile Arthritis Education and Awareness.)

“I didn’t know that kids could get arthritis...” Diagnosed at the age of three, Nicole has heard those words countless times. Juvenile arthritis is an autoimmune disease that can rob children of a carefree, painless childhood. There is no known cause and no cure, which is why research, education and awareness are vital in our battle against this disease. For more information go to www.KidsgetArthritisToo.org.

Teens will compete in “personal interview,” “fitness wear,” “fun fashion wear” and “evening gown” categories.

Young teen ladies living in Steele County interested in applying should write for bio-form to: Miss Teen Minnesota, International Pageant, P.O. Box 240537 Apple Valley, MN 55124-0537.

Or, call for information at 952-432-6758 or fax 952-953-3896.

Garage sale benefits Hospitality House



Submitted photo

Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna has donated \$1,200 to Hospitality House in Owatonna from proceeds of a garage sale held at the funeral home. Pictured left to right: Mike Meger, mortician with Brick-Meger; Josh, Hospitality House resident; Deacon Pat Fagan, Hospitality House treasurer; and Glen Meger, owner of Brick-Meger.

The proceeds from a garage sale at an area funeral home are helping a local homeless shelter.

Brick-Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna has donated \$1,200 to the Hospitality House in Owatonna. The money was raised over a weekend in mid-July.

“There were people lined up outside our garage waiting over an hour before the sale began,” commented Glen Meger, owner of Brick-Meger Funeral Home. After its remodel/expansion, the funeral home had extra furniture and

other furnishings no longer being used.

Added Meger, “People were very generous; in fact, some actually gave additional money over the suggested donation amount. They realized it was going to a very worthy cause.”

The Hospitality House receives no public funding and relies on contributions from businesses and individuals for their operation. It is a temporary shelter for men who are transitioning through homelessness.

ARTS CENTER ADDITION

Continued from Page 1C

said Burmeister. However, Burmeister also admitted that fundraising has been a challenge. Many remember the groundbreaking in 2013 for an addition that fell through, because bids came in too high.

Another challenge has been the historically appropriate plan and design of the addition, as the Arts Center is a part of the West Hills complex, which is campus to the former Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children. The orphanage was in operation from 1866 to 1945.

Due to the historic value of the campus and the building that is home to OAC, it was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Burmeister said

that, because the building is on the National Register of Historic Places, the original building’s exterior cannot be altered. They also had to get plans for the addition inspected and approved.

“It was time-consuming and challenging to make sure that we did not jeopardize the historical value of the property,” remarked Burmeister. “We are approved now. That’s done, signed off and ready to go!”

Burmeister described the new addition to be more like a link to the existing building. The link will connect close to the previous entrance that faces south.

The general contractor is Ro-Con and Burmeister said that the project has a timeline of 210 days. They are expecting Febru-

ary. There was a ground breaking ceremony held on July 27.

The regular entrance is no longer available for traffic. In the meantime, visitors are still welcome to enjoy the Arts Center, as there are works on display. However, they ask that you enter the administrative entrance that faces east, and walk through the building to get there.

“We are going on with programming, people just have to find a new way to get here,” laughed Burmeister.

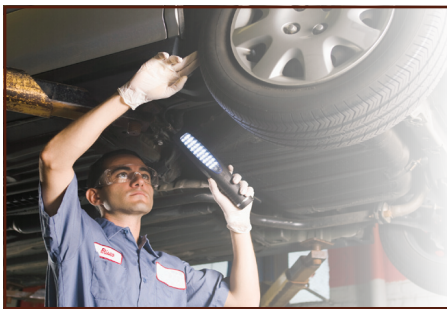
The OAC board is still discussing how they will celebrate the completion of the project. Since they are expecting project completion in February, Burmeister commented that they will probably have to host

a celebration after the “snow birds” are back from their winter travels. “We want to be sure to express our gratitude to those contributors,” said Burmeister.

“We’re off and running now. It has been a long time coming,” remarked Burmeister. “We’re excited and ready to bring more people into the arts center!”

Weekly crossword on Page 5D

PUZZLE SOLUTION	E	C	M					C	L	O	D
	G	A	U	D				P	A	U	L
	O	S	S	A				S	U	M	M
	I	S	K	U	R			E	E	G	B
	S	I	E	N	A			E	N	D	S
	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	W	E	I	N
							N	A	E	M	I
						F	M	C	E	E	L
			S	B	E				E	R	N
		E	L	I	S	A	B	E	T	H	M
		I	D	A		H	R	S		A	A
	A	L	I		E	E	C			D	R
	R	A	T	T	E	D				A	T
	A	M	O	N	G					S	E
	D	A	R	T						D	I
											S



CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
ASE Certified Technicians

- AAA Towing
- Car & Truck Repair
- 4 Wheel Computerized Alignment

- Major & Minor Engine & Transmission Repair
- Many Computerized Diagnostic Tools Available Including Factory Scan Tools

111 Front Street, Claremont, MN • Service Center: 507-528-2233 • After Hours Towing: 507-456-4158

HOPE
ELLENDALE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE


bringing well-being to life
507-451-4724

Trade trip to Mexico aims to promote state agriculture

By **KAREN JORGENSEN**
County Staff Writer

Minnesota agriculture leaders were prominent among those accompanying Gov. Mark Dayton on a trade mission to Mexico last week. During the trip, the delegation met with high ranking Mexican business leaders and government officials to explore trade and investments opportunities and renew common ties between Mexico and Minnesota.

The Minnesotans met with Mexican business and government leaders in Mexico City and Guadalajara during the week-long visit.

Dayton called the trip the “most productive” trade mission he had been involved in.

Among the 36 delegates to the mission were George Goblish, Board of Directors of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association; Dan Root, director, Minnesota Corn Growers Association; Suzanne Vold, dairy farm owner-operator and secretary of the Minnesota Division of the Midwest Dairy Association, Lori Stevermer, Minnesota Pork Producers Association and Dave Frederickson, commissioner of

the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

“As Minnesota’s second-largest export market, Mexico is a very important trading partner for businesses and farmers throughout our state,” Dayton said.

The trade mission was designed to both open new markets to Minnesota business but, also, to preserve existing trade.

During the visit Dayton signed several memorandums of understanding with Mexican officials including one that will support women in agriculture and business.

The agreement was between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Mexico’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food. It will promote the exchange of information and best practices; strengthen communication between the partners, foster opportunities for productivity improvements and market entry; and foster the involvement of women in organic and sustainable agriculture development and promote opportunities for commercial trade, Dayton’s office said.

Both Stevermer and Vold are

deeply involved in agriculture and agriculture promotion, Dayton said.

Minneapolis is home to the Women in Agribusiness Summit, which brings women together from around the United States to focus on industry issues and provide opportunities for career development and networking.

Officials said the memorandum of agreement will help strengthen and increase the ways Minnesota women and Mexican women work together to educate and support each other.

The mission was also important to corn, soybean and pork producers, because Mexico is the third largest market for Minnesota agricultural exports, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture said.

China leads the way with 21 percent of the exports followed by Canada with 14 percent and Mexico with 13 percent. Japan is fourth with nine percent.

Nationwide, Minnesota is the third largest agricultural exporting state with exports of \$8 billion in 2014. California is the biggest exporter of agricultural products nationally with \$19.5 billion followed by Iowa with \$10.2 billion.

By commodity, soybeans account for 22 percent of Minnesota agricultural exports. Feed is 11 percent, corn is ten percent and pork is nine percent. Soybean meal accounts for six percent of exports.

Area crops are looking very promising



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
A wonderful summer growing season has many area farmers saying their crops look very promising. Here, Ryan Larson stands in a soybean field just east of Bixby. Ryan and his father, Wayne Larson, of Claremont, farm 1350 acres. Beans have grown very tall as high as 3 1/2 feet, the Larsons report.



Grains and Foods Group

Hope • Ellendale • Blooming Prairie



I know health insurance.

Darrell Ingvaldson,
FARM BUREAU AGENT
100 S Mill Street
Brownsville, MN 55918
507-567-2296



For the health of all.



FARM BUREAU
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Authorized independent agent for Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota, a nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. H1C-MI-BC (4-12)



10060 State Hwy. 30
Blooming Prairie • 583-6661

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

41 Years in Business!

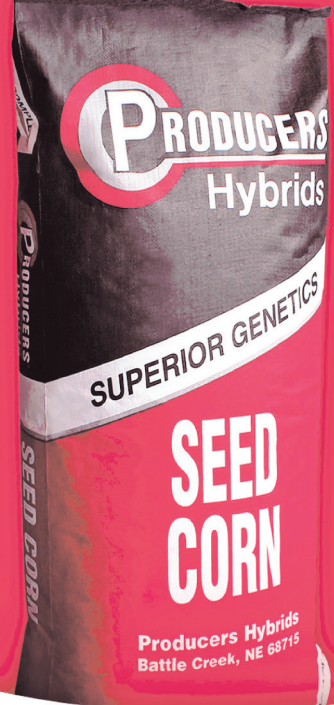
LOKEN



Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!

507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568

3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net



IT'S ALL IN OUR GENETICS

Producers Hybrids

Justin Krell - District Sales Manager
507.456.3834

DRAINAGE COMPANY INC.

HODGMAN

Well Drained Fields Produce Higher Yields...

Now located between Claremont and Dodge Center right off of Hwy. 14

P.O. Box 205 • Claremont

www.hodgmandrainage.com 507.528.2225

Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers took advantage of warm and dry weather conditions to harvest small grains during the week ending Aug. 16, 2015, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Rain arrived later in the week, assisting row crop and hay development. Other field activities for the week included inspecting crops for mold and aphids. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 16 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Seventy-one percent of Minnesota’s corn acreage was in the dough stage or beyond, one week ahead of the five-year average. Thirteen percent of Minnesota’s corn was in the dent stage, 5 days ahead of last year. Corn condition rated 88 percent good to excellent. Ninety-four percent of the soybean crop was setting pods or beyond, almost 2 weeks ahead of last year and 10 days ahead of normal. There were also reports of soybeans beginning to turn color. Soybean condition rated 80 percent good to excellent. Barley harvest advanced to 86 percent complete, over 3 weeks ahead of last year’s pace. Over one-quarter of Minnesota’s total oats for grain were harvested during the week.

Minnesota Crop Report is sponsored by



3555 18th St. • Owatonna, MN
507-451-4054

Farm

Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation receives grant

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation is pleased to announce that DuPont Pioneer donated \$2,000 toward the Sharing the Ag Story effort, which will be focused on developing agricultural education resources for deaf and hearing impaired students.

“We commend the vision and work of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation in their outreach efforts to offer unique learning experiences for nearly 70,000 deaf and hearing impaired students in Minnesota,” said Patrick Yockey, DuPont Pioneer director – Northern Business Unit.

“We want to thank DuPont Pioneer for this grant. We are excited about developing and offering educational resource materials and working with sign language interpreters to engage this sometimes overlooked segment of students,” said Ruth Meirick, Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation Director. “Our goal is to create an environment where students can learn about crops and animals in Minnesota, as

well as learn about different types of farming practices and how healthy eating is important to all of us.”

Pioneer makes contributions to community-based organizations on behalf of the business and employees. Consideration for outreach grants are given to communities where Pioneer representatives, employees and customers live and work and that support quality-of-life initiatives to create an improved, sustainable lifestyle for people worldwide.

DuPont Pioneer is the world’s leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries. Pioneer provides agronomic support and services to help increase farmer productivity and profitability and strives to develop sustainable agricultural systems for people everywhere. Science with Service Delivering Success®.

DuPont (NYSE: DD) has been bringing world-class science and engineering to the global marketplace

in the form of innovative products, materials, and services since 1802. The company believes that by collaborating with customers, governments, NGOs, and thought leaders, we can help find solutions to such global challenges as providing enough healthy food for people everywhere, decreasing dependence on fossil fuels, and protecting life and the environment. For additional information about DuPont and its commitment to inclusive innovation, please visit www.dupont.com.

The MFB Foundation’s mission is to provide opportunities for supporters of agriculture to invest in people and programs that promote agriculture. Examples of some of the programs currently funded include leadership training for farmer leaders, public outreach and education, educational resources for farmers and county Farm Bureaus and more. For more information or to donate, contact Ruth Meirick at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation at ruth.meirick@fbmn.org or 651-768-2115 or log onto www.fbmn.org.



Submitted photo
Ruth Meirick, Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation and Joe Martin, DuPont Pioneer celebrate DuPont Pioneer’s donation to the Sharing the Ag Story effort.

What to consider when treating a soybean field first and more than once for soybean aphid

Soybean aphid populations in many areas of Minnesota have increased this year compared to prior years.

Recently, University of Minnesota Extension Entomologists, Robert Koch, Ian MacRae and Ken Ostlie along with IPM Specialist, Bruce Potter, outlined a number of factors making soybean aphid population development and management less predictable than in the previous couple of years:

Late summer dispersal of soybean aphids is currently occurring, bringing high numbers of winged aphids to colonize fields; sometimes those that were previously treated.

Forecasted weather conditions for the upcoming week look favorable for aphid population growth.

A number of fields in southwestern Minnesota have reported unexplained failure (poor performance) of recent insecticide treatments and will require additional applications to control existing populations.

All of these factors point to the importance of weekly scouting for soybean aphids and treating when populations reach the threshold of 250 aphids per plant when 80% of plants have aphids. At the threshold, yield loss is not yet occurring, but will if aphids are not soon controlled.

If a field needs to be treated more than once in the same year, remember the potential for development of insecticide resistance. Do not reapply the same insecticide mode of action (insecticide group.)

For example, if a field was treated with an organophosphate insecticide and needs to be treated again for aphids or some other pest, such as spider mites, avoid using organophosphates for the second application. Instead, use a different insecticide group, such as a pyrethroid.

The mode of action (or group) is on most insecticide labels. Of particular concern this week is a series of reports from southwestern Minnesota of performance issues related to a pyrethroid insecticide.

These failures are being evaluated and at this point appear restricted to a narrow area in southwestern Minnesota. Failure of an insecticide does not necessarily mean the pest is resistant to the insecticide.

Several factors can contribute to poor performance of an insecticide including: misapplication of the insecticide (incorrect insecticide or rate, poor coverage), unfavorable weather conditions (wind, rain, temperature) and recolonization by the pest. If these factors can be ruled out, insecticide resistance may be

the cause.

Resistance is not necessarily immunity to the insecticide. Resistance may be expressed as reduced susceptibility, where higher rates of insecticide are required to kill the pest (rate creep). However, do not respond with higher rates of the same insecticide. Doing so can increase the rate at which resistance will develop.

If aphids were treated with a pyrethroid and need to be retreated, use a labeled insecticide that is not a pyrethroid for the second application. If a third application is needed, consider a third insecticide mode of action, or if another is not available consider a pyrethroid other than what was used previously.

Do not “spike” (tank mix) with a below-label rate of another insecticide. Use of rates below that recommended by the label can increase chances of development of resistance. As the season progresses, be aware of the pre-harvest intervals of the various insecticides

as well as the current reproductive growth stage of the soybeans.

Submitted by Dave Nicolai, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Crops, Farmington, Minn.

www.steeledodgenews.com

All your local news, Fit to click!



STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
Serving Blooming Prairie and Four-County Area

Reliance Bank, American Family Insurance offers farm transition workshop

Reliance Bank and American Family Insurance have joined with the University of Minnesota Extension to present “Farm Transition & Estate Planning: Create Your Farm Legacy.” This full-day workshop is filled with practical information and strategies to help farm families begin the process of transferring the farm business to the next generation.

In “Farm Transition & Estate Planning: Create Your Farm Legacy,” participants get a greater understanding of transfer strategies, tax issues related to the transfer process, discuss methods for treatment of heirs in the transfer process, as well as how to go about preparing to meet with your transition and estate planning team. As part of the workshop, participants will be given time to complete worksheets related to the application of different transfer strategies as well as listing personal, family, and farm business goals. The result is the beginning of a farm

business transfer plan.

Estate planning is a crucial part of the transition process as well. The workshop also includes a discussion of Wills and trusts, life insurance, power-of-attorney, long-term health care issues, and more. This information will help to complete the transfer plan.

“Farm Transition & Estate Planning: Create Your Farm Legacy” is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9th from 9:30am to 3:30pm at Rice County Extension Office in Faribault, located in the 4-H Building on the Rice County Fairgrounds. The workshop cost is \$20 per farm unit with the next generation getting in free. Space is limited. To pre-register for the workshop, contact Art Madsen, Reliance Bank at 507-331-2493.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by American Family Insurance and Reliance Bank in cooperation with University of Minnesota Extension.



#1 SEED

1st in first seed trials

Janning Farms

507-213-6548

Olson Excavating



- GPS control drain tile installation
- Open attach clean out
- Backhoe/dozer/skidloader
- Concrete/tree removal
- Rock/gravel/dirt hauling
- Chainsaw/stump grinding
- Snow removal/sanding

Brandon Flatness

SHOP **507-845-2440** • CELL **507-383-2008**

Papentus Family



R&M STEEL

Dodge Center, MN

All sizes, sq. tube, channels, angles, round solid & pipe, flat, sheets, CR & Stress Shaft, Cutting edges, aluminum, shearing & bending

507-374-2524

2 miles N. on County #7

Ron & Marilyn

Viktora Crop Consulting

Dale Viktora • Ellendale, MN

- Crop Planning • Crop Monitoring
- Agricultural Testing

Contact Dale at 507-402-6427

viktoracrop@outlook.com



BUDACH IMPLEMENT

Ag Parts & Service

(507)465-3237

219 3rd St. NE New Richland, MN



Hi-Yield PRODUCTS INC.

See us for all your LP Gas needs

We do installation, leak detection, and testing

We can help with your fertilizer and chemical needs.

We also offer variable rate fertilizer.

— Kevin Reed



23282 620th Ave • Alden, Minnesota 56009

Bus: (507) 874-3750

Cell: (507) 383-0874

Res: (507) 373-0860

Email: kevin@hiyieldmn.com

Quality and Value Everyday

It’s no wonder our post-frame buildings last a long, long time. We only use the highest quality lumber. We carefully shape our own steel and trusses.

Want the best quality building at a competitive price? Call for a free quote



Wick Buildings

Authorized Wick Builder

Broskoff Structures

507-256-7501 • Geneva

www.broskoffstructures.com



June public record

Steele County Births
June 2015

Ava Mayme Hager, Parents: Danielle and Cooper, June 1.
Vincent Allen Miller, Parent: Jessica Cuevas, June 2.
Ripken Dale Miller, Parents: Bobbi and Nicholas, June 3.
Kai Allen Gorski, Parents: Sandy Engler and Christopher Gorski, June 6.
Abigail Marie Schultz, Parents: Katherine and Travis, June 8.
Abdirahman Mohamed Aden, Parents: Sahro Ashkir and Mohamed Awale, June 8.
Greta Ann Klecker, Parents: Lesley and Joshua, June 8.
Remy Jay Kubicek, Parents: Vannesa and Jason, June 9.
Abigail Joy Seagrist, Parents: Amber and Aaron, June 9.
Zayden Allan Wheeler, Parents: Rachael Fortney and Dustin Wheeler, June 9.
Emma Marie Gromelski, Parents: Kathleen and Nicholas, June 9.
Annika Rose Gaines, Parents: Jennifer and Shawn, June 12.
Reece Allen Magana, Parents: Leigh and Ricardo, June 12.
Audrianna Gladys Kadrlík, Parent: Elissa Johnson, June 12.
Leo Thomas Kramer, Parents: Margaret and Anthony, June 15.
Franco Lopez, Parents: Claudia and Francisco, June 15.
Iana Alexandra Mata, Parent: Thalia Resendez, June 16.
Evelyn Alice Lee Nelson, Parents: Crystal and Brian, June 16.
Gerardo Alberto Fernandez-Guerra Jr., Parents: Nohemi and Gerardo, June 17.
Sawyer Steven Lee Gregor, Parents: Larae and Adam, June 18.
Charlee Rae Flatgard, Parents: Brittny and Nicholas, June 18.
Isaac John Bissen, Parents: Amy and Raymond, June 20.
Leo James Henn, Parents: Jamine and Kellan, June 20.
Mallory Jane Partridge, Parents: Natalie and Jonathon, June 22.
Nolan Jonathon Partridge, Parents: Natalie and Jonathon, June 22.
Truman Walker Douglas, Parents: Heidi and Jonathan, June 22.
Grayson Daniel Gaul, Parents: Brittani and Daniel, June 23.
Alexis Misael Perez, Parents: Claudia and Juan, June 26.
Gavin William Boyd, Parents: Emily and Anthony, June 29.

Owen Bronson Schelling, Parents: Nichole and Bronson, June 29.

Steele County Deaths
June 2015

Joyce Eileen Poepping, 82, Owatonna, June 8.
Margaret Victoria Mittelstadt, 96, Owatonna, June 11.
Bernadette Florence Berg, 90, Owatonna, June 12.
Audrey Marie Blackburn, 85, Owatonna, June 15.
Marlen Kinsley Ackmann, 81, Owatonna, June 16.
Amalia Rodriguez, 85, Owatonna, June 17.
Leona A. Minske, 96, Waseca, June 17.
Wetona Patricia Anderson, 89, Owatonna, June 22.
Karen Lee Baird, 64, Berlin Township, June 24.
Mervil Arnold Knudsen, 93, Owatonna, June 25.
Larry Wayne Morgan, 51, Owatonna, June 27.
Jean C. Sanford, 60, St. Charles, June 27.

Steele County Marriages
June 2015

Abraham Dorodo Rios Jr. and July Marlene Bernal, June 5.
Caleb Michael Ostrander and Amy Jill Demmer, June 5.
Mathew Arlan Wille and Amanda Jean Thurber, June 6.
Nathan Thomas Dracht and Brittany Michelle Fitzgerald, June 7.
Jaliza Anne Marlin and Samantha Dianne Hovden, June 12.
Nathaniel James Bock and Kayce Lynn Majerus, June 13.
James Russell Gute and Chelsey Elizabeth Ellsmore, June 13.
Jacob Andrew Furch and Sydney Jo Frye, June 13.
Blake Richard Markell and Alexis Marie Jante, June 13.
Zarek Paul Kozel and Cortney Carolyn Steljies, June 13.
Duane Edward Levy and Allyssa Catherine Paulson, June 13.
Jody Dan Adams and Leann Merle Lahey, June 14.
Dale Glen Nelson and Donna Esther Kline, June 14.
Aaron John Anderson and Angela Kaye Johnson, June 19.
Loren David Dietz and Jennifer Ann Eichten, June 19.

PUBLIC RECORD
Continued on Page 4D

County Construction Report

I-35 Owatonna

Shafer Contracting started concrete paving Aug. 11 from Lemond Road bridge near the Owatonna Country Club heading north and stopped on the south side of the new bridge being constructed over the rail road tracks on I-35. Shafer plans on being back in town to complete the paving operations on I-35 Aug. 21 and into the week of Aug. 24 to construct concrete pavement on ramp B north of Bridge Street at exit 41 with the new auxiliary lane.

Mathiowetz has completed work on the new road base in preparation for new concrete pavement on old Highway 14 heading eastbound and westbound under I-35. C.S. McCrossan continues to work on the new bridge deck on I-35 over the Canadian Pacific Rail Road tracks while they prepare to pour concrete for the approach panels next to the new bridge deck on I-35 bridge over old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Dr.). Old Highway 14 (CR 2/Hoffman Dr.) access to northbound I-35 on ramp is now open after construction crews completed reconstructing the concrete pavement in the intersection.

On I-35 in Owatonna, motorists will see single-lane, head-to-head traffic on I-35 in Owatonna as well as off-ramp and on-ramp closures for northbound traffic.

Northbound traffic is crossed over into the southbound lanes of I-35 south of Bridge Street. Northbound traffic will continue in a single lane, while southbound uses the other lane. Northbound traffic will cross back over to two lanes north of Steele County Road 2. This will continue into fall 2015.

Watch for detour signs for northbound traffic seeking to exit I-35 through Owatonna. Delays are expected during busy traffic times, especially on Fridays and Sundays.

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

For more information about the project, please review MnDOT's project page at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35bridge-pavement-replacement/index.html> or the project's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/I35Owatonna.

Highway 14

Mathiowetz has finished aggregate hauling for the new road base and will continue preparing for concrete paving, which it plans to start on Saturday, Aug. 15.

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

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

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

For more information, go to MnDOT's project page at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-218-to-cr-180/index.html.

Old Highway 14 in Owatonna

Final clean-up is taking place for the anticipated and on-schedule completion of the construction project on Saturday, Aug. 15.

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

Construction on the \$3.2 million project includes pavement replacement and concrete pavement repairs as well as improvements for pedestrians.

Additionally, Old Highway 14 is closed and detoured beginning at the Owatonna city limits, which are about 1.5 miles west of I-35. The closure will last into October for the concrete overlay work. Call 507-304-6106

STREET
TALK



Mike Dougherty

for additional information. This project is being completed by the MnDOT district based in Mankato.

I-35 in Steele, Freeborn counties

Southbound traffic is head to head with northbound traffic as work continues on the unbonded concrete overlay project on I-35 from Highway 30 at Ellendale to Interstate 90 north of Albert Lea. Paving work continues on the project.

The southbound lanes are being repaved, so traffic is head-to-head in the northbound lanes between Ellendale and Albert Lea. The project also includes southbound ramp closures and detours. Watch for detour signs. Delays are expected during busy traffic times on Fridays and Sundays. The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-September.

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

For updates and a map of the detour route, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/i35-overlay/index.html.

Highway 14 in Steele, Dodge counties

Ulland Bros. has completed milling up old blacktop pavement and overlaying Highway 14 with new bituminous pavement in the area of Steele County Road 180 near the railroad tracks east toward Dodge Center. This section of Highway 14 is expected to be complete following final striping on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Ulland Bros. is planning to be back around the middle of September to begin reconstruction of the ramps on Highway 14 and Steele County Road 45 on the

south side of Owatonna. The ramps will remain open during the Steele County Free Fair.

The repaving project on Highway 14 on 13 miles between Dodge Center and Owatonna began July 9 and is expected to be completed in September.

Motorists should expect delays during this time and seek alternate routes, if possible.

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

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

For updates, go to MnDOT's project page at: www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy14-resurfacing/index.html.

MnDOT urges motorists to always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

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

Steele County is home to key Minnesota highway connections for commerce, industry and tourism. Learn more about how MnDOT invests in and cares for the state's transportation system at Get Connected: www.dot.state.mn.us/getconnected.



STEELE COUNTY
Times
Always local, all the time.
Call to place an item
in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

Employment

CONNECTION

NOW HIRING

General Laborers

at LANSING, OAKLAND, and LEROY, MN to perform daily grain elevator tasks.

*ag experience preferred, strong work ethic, clean driving record
*benefits include health, disability, life, 401K, + more



Info and application at
www.ncountrycoop.com
Phone Doug at 507-402-0222

ECUMEN[®]
CountrySide

Ecumen CountrySide Senior Living Community has a great opportunity for someone who

- Enjoys cooking and working with Seniors
- Work part time (every other weekend)
- Work in a friendly, welcoming environment

Part time cook needed at Ecumen Countryside in Owatonna.

Please call Mary Ramsey
at 507-446-8334

Chose the Dining Room Department

HIRING?

Call Julie
TODAY

to place your ad



STEELE COUNTY
Times

bpjulie@frontier.com
507-583-4431

NORTHSTAR CALIBRATION

1045 26th Place NW, Owatonna
www.northstarcalibration.com

HELP WANTED

Electronics Calibration Technician

Full time position

Requires electronics &/or calibration training

Shipping/Receiving

Part time (4 hrs/day, 11am-4pm)

Will train – small packages

Email resume to
john@northstarcalibration.com.

OTR CLASS A
DRY VAN POSITION

Run 20 Midwest States • Home Weekly

.45 Cents a Mile to Start

2500-3000 Miles Weekly



Pete Michael
507-451-8650

750 32nd Ave NW Owatonna • MN 55060



Kenyon Senior Living

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

LPN/RN

Part Time Days and Evenings

Can combine On Call - All Shifts

CNA's

6 - 2 Full Time and Part Time

2 - 10 Part Time and On Call

10 - 6 Sunday and Monday

Housekeeping Aide

On Call Days

Dishwasher

Evenings

GUNDERSON GARDENS

Home Health Aides or CNA's

6 - 2 and 2 - 10 Part Time

10 - 6 - 2 days a week

On Call Shifts Available

Call Julie Dyrdaahl, HR Manager at 507-789-7103
or Sarah Lombardi, DON @ 507-789-7122

Visit our website at www.KenyonSeniorLiving.com

Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KenyonSeniorLiving>

Kenyon Senior Living offers a friendly faith based work environment and a full range of benefits including health insurance, 403B Savings Plan, PTO and 8 Holidays per year!

Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider
127 Gunderson Blvd * Kenyon * MN * 55946



BLOOMING PRAIRIE SCHOOLS
is accepting applications for Elementary
Paraprofessional positions.

Hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (working with preschool, recess, Title I, and special ed).
Applicants must be highly qualified (possess at least a two year degree).

Request an application by calling
507-583-4426, ext. 431, or by completing
online at <https://blossoms-portal.schooltoday.com/page/2818>.

Deadline for applications
is August 25 or open
until filled.



Legals/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 conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 27, 2009 MORTGAGOR: Margaret D. Howe, a single woman. MORTGAGEE:

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.. DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded July 28, 2009 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000365602. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Dated February 5, 2015 Recorded February 12, 2015, as Document No. A000400743. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 1 0 0 1 9 9 6 0 0 0 1 2 3 6 9 4 5 6 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Advisors Mortgage, LLC RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 536 East Main Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17.010.2309 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing 2 rods South and 22 rods East of the NW corner of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 10-107-20, running thence South 8 1/2 rods, thence East 4 rods, thence North 8 1/2 rods, thence West 4 rods to the place of beginning. COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$92,514.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$ 8 9 , 4 3 1 . 7 9

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: September 17, 2015 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: S t e e l e County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on March 17, 2016 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: July 14, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
30 - 15-005113 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

7/21, 7/28, 8/4
8/11, 8/18, 8/25

Foreclosure

15-100715

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 7, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$116,400.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Mark A. Boehme and Amanda D. Wacek, each a single person MORTGAGEE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 8, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000355253 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Dated: February 7, 2008 filed: February 8, 2008, recorded as document number A000355254 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Ten (10), in Block One (1), in Olson's Addition to the Village of Blooming Prairie PROPERTY ADDRESS: 250 2nd St SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-105-0110 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$105,365.43 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: September 22, 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 March 22, 2016, or the next business day if March 22, 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: July 22, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
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

7/28, 8/4, 8/11
8/18, 8/25, 9/1

Foreclosure

PUBLIC NOTICE 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: June 30, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$134,982.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Kendall M Gallardo, a married person MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. as nominee for U.S. Bank N.A. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 10002120000987676 SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association LENDER: U.S. Bank National Association. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Steele County Minnesota, Recorder, on July 22, 2010, as Document No. A000372406. ASSIGNED TO: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Dated: March 19, 2014, and recorded March 27, 2014 by Document No. A000396204. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Seven (7), Block Twenty-Four (24), in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 305 3rd St SW, Medford, MN 55049 PROPERTY I.D: 161012407 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Eight and 27/100 (\$140,888.27) 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: 10:00 AM on September 18, 2015 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 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), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on March 18, 2016, or the next business day if March 18, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: August 4, 2015

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee
Canadian Pacific Plaza, 120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 952-232-0052
Our File No. 15MN00080-1

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

08/04, 08/11, 08/18
08/25, 09/01, 09/08

Foreclosure

15-101173

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 13, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$184,500.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Otto McKinstry, Jr. and Melba L. McKinstry, husband and wife 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 December 10, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000361010 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF

PROPERTY: All that tract of parcel of land lying and being in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, described as follows, to wit: The East 66 feet of the South 135 feet of Lot 5 in Block 2 in Merrill Odell's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota (also described as commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 5 in Block 2 in said Addition, running thence Northwesterly along the Easterly line of said Lot 135 feet, thence running Southwesterly and parallel to Mineral Springs Avenue 66 feet; thence running Southeasterly 135 feet to the Southerly line of said Lot; thence running Northeasterly along the Southerly line of said Lot 66 feet to the point of beginning.) PROPERTY ADDRESS: 550 Ridge Rd, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-113-0210 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$108,781.98 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: October 9, 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 October 9, 2016, or the next business day if October 9, 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: August 6, 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

8/18, 8/25, 9/1
9/8, 9/15, 9/22

www.steeledodgenews.com

All your local news, Fit to click!



STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Serving Blooming Prairie and Four-County Area

PUBLIC RECORD

Continued from Page 3D

Steele County Marriages June 2015 (Continued)

Isaac Romel Smith and Kimberley Sue Britt, June 20.
Tavid Michael Caswell and Amber Marie Stransky, June 20.
Timothy Patrick McGurran and Lindsey Jo Hansen, June 20.
Michael Sean Krohn and Misty Jo Montgomery, June 20.
Quentin Lynn Weedman and Ann Marie Mott, June 20.
Cody James Slowinski and Ashley Ray Miner, June 20.
Patrick Jalmar Granholm and Shannon Elaine Kinley, June 27.
Jacob Marcus Lambertson and Bethany Joy Holt, June 27.
Gregory Allen Haney and Andrea Mae Johnson, June 27.
Steven Raymond Jeffery and Sarah Elizabeth Spindler, June 27.
Nicholas Alan Thompson and Katherine Marie Schaffer, June 27.

Steele County Divorces June 2015

Sanoa Beth McKenzie and Patrick Paul McKenzie.
Mara Lynn Thiele and Charles William Thiele.
Annie Marie Kurth and Michael Steven Kurth.
Manuel Lopez Castellanos and Silvia Lopez.
Jason Clifford Manson and Nicole Marie Manson.
John E. Gentry and Waynetta M. Gentry.
Aana Elizabeth Klemmensen and Brandon Lee Klemmensen.
Suleiman Maalim Mursal and Hali Abdallahi Ismail.
Roger Dale Brown and Karla Ann Brown.
Charlene Renee Reyant and Scott Luverne Reyant.
Francis Luke Pete and Louise Madeline Pete.

BP ISD

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act

The following information will be published in the local paper for two consecutive weeks. Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act announces that directory-type information on public school students in the district will be disseminated from time to time without further authorization from parents of such students.

Directory-type information under this policy is defined as:

1. The student's name
2. The names of the student's parents
3. The student's address
4. The student's date of birth
5. The student's class designation (i.e. 1st grade, 10th grade, etc.)
6. The student's extracurricular participation
7. The student's achievement awards or honors
8. The student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team
9. The student's photograph or videotape of the student
10. The school or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in Independent School District #756

Any parent wishing to withhold such information from distribution must make the request to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools within ten days of this publication.

8/18, 8/25

2014 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TIF Authority: City of Blooming Prairie

Pine View Acres TIF District 4-1
City of Blooming Prairie

The following information represents the Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts for the Year Ended December 31, 2014

TIF District Name	TIF District 4-1
Current net tax capacity	\$ 11,138.00
Original net tax capacity	\$ 776.00
Captured net tax capacity	\$ 10,362.00
Current principal & interest due	\$ 13,774.00
Tax increment received	\$ 14,446.00
Tax increment expended	\$ 12,735.00
Month & year of first tax increment receipt	Jun-02
Date of required decertification	12/31/27
Increased property tax imposed on other properties as a result of fiscal disparities contribution	0

Additional information regarding the district may be obtained from: TIF Representative- Michael G Jones City Administrator
138 Hwy 218 South
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(507)-583-7573

8/18



INTENSELY LOCAL Coverage

We have the news you want to know and the hometown coverage you expect.

Community Focused. Community Driven.

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Legals/Classifieds

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 7/28/2015 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. Glynn/Brady to approve the Board Minutes of July 14, 2015. Ayes all.
3. Schultz/Glynn to approve the personnel actions. Ayes all.
4. Ebeling/Brady to approve replacement of the Technical Clerk II Position in the Recorder's Office. Ayes all.
5. Glynn/Schultz to approve replacement of the Legal Assistant position with a Paralegal position in the Attorney's office pending receipt of formal notice of employee resignation and job description rating from Fox Lawson & Associates. Ayes all.
6. Glynn/Brady to adopt the proposed 2015 wage scale for hourly Home Health Aides and Homemakers in the Public Health Department. Ayes all.
7. Ebeling/Schultz to approve the 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment, retroactive to January 1, 2015 for eligible non-union employees. Ayes all.
8. Brady/Schultz to adopt the Steele County Aquatic Invasive Species Plan. Ayes all.
9. Glynn/Ebeling offered a Resolution to approve the Delegation Agreement between Steele County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to give Steele County the authority to perform watercraft inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS). Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
10. Ebeling/Brady to approve up to \$1,500 for the purchase of aquatic invasive items for the Planning & Zoning Department's booth at the Steele County Fair. Ayes all.
11. Schultz/Ebeling offered a Resolution that Steele County will enter into an agreement with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the program entitled Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) for the update of the Steele County Hazard Mitigation plan. Mike Johnson, Emergency Management Director is hereby authorized to execute and sign such agreements and any amendments hereto as are necessary to implement the plan on behalf of Steele County. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voting in favor thereof, none absent and not voting.
12. Glynn/Brady to award the low bid to MEI Total Elevator Solutions in the amount of \$7,255 for the Steele County Courthouse elevator repair.
13. Glynn/Schultz to award the low bids to Rocon Inc. in the amount of \$55,744.55 for the Annex sidewalk project and \$19,527.95 for the Four Seasons/CR 174 sidewalk project. Ayes all.
14. Schultz/Brady to approve Lease Addendum 6-900 30th Place NW with a rate of \$15,630 per month and term of 2 years and 7 months. Ayes all.
15. Ebeling/Schultz to accept the Steele County Highway Department 2014 Financial Report. Ayes all.
16. Glynn/Ebeling to approve the Contract with Stonebrooke Engineering for professional services in the amount of \$225,529 for the CSAH 34 Intersection Improvement Projects. Ayes all.
17. Ebeling/Glynn to approve the Contract with Stonebrooke Engineering for professional services in the amount of \$164,111.87 for the CSAH 7 and 45 projects. Ayes all.
18. Glynn/Schultz to approve the bid from TRANE in the amount of \$39,470 for the upgrade and repair to the computer control unit. Ayes all.
19. Glynn/Brady to approve the Environmental Assessment Contract Addendum change in the amount of \$4,292 for the Public Works Building. Ayes all.
20. Ebeling/Schultz to object to the Minnesota Department of Human Services selection of participating health plans for Steele County and, specifically, the Department's decision to reject South Country Health Alliance's proposal to provide health care through the Prepaid Medical Assistance & Minnesota Care programs. Steele County hereby authorizes the submission of a request for mediation with the Department pursuant to Minn. Stat. 256B, both on behalf of Steele County individually and through South Country Health Alliance. Ayes all.
21. Commissioner Reports:
Schultz reported on his attendance at the SCHR meeting.
Glynn reported on his attendance at the Board of Health and the MNPrairie meeting.
Ebeling reported on his attendance at the SE Communications Board and the 911 Executive Committee.
Brady reported on his attendance at the Dodge County Ditch meeting, the Land Expo, SCHR and County Ditch #27 Meeting.
Huntington reported on her attendance at the Drug Court 1st anniversary picnic, the LEAN training and MNPrairie.
22. Brady, seconded by Commissioner Ebeling to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 7/28/2015

A'viands, LLC	11,267.69
Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc.	7,942.75
Jessica L. Bendzick	2,000.00
Bussler Publishing	2,755.02
Crane Creek Asphalt	2,558.37
Custom Communications, Inc.	6,327.03
D & M Construction & Landscaping	3,371.25
Erickson Engineering Co. LLC	7,892.50
Express Services, Inc.	2,431.50
Freeborn County Auditor-Treas.	6,725.82
Magtech Ammunition	6,247.73
Malo Roofing, Inc.	3,368.75
Mathiowetz Construction	7,896.00
Medford Sand & Gravel, LLC	10,350.00
MN Dept. of Natural Resources	2,250.00
Owatonna Police Dept.	10,555.03
Piepho Moving & Storage, Inc.	5,160.93
Reliance Telephone, Inc.	2,500.00
Rochester Sand & Gravel	2,760.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.	3,810.68
Southern MN Construction Co. Inc.	4,925.90
Steele County Treasurer	9,066.91
Turnkey Corrections	11,015.43
University of MN Regents	41,851.91
120 Warrants under \$2,000	46,808.77
Total:	\$221,839.97

23. Glynn/Schultz to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 7:27 p.m. Ayes all.

8/18

United Way Renews Partnerships with Owatonna Community Ed and Medford Community Ed for Afterschool Care Scholarships

United Way of Steele County has renewed a successful Opportunity Program aimed at assisting low-income families to gain and retain stable work by providing scholarships for the reliable, high quality afterschool care provided by Steele County school districts. Partnering again with Owatonna Community Education and Medford Community Education, United Way of Steele County funds year-long scholarships to SAC (Owatonna) and the Tiger Club (Medford), before and after school programs. Families who live in Steele County and who qualify for free and reduced lunch are eligible to apply for these scholarships. A small weekly co-pay for participation is required, and parents must be working. Space is limited so please register quickly.

To apply or inquire please contact: Betsy Wilker or Sean Hughes at 507-444-7900 (Owatonna) or Hazel Mayfield at 507-214-6381 (Medford.)

“Research has shown that children who attend quality after school programs have fewer school absences and better grades, and their parents miss fewer work days,” said Kim Schaufenbuel, Executive Director, United Way of Steele County. “These collaborations with SAC and Tiger Club are another example of how United Way is building partnerships to remove barriers facing working parents

and to increase children’s chances for academic success. 100% of United Way funding for these programs go directly to scholarships.”

The mission of United Way of Steele County is to change lives

by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of our community. For more information, call 507-455-1180 or email UWAdmin@unitedwaysteelecounty.org.

Happy Retirement

Curt Dahl

Come join us at the
Owatonna KC Hall
Aug 27 at 4 p.m.
Appetizers Will be Provided





MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



HELP WANTED LOOKING FOR HARVEST HELP for upcoming sugar beet harvest starting October 1st. Approximately two weeks work. Tandem and semi-truck positions available. Also looking for tractor operators. We offer flexible hours and competitive wages! Complimentary housing and RV hookups. Truck drivers must have valid driver's license. Bonus opportunity – Deer Hunt this season on our property! Call: Bill 218/850-0245 or 218/356-8712 Email: wksugar@gmail.com	EMPLOYMENT ELEMENTARY MUSIC TEACHING Position available at KMS Elementary School. Current Minnesota Education licensure. Send letter of interest, resume, transcripts, three letters of recommendation and teaching license to mheidelberger@kms.k12.mn.us or PO Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252.	MISCELLANEOUS SAWMILLS from only \$4,397.00 Make & save money with your own bandmill. Cut lumber any dimension. In stock, ready to ship! Free Info/DVD: 800/578-1363 Ext.300N www.NorwoodSawmills.com
FARM EQUIPMENT OUR HUNTERS WILL pay top \$\$\$ to hunt your land. Call for a free Base Camp Leasing info packet & quote: 866/309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com	AUCTIONS AUCTION STEVE'S AUTO Saturday, August 22, 10 a.m., Vernalda, MN. 2002 E-Z Crusher Model B, collector car bodies, antiques, restaurant equipment. Quam Auctions. www.QuamAuctions.com 218/639-0100	STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS! Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096
NORTHERN STAR COOPERATIVE. In Deer River MN is seeking a qualified General Manager. This is a multi-location energy, C store and grocery cooperative with sales of \$56 million. Successful agricultural business management experience desired. To apply http://tinyurl.com/ov2kxu6. For more info contact David Lemmon, 320/283-5938 or Email david.lemmon@chsinc.com	HELP WANTED - DRIVERS NOW HIRING company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610	DO YOU OWE over \$10,000 to the IRS or State in back taxes? You could get a settlement for as low as 25% of previous IRS settlements. Call now! 800/558-0486
ADVERTISE HERE STATEWIDE IN 260+ NEWSPAPERS FOR ONLY \$279 PER WEEK! CALL 800-279-2979	REAL ESTATE LOG HOME OPEN HOUSE! Near Nevis Minnesota. August 29th. Call for directions to see this incredible Golden Eagle Log Home 218/732-3346	GOT KNEE PAIN? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/558-6807
		DISH NETWORK Get more for less! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706

Splash into Summer

Call Julie today!
507-583-4431
bpjulie@frontier.com





Place your ad today

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 8C

CLUES ACROSS

1. Munich jazz label
4. A lump of clay
8. Showy ornament
10. __ Girl, brand of beer
11. Aka Kissavos
12. Warmest season of the year
13. 2nd longest Bulgarian river
15. Records the brain's electric currents
16. Cutting part of a drill
17. Colorful Italian city
18. The last part
19. Pouch
20. "Mad Men" creator
24. No (Scottish)
25. Actress Farrow
26. Focus cars (Co. initials)
27. Snakelike fish
28. One point E of due S
29. Grey sea eagle

30. Female "Mad Men" star
37. Actress Lupino
38. Time units (abbr.)
39. Moses' elder brother
40. 4th Caliph of Islam
41. Treaty of Rome creation
42. Theatrical play
43. Told on
45. "To tie" in Spanish
46. Amidst
47. Exchange for money
48. Bar game missile
49. Pluto or __ Pater

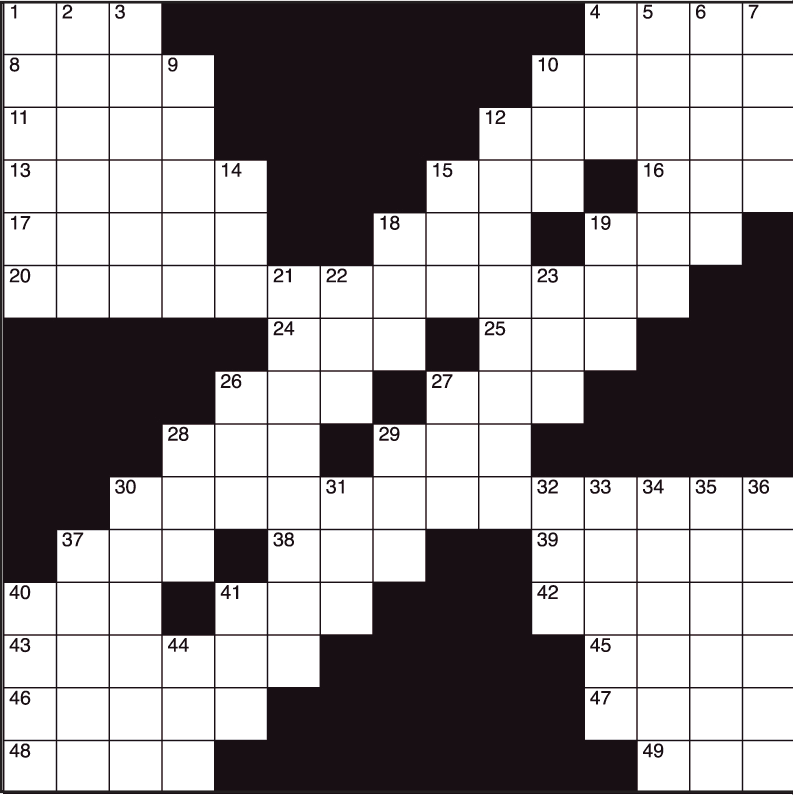
CLUES DOWN

1. Selfishness
2. Cinnamon source
3. Revolutionary firearm
4. Br. university town river
5. Lower back region
6. Relating to oil
7. Soil
9. Cause to lose courage
10. Pushed in nose dog

12. Dregs
14. Part of a cheer
15. Point midway between NE and E
18. Female sheep
19. Main
21. In a way, tangled
22. WWII female grunts
23. Nothing

26. Hoover's organization
27. Before
28. Patti Hearst's captors
29. One point S of due E
30. Film splicer & viewer
31. Something curved in shape
32. Possessed
33. Patagonian hares

34. Gave a formal speech
35. Resident of Mogadishu
36. Tangles
37. Annona diversifolia
40. Mures river city
41. Same as 15 across
44. Explosive



Misc Items for Sale

Your Choice, Make an Offer!

<u>Mac Keyboards</u> (2) Model #A1314 (1) Model #A1048	<u>Logitech Keyboard</u> (1) Elite Keyboard LE
<u>Microsoft Keyboards</u> (1) Wireless Keyboard 1000 (1) Wireless Keyboard 2000 (1) Model #RT9401	<u>HP Keyboard</u> (1) Model #5189
	<u>Macally Keyboard</u> (1) Part # ikey4

Contact: Lynn 507-483-4431
bplynn@frontier.com

Happy 80th Birthday Donna Ditlevson on August 19!

We love you!
Lori, Shelly, Jeff, Scott,
Rick, Dan, Deb and families



GIVE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.

Contact us for a complimentary consultation or second opinion – with no obligation.

Specializing in:
Mutual Funds • Unit Investment Trusts
Fixed & Variable Annuities • Stocks
Bonds • Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance • IRAs



507-434-3334 400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

Registered Representative of **INVEST Financial Corporation**, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities, advisory services and certain insurance products and are not affiliated with Accentra Investment Services. Products offered are: • **Not FDIC Insured** • **Not Credit Union Guaranteed** • **May lose value.**



Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

Firearm Safety, for the love of kids

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

It's the love of kids that have inspired individuals to volunteer their time as firearm safety instructors for ten to fifty years. About a dozen individuals were honored for their years of dedication to firearm safety training and education on Thurs. Aug. 13 at the "20" Rifle & Pistol Club.

"It's a ceremony for them, but it's really about what they do," said Rod Mauer, vice president of "20" Rifle & Pistol Club. "They love doing something good for the public. They love the kids. It's all about the kids. Period."

"Volunteers are hard to come by, and we're lucky to have these people to give their time," explained Mauer. The volunteers teach the 75 to 120 youth (ages five to 17) that sign up each year for firearm training.

The firearm safety training requires 12 hours of classroom taught by a certified firearm safety instructor. At the end of the 12 hours of coursework, there is a field trip to a range, where students are able to practice firearm safety with the supervision of the instructor and several other trained adults.

The class and events teach students how to handle firearms responsibly and safely.

At the end of the class and field trip, students receive a "Firearms Safety" certificate from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Beyond teaching courses, the firearm safety instructors are also involved in special events hosted for organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, 4-H, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The firearm safety instructors honored were David Olson (50 years of teaching), Herbert Budig (44 years), Robert Schler (41 years), Ted Rickerl (39 years), David Stark (35 years), Tim Nothnagel (30 years), Mary Ulrich (22 years), Mark Kreutter (13 years), Michael Tobin (13 years), and Craig Squires (12 years.) Each were presented with a plaque and thanked for their service.

David Olson has been actively volunteering as a firearm safety trainer for 50 years. He enjoys teaching children safe practices of being "stewards of the land."

Olson originally became a firearm safety trainer in 1965 because he was deeply impacted by the death of a neighborhood kid, who was killed in an accidental firearm mishap. "One incident is always one too many. Safety is everything," said Olson. During the mid-1950s, there was a need for more firearm safety trainers, so Olson took the class and became certified.

Hands down, Olson said that his favorite part of being a firearm safety instructor is the kids. "When they're signed up, they want to learn. It's just fun!" re-

marked Olson. "They're minds are like little sponges. You can just see the sparkle in their eye with enthusiasm."

Since Olson has been teaching for fifty years, he has had the privilege to teach three generations: grandfather, father and son.

Over the years, Olson has also seen a shift in the demographic of firearm safety students. Olson, along with many other instructors, continue to see more and more girls in the classroom. In fact, Olson said that he has had classes where at least half of the students are girls.

Olson laughs that girls tend to outshoot the boys. "Young girls tend to hold their own a little more. They listen better. Guys tend to have more of an attitude," laughed Olson. He remarked, though, that all students are there because they want to learn.

When it comes to the future of teaching firearm safety courses, Olson is not so sure there will be a need for as many instructors, as DNR has recently come up with an online course that would replace the twelve hours of in-class work.

According to Olson, "the DNR is really pushing the online

(course.)" The online course has an exam at the end, and there would still be a supervised field trip to a shooting range upon completion of the course.

Olson actually took the time to take the online course and he was overall "very impressed by the thorough coverage." However, he finds that, by removing that face to face social interaction, children are missing that teacher-student and student-student relationship and comradery.

"You lose that human part of credibility," commented Olson. "There is something to be said about that social interaction that the online course just cannot provide."

Olson expects that the online course will become more popular; however, he hopes that people still find value in the traditional classroom setting.

While that online course may become more recognized, the traditional firearm safety courses are still going strong. The "20" Rifle & Pistol Club is open to the public for a number of events such as the 3-D Archery Shoots, Fall October Rendezvous and various courses. To learn more about getting you or your child involved, visit www.20riflepistolclub.org.



Staff photos by Anna Segner
Craig Squires, Tim Nothnagel, Ted Rickerl, Mark Kreutter, Bob Schler, Michael Tobin, Mary Ulrich, Herb Budig, David Olson, and Dave Stark stand with conservation officers Chad Davis (left) and Phil George (right) after receiving their plaques acknowledging their ten-plus years of service as firearm safety instructors.



Vice President Rod Mauer reaches out to shake David Olson's hand after Olson was awarded a plaque for his 50 years of service as a volunteer firearm safety instructor.

DANCE CLASSES KNOWN FOR EXCELLENCE,

but appreciated for recognizing the effort of every dancer.

Just For Kix is perfect for young children looking to be introduced to dance or for extensive dance training. Our 30-year tradition of treating children with respect and our special brand of choreography lets dancers shine!

- ★ Focused on Teamwork
- ★ Fun, Organized & Economical
- ★ Conservative Costume & Music Choices
- ★ Great for Self Esteem
- ★ Respectful, Friendly & Fair

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT
classes.justforkix.com
PRE-SCHOOL - 12TH GRADE

LEARN MORE AT OUR MEET & GREET
SEPTEMBER 11TH • 5:00 - 7:00PM
At the Blooming Prairie Senior Center

NEW CLASSES STARTING SEPT. 14TH

KICK • LYRICAL • JAZZ

Bizzy Thompson
(507)279-3417
bloomingprairie_mn@justforkix.com

Registration Fee:
\$15.00 (non-refundable)
Monthly Class Fee:
30 Min ... \$28.00
45-60 Min ... \$31.00

JUST FOR KIX

justforkix.com/danceclasses/bloomingprairie_mn

BLOOMING PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

8TH ANNUAL

Brat and Sweet Corn Feed

AUGUST 29TH • 4-7 PM

BPFD PARK

(across from Servicemen's Club)
Rain location at BPFD Firehall

Serving Bratwurst, Sweet Corn, Pork Patties, Beans and Soft Drinks

FREE WILL DONATION

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Advertising

There's a better way to get attention.

Make life simple & place an ad with..

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

583-4431
bpjulie@frontier.com

Collision

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150

CSI: Collision Specialists Inc
507.437.2837
www.csiaustinmn.com

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Design • Installation
- Compliance Inspections

- Aggregates • Hauling
- Washed Sand & Rock
- Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel

507-583-2999

Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured

BISHOP BE EXCAVATING, INC.

- EXCAVATION • BASEMENTS
- DEMOLITION • DOZER WORK

Commercial & Residential Sitework

Farm

Mike & Jeff Custom Farms

Mike Ingvalson 507-456-1436
mikeingvalson@hotmail.com

Jeff Ingvalson 507-456-1439
jeffingvalson@hotmail.com

We offer:

- Seed
- Chemical
- Fertilizer
- Custom Farming
- Crop Scouting

High Yields Start Here

MJC Farms, LLC
13324 89th Ave SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Fax 507-572-1337

Greenhouse

Farm Fresh Vegetables:
Broccoli • Cabbage • Beets • Califlower
Turnips • Potatoes • Squash • Melons

HILLTOP GREENHOUSE & FARM

3 Miles East of Geneva OR 2 Miles N. of Hollandale On Co. Rd. 28 | Watch for Signs
507-889-3271

Now Open

Buy Direct From Grower

Handpicked and Fresh Picked

"LIKE" Us on Facebook
www.hilltopgreenhouse.com

Hours
M-F 9-5
Sat 9-3
Sun Closed

Pets

Bennett's PET HAVEN CEMETERY, INC.

"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"

Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. City Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203

Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

Cell: 507-456-3562

Real Estate

Craig Berg
Salesperson -Licensed in the state of MN

Office: 507.451.8080
Cell: 507.676.0098
craigberg.cbhc@gmail.com
www.cbhomeconnection.com
<http://cbberg.cbhomeconnection.com>

COLDWELL BANKER HOME CONNECTION

159 18th Street SW, Owatonna

Truck Accessories

The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.

Minimizer

AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS

Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Blooming Prairie

Tires

Mike's REPAIR

870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Complete Truck Parts and Service

507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483
Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck

Mike Hartle
Owner