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Upcoming Events

January 27: Polar Plunge
January 26-28: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out
February: Spring Brochure Released
February 6: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 begins
February 10: Winter Fest at Brooktree & Master's Bar & Grille

February 13: Spring Brochure released
February 20: Tennis Tech 2 begins
February 22: Spring Registration begins
February 26: 2nd Day of Registration at SeniorPlace (Uniform try on for baseball and softball)
March 8: Registration deadline for soccer, little league & fastpitch softball

March 14: Adult slow pitch registration deadline
March 17: 6th Annual Mike Hansen Memorial
March 11-21: Water Safety Instructor Class

Outdoor Public Skating

Warsinski rinks, located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinski chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street. **Will post schedule on our website as weather permits**

Special Events

Winter Weekend Out-January 26-28
Friday, January 26 activities include:
Sledding and Movie at West Hills
Saturday, January 27 activities include:
• Battleship (ages 15+) at Jr. High Pool-10am-1pm
• Rock on Ice at Morehouse Park-6-8pm
• Ice Bocce Ball at Morehouse Park-6-8pm
Sunday, January 28 activities include:
• Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmer-2:30-4:30pm



River Springs Water Park 2018

2018 Season Passes

Individual 48" and taller \$134 Under 48" \$102		Family *Includes 3 people \$200 (\$20 for each additional person) **10% off Individual Season Passes if purchased before June 1, 2018**

River Springs Water Park Family Pass

You've been asking for it and now we're offering it - NEW this year is family memberships to River Springs Water Park! The family membership is a great deal and would make an excellent gift!

Family Season Pass Requirements
*A household consisting of up to 2 adults and their dependents
-Membership must include at least one adult
-An adult is considering someone out of high school and older

*Family members must all live in the same household
*Only those individuals in the immediate family can be included on the family membership
*Dependents include children 22 years old and under if they are a full time student in college; otherwise *they would need to get an Individual Membership. (College ID will be needed for proof of enrollment)

Programs coming in the Spring Brochure (released February 2018)

- Youth Soccer
- Swim Lessons
- Boat & Water Safety
- Little League baseball (current grades 2-5)



- Fastpitch Softball
- Association Baseball and Fastpitch Programs
- T-ball and Squir ball programs

Ways to Register:

- On-Line
www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
- Walk-In Registration (begins at 7:00 a.m.): Park & Recreation
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As of January 1, 2018, we will no longer accept Discover Card

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FROM PAGE C3

DWI, \$505, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Rochelle M. Erickson, 47, Kenyon, careless driving, \$480, alcohol assessment and 1 year of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 167 complaints during the week of Jan. 17 – 23. Some of them include:

Jan. 17
Suspicion: At 8:27 a.m., Dodge Center residents called deputies when they believed someone was in their house in the 64100 block of 160th Ave. **Domestic:** Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 2nd St. SW in Dodge Center at 2:16 p.m.

Jan. 18
Assault: Deputies responded to an assault in the 700 block of 1st Ave. SE in Dodge Center at 10:18 a.m.
Civil: Deputies assisted with a civil matter regarding custody in the 600 block of Highland St. in

West Concord at 1:09 p.m.
Sex Offense: Deputies responded to a sex offense in the county at 2:56 p.m.

Jan. 19
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 4:20 p.m.

Jan. 20
Assault: At 12:32 a.m., deputies responded to a report of people fighting on Main St. E. in Dodge Center.
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 300 block of Hwy St. W. in Dodge Center at 10:43 a.m.

Property Damage: A citizen reported several small holes in her siding in the 500 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 3:45 p.m.
Snowmobile Crash: At 6:11 p.m., deputies responded to a male rolling his snowmobile at 205th Ave. and 575th St. in West Concord.

Jan. 22
Welfare: Deputies conducted a welfare check after an intoxicated male walked off in the 100 block of 2nd Ave. SW in Dodge Center at 12:01 a.m.
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at

12:20 p.m.

OWATONNA FIRE

Jan. 20
Crash: Fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 S. at 11:28 a.m.

Jan. 22
Fire: At 6:32 a.m., firefighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire on Bridge St. W.
Crash: A motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred on 270th St. E. at 7:28 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide:

Firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 10:41 a.m.

Jan. 23
Smoke: Fire personnel assisted with smoke removal in the 2400 block of Hoffman Dr. W. at 5:45 p.m.

Jan. 24
Steam: At 12:40 p.m., steam was mistaken for smoke on 26th St.

Jan. 25
Gas Leak: Firefighters responded to a gas leak in the 500 block of South St. SE at 2:42 p.m.

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STEELE
COUNTY

Times

THE BIG GAME SPECIAL SECTION
INSERTED IN TODAY'S PAPER



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TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

AN ARMFUL OF LOVE

Family, friends and neighbors provide support for Ellendale Mayor

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Even small town mayors are not exempt from meeting hard times.

Family, friends and neighbors of Ellendale Mayor Russ Goette came to the Ellendale Community Building last Sunday to pledge their support for Goette.

Goette has been out of work since last October because of a bad back. He underwent surgery in November and has been recovering ever since. A back fusion was performed and two rods were inserted near his spine.

Involved in construction and remodeling in the past, Goette has been forced to find a different vocation because of his back problems.

The benefit, arranged by Becky Lassahn (David) of Ellendale, was designed to help Goette with medical expenses and living expenses. Monies were earned from food served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., from a bake sale and



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Becky Lassahn of rural Ellendale is a responsible organizer and has done many benefits in the Ellendale community the past three years. She is shown tending to a roaster filled with baked beans. The most recent benefit was for Ellendale Mayor Russ Goette.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

A pair of high flying area sheriffs take the polar plunge Saturday afternoon at Lake Kohlmier in Owatonna. With their mouths wide open, Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele, left, and Olmsted County Sheriff Kevin Torgerson jumped into the freezing waters to raise funds for Special Olympics. They were among more than 100 people who took a chilly dip in the lake.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

More than 100 people lined up at Lake Kohlmier on Saturday afternoon to dive into icy waters for the fourth annual Owatonna Polar Plunge.

Teams from the Owatonna Police Department, Steele County Sheriff's Office and Owatonna Fire Department were dressed in full uniform while making jump, while other participants dressed as their favorite super heroes, Doctor Suess characters and Rich Uncle Pennybags, among others.

All funds raised go toward programming and events for more than 8,200 Special Olympic athletes statewide.

Owatonna Police Department Capt. Jeff Mundale said the event is all about helping the individuals who take part in Special Olympics.

"I didn't want to miss it," he said. "I hope more and more people will consider taking part in this great fundraising event for Special Olympics Minnesota in the future. It's just outstanding to know that since it came to Owatonna over \$100,000 has been raised for Special Olympics. We've had a great turnout."

Mundale, who was participated in his first plunge said the key was to not think about it, don't hesitate, just go for it and then get out of the water as fast as possible.

"It's just fantastic," he said. "I give credit to everybody who is out here jumping, as well as those that want to donate and contribute to the Special Olympics."

Mundale said he enjoyed taking part in the event with some of his fellow law enforcement officers from throughout the

community, because not only were they helping a great cause, but it was a good team-building and bonding exercise.

Duane Danielson said his son, Nicolas, talked him into taking part in the event this year. The pair took the plunge together this past year in St. Peter.

"It just nice to raise awareness for Special Olympics and it's just a good thing to do," Duane said. "It was cold, colder than last year, but if [Nicolas] wants to do it, I'm in for it."

Nicolas, who take competes in Special Olympics, said he was second-guessing his decision once it came to make the jump. However, once he warmed up, he was glad he did it and planned on participating in next year's event.

Tony David, who is a Steele County sheriff's deputy and committee member for Owatonna Special, said that although he didn't have the final numbers from the event, there were 113 jumpers signed up ahead of time and plungers were required to raise at least \$75 each.

"Overall, everything went really well," David said. "The weather was nice. The sun was shining and everybody seemed really excited."

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE A8



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Organizers of the First Annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer Fundraiser Elliott Herdina, left, and Craig Anderson were "in awe" with the turnout of about 200 persons at a gathering at The Cue Company. Hunters brought in their carcasses, which will be sold to a fur dealer. The event brought in just over \$16,000.

Chasing coyotes for a cause

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

One of the most unusual and unique fundraisers to help with the fight against cancer was a rousing success in Blooming Prairie last Saturday.

The fundraiser was called the First Annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Early estimates indicate more than \$16,000 was raised.

SEE COYOTES, A5

SUPER BOWL BOUND

Medford student battling cancer gets surprise gift

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Medford's Logan Pleschourt and his older brother, Anthony Lique, were attending the Minnesota Vikings' divisional-round playoff victory over the New Orleans Saints on Jan. 14 at U.S. Bank Stadium when a surprise visitor came to ask him a question.

The visitor, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, wanted to know if Pleschourt wanted to go to the Super Bowl.

"Of course I said yes," Pleschourt said. "He said he wanted me to be there and gave me two tickets."

Pleschourt said he was shocked when Goodell walked up to him and

SEE SUPER BOWL, A5

A super once-in-lifetime opportunity is coming this weekend for Logan Pleschourt, a sophomore at Medford High School who is battling cancer. He will be attending the Super Bowl in Minneapolis with his family. Pleschourt, left, also attended the Jan. 14 playoff game between with Minnesota Vikings and New Orleans Saints with his brother Anthony Lique. At that game, Pleschourt got a surprise visit from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who gave him two tickets to the Super Bowl.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

BENEFIT BASH

Blooming Prairie
YOUTH CLUB

Saturday, February 3

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

Free admission! Food specials available!

Silent Auction Raffles
5:30pm-7:00 pm

Live Auction
starts at 7:00 PM

Several additional raffles and games throughout the night!

OUR VIEW

What happens when the newspaper is embezzled?

For more than a year, this newspaper has been faced with the business disaster of handling the aftermath of a major embezzlement, which came close to putting the newspaper out of business.

Embezzlement? Not a big deal, one may quip. However, it is a major deal when the company is not a large corporation that can absorb such big losses, but rather is a single owner struggling to handle the financial crisis alone.

So what happens when the newspaper is embezzled?

The Steele County Times found out the answer to that question after a major embezzlement came to light in October 2016. While it's unusual for the newspaper to be in the news, we feel it's time to shatter the silence and share with the rest of the community what we've gone through because of this cowardly act.

As it would likely be to most businesses, the embezzlement has been the knockout punch.

Simply put, embezzlement is the kind of crippling financial punch that can bring a business to its knees or even knock it out.

Sound farfetched?

It may actually be more prevalent than you think. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, nearly one-third of all business bankruptcies are the result of employee theft.

In 2016, Kimberly Kay Hammer, the business manager who came highly regarded by some of her former colleagues from other publications, was suspected of taking thousands of dollars from the company. In our eyes, it was not only stealing from the newspaper itself, but also the rest of the community that depends on the newspaper as its source of local news.

It's easy to pass off embezzlement as not really

something significant. After all, nobody got hurt, right? But it had devastating effects on this newspaper, as well as the owner of it, that will likely linger on for many years to come.

It forced a massive reorganization plan that has had serious implications on the overall content and quality of the paper. We've been forced to downsize our staff as well as our overall news coverage.

We've tried to keep our heads high throughout the mess, but often fell short. On a regular basis, we walked down the street with fear of what was going to happen next wondering if we would survive. And during the same stroll down the street, there would be tears of frustration and anger of the dream of producing one of the finest small weekly newspapers in Minnesota possibly being snatched away from us as some businesses and institutions couldn't seem to wrap their heads around what we were dealing with and help us out.

All the while we struggled with feelings of not knowing how we were going to pull out of this.

Some of our readers may recall that this newspaper faced a scandal involving a serial plagiarist with a former editor in 2012. While that ordeal captured statewide news coverage, and even national attention, this embezzlement was more low-key, but has left far more serious battle scars.

It has caused a chokehold on the overall well-being of the company. We have taken drastic measures to repair the damage, but only time will tell if it does any good.

Over the past 22 months, the Times has suffered net losses, disruption in operations, messed up accounting, and erosion of trust from both inside the organization and outside. The embezzlement has poisoned the whole spirit of the working environment and relationships within the company, but even more so outside. We have lost the trust of

some of our clients to the point of where they do not want to do business with us because of the lingering effects associated with the embezzlement.

One of the causalities of this embezzlement has been the Blooming Prairie School and its youth athletic program. For many years the newspaper has donated funds to the school. But because of the embezzlement, we have been unable to follow through with donating to the school at this time.

As for the owner, this entire ordeal has affected him as well. There has been a lost in trust of all employees as they are often questioned about any little thing. The owner has suffered medical problems that started after the embezzlement.

We are still haggling over restitution in which Ms. Hammer would be court ordered to repay losses incurred with the embezzlement. At last week's sentencing, the issue of restitution was deferred to a later time when a special restitution hearing will take place.

This has been one of the worst betrayals of trust that anyone can face. We have been badly scarred.

But through it all, we remain strong—strong to the point where we continue to provide Steele County and the surrounding area with a first-class newspaper, which by the way won six state journalistic awards of excellence, including the coveted Lynn Smith Community Leadership award, last week through the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

It has been a rough road, but we're tough. We will survive the knockout punch that nearly left the "closed sign" on our door. Life presents us all with challenges. It's how we handle those challenges that truly define who we are.

And in the case of the Steele County Times, failure is not an option. Not even if it's an embezzlement trying to knock us out.

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GUEST COLUMN

Infrastructure: the bipartisan job creator rural America needs

Infrastructure is one of the smartest investments we can make in our country. It allows businesses to grow and compete. It keeps us safe. It creates millions of jobs—good paying jobs that cannot be outsourced overseas. And, it's bipartisan. It's one of the first things President Trump said he wanted to get done after he was elected.

The time has come to work together to get this done, and get it done right. We cannot let another year go by without action.

The good news is, there are bipartisan solutions already on the table. As a member of the Commerce and Agriculture committees, I have long supported leveraging direct funding and public-private partnerships to rebuild and reinvest in our

infrastructure. One bipartisan idea I've been working on is to create an infrastructure bank that would help increase private sector infrastructure spending. It would also direct funding to projects in rural areas so that smaller communities can make much-needed infrastructure improvements. This type of innovative financing tool could jumpstart critical projects in Minnesota and across the country.

But we can't rely on public-private partnerships alone to fund projects.

Direct federal funding is essential, especially in rural America. In many parts of our country where communities are spread out and not as densely populated, it can be difficult to attract private investment. These communities depend on federal dollars to maintain and upgrade their infrastructure and stay competitive. That is why I will not support proposals that are unfair to rural communities.

One area that relies on direct federal investment is rural broadband. Broadband is the perfect infrastructure investment. It creates jobs, opens new economic opportunities for the communities we connect, and keeps America competitive in an increasingly digital world. Just this week, as co-chair of the Senate Broadband Caucus, I led a bipartisan effort to get dedicated, stand-alone funding for broadband deployment in an infrastructure proposal to ensure telecommunications infrastructure is prioritized alongside needed upgrades to our roads, rail, waterways, and bridges. A serious plan for the 21st century is not a complete without addressing the broadband connectivity issues facing rural America.

I know we can work across the aisle to invest in America's infrastructure because we've done it before.

In 2012, Congress passed bipartisan legislation I worked on to allow the St. Croix River bridge project to move forward after 30 years of delay, and this past August the new bridge was completed. After more than 50 years, Windom and other communities along Highway 60 will soon be able to travel on a four-lane highway to get to the Twin Cities. And Highway 53 on the Iron Range now features a new four-lane bridge—the tallest in the entire state—that connects Eveleth and Virginia.

We also recently passed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, a bipartisan bill that increased transportation funding—including giving Minnesota more than \$4 billion in funding over five years—and helped provide certainty to local governments planning critical projects across the country. This is a good start, but we can't stop now. In an increasingly competitive global economy, standing still is falling behind.

We can't leave infrastructure—something that has always been an area for bipartisan agreement—on the side of the road for another year. When it comes to roads and bridges and rail, you either build them or you don't. Talk isn't enough. There are good bipartisan ideas out there that we can take action on right now. Let's get to work.

Amy Klobuchar represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.



'Please Betsy ... just work this one time'

As we got dumped on with snow last week, I primarily stayed indoor and enjoyed the beauty of it all. But soon panic overcame me as I looked outside to see massive amounts of snow—more than I can recall seeing in quite some time.

I always get a little nervous when my snow blower sits idle in the garage for an extended period of time.

It has happened in the past where the Toro blower hasn't been used for such a long time, and it fails to fire up when I most need it. I was afraid the same thing would happen again this week.

Luckily, I've only needed the snow blower maybe once or twice over the past couple winters. But that doesn't help matters when you finally do need to call upon it to rescue you from Mother Nature's

wrath.

As more than 12 inches of snow blanketed the region, I got a little nervous wondering if my magic snow remover would kick into action without sending me to the drug store in search of pain relievers for headaches of frustration.

The snow kept coming and coming. The end of my driveway kept piling up to the point of where I thought I was beyond help. All I could think was my snow blower better work, especially after I hadn't used it for at least a year.

I knew I was in for big trouble if the blower didn't work.

On the morning after the dumping, it was truth or consequences for me with my snow blower. If it didn't work, I'd be faced with severe consequences of shoveling mountains of snow that probably would put me flat on my back with pains I never knew could exist.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Knights continue a tradition of charity

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Knights of Columbus trace its organization back to the late 1800s, when a Catholic Priest founded the fraternity on the promise of providing assistance to those in their community.

Each year members of the fraternity donate their time and energy in order to raise funds for various community organizations. The Blooming Prairie Council, with an association of roughly 133 members, is no stranger to these tenets.

In 2017, the Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus tallied around 1,938 volunteer hours coupled with a total of \$4,879 worth of donations. Local organizations which received the donations include area churches, the local Boy Scouts troop, and the Blooming Prairie Youth Club. But in addition to this, the local KC group also presented a local graduate with a scholarship of \$250.

Elliott Rysavy, who is currently attending St. Mary's University in Winona, received his scholarship this fall, after providing evidence for both enrollment, and positive grades. Generally, in order to become eligible for a scholarship, a potential candidate has to be Catholic, and has to have a family member associated with the Knights of Columbus.

A grand knight, who often serves a three-year term, chairs the KC group. Troy Anderson, who is perhaps the youngest grand knight Blooming Prairie's council has seen, is proud of his Order's work. "We want to continue to support local organizations, and Catholic education within our community," he said.

Anderson donates his time in many ways, and that means staying involved in other church sanctioned charities, which run parallel to the work the Knights do. He's traveled to the Republic of Mozambique in Southeast Africa with his music group in order to aid construction of their sister church there.

Despite the global reach of the organization, and Anderson's past volunteer experience, he still loves giving back to the local community. "We like keeping the community together," Anderson said. Events like last November's Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser, or the upcoming fish fry in February should manage to do just that.

"We're just a bunch of guys with good morals and values who are trying to carry the tradition on to the next generation," Anderson said, adding it's vital to maintain a steady number of younger members and volunteers.

He explains that in order to join, one must meet a few basic requirements. They include membership in the Catholic faith, an age requirement of 18 and over, and showing an interest for the type of work the Knights of Columbus are engaged in. After that it's up to the Council to decide, with a ceremonial membership day held if the applicant is approved.

The local Council serves Hayfield, Blooming Prairie, and Litomysl, but in the past they've also worked closely with



Troy Anderson, grand knight of the Blooming Prairie Knights of Columbus, presents Andrea Kvalsten of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club with a \$1,000 check. The money was raised during last November's Spaghetti Supper.

other area Councils, including Owatonna's. "Owatonna has its own large Council," Anderson said, "and basically we do our thing and they do theirs, but sometimes we do a matching event."

Anderson says that these events, of which they typically hold four a year, help to bring the community together. "It's a good feeling you get, and it makes you proud of being a KC and proud to be a part of this community."

Each year the Blooming Prairie Knights hold two pancake breakfasts, a spaghetti supper, and the annual fish fry. The fish fry, which Anderson describes as well attended, will be held on Feb. 16. They will be serving up Alaskan Pollock. Anderson says of the event, "I think the public comes for the fish fry, not only for good food, but also for some community fellowship."

When asked what his favorite part of putting on an event that this one would be, Anderson said, "It's the end result, being able to put on an event that's successful and then being able to return that back into the community, it's a good feeling."

This year the Knights donated \$1,000 to the local Blooming Prairie Youth Club. Kelli Naatz, unit supervisor at the Youth Club, feels it's great to see all the donations and sponsorship from the community. Speaking of the Knight's donations, Naatz reiterates that "community based help is what allows us to succeed."

"It's great for the community to be involved, and see what we do," Naatz said. She added that the Youth Club, which traces its origins to the Rochester Boys and Girls Club, works closely with its members in the afterschool hours to provide them with a fun, and safe place to hang out and get some schoolwork done.

In summer months, the Youth Club is open all day, during which they plan fun activities, and even the occasional field trip. Naatz says she loves seeing the kids get excited for the field trips, and knows that the work the Youth Club does goes a long way in helping steer each child to success. "I think they'll be more successful in future, particularly because they are learning how to grow and be successful," she said.

Naatz appreciates all the help local organizations like the Knights of Columbus provide, and thinks that it also gives members of the Youth Club a positive example to follow. "Volunteering and donating shows young club members that this is something they could do."

In his term as grand knight, Anderson hopes to effect much positive change. "We'd like to continue to pass on this great tradition," he said with an eye to the future.

The Knights of Columbus was built upon the ideas of heritage and community, and theirs is a tradition of giving.

LOVE: Providing support for Ellendale Mayor



Ellendale Mayor Russ Goette was feted at a community benefit on Sunday, Jan. 28. Family and friends arranged the benefit at the Ellendale Community Building. Mayor Goette is shown with three grandchildren: Brandt Goette, 2; Isabella Abalos, 9 and Abrianna Goette, 7.

FROM PAGE A1

from a silent auction. A free will offering was received on the food served during the day. Sloppy joes, hot dogs, beans, potato salad and beverages were served.

Lassahn, who was two years ahead of Goette in school at Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools, has become quite adept at helping arrange benefits for needy people. "There are so many people who are down and out," she explained. "I have a mission with people," Lassahn explains. She said she has helped organize more than 30 benefits in the past three years. "I'm not ever going to retire and am on a high with people," Lassahn continued.

Lassahn said she has even done benefits for people she does not know. She recently spearheaded a benefit for Sandy Jensen of the Ellendale area. "It's a big responsibility to put on a benefit but I love people, and I will be there for people who are in need," Lassahn said. Overwhelmed by the community support and generosity, Goette said Ellendale "is like one big family." He said, "When someone meets hard times, everyone is willing to help."

Goette graduated from Ellendale-Geneva High School in 1979. He left Ellendale in 1984, went to the Twin Cities and came back to Ellendale in 2013. He worked a variety of jobs, including time spent at Steve's Meat Market.

Goette has been with a partner, Patti Carlson, for the past nine years. He has two daughters, a son and eight grandchildren. Never involved in politics or city government, Goette was encouraged to run for mayor of Ellendale. He defeated long-time mayor Mark Skroch. Skroch served many consecutive terms, took time off and then returned to the mayor's chair in 2014.

"I love it," Goette said, reflecting on his position as mayor of this small Steele County community. "Things are going quite well in the city but we are working hard to find someone to occupy a 65,000 square foot building that was formerly owned and utilized by Woodstream."

Woodstream is a plastics company that made bird feeders and mouse traps among other items. It has moved operations to North Carolina and to China. Mayor Goette said he has heard there is interest in buying the building. An online auction is planned.

It's been a learning curve for Goette to learn the mayoral routine. He was pleased that the city decided to bring CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) to Ellendale.

CETA is a networking firm and helps with grants and loans to small municipalities. Rebecca Charles is in charge of the Ellendale CETA connection. Neighbors of Ellendale including Ellendale also utilize CETA.

Goette is also pleased with two strong community organizations that have been formed to improve the vitality of the Ellendale community. The Ellendale Community Foundation was organized from donations and a matching grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. The foundation finished its first goal, which was providing handicap accessible doors at the Ellendale Community Center.

A second project will focus on remodeling the kitchen. The Ellendale Community Action Group, including several local businesses and individuals, has formed to raise funds to purchase an electronic sign to be located on the east side of Ellendale near the junction of School Street and Highway 30.

Looking ahead, Mayor Goette said he would like to find some more people who have an interest in developing small businesses in Ellendale. "It would be nice to get the little mom and pop businesses going again," he said.

Two barbers from the Twin Cities recently came to Ellendale and set up their business. With the closure of the previous barber shop, Goette said Ellendale "was quite fortunate" to get two trained barbers to set up shop. "We look for an active spring and summer and a good productive year for Ellendale," Goette predicted.

"Ellendale is a great little community, and I'm glad I can serve as mayor and hopefully make a difference," Goette commented.

Goette is not only thankful for the recent successful benefit but very grateful for those who brought him back to life after he suffered a critical heart attack (called the Widow Maker) in 2013 when he was living in Brooklyn Center.

The North Memorial Rescue Squad brought Goette back to life after he was declared dead for 24 minutes. "I remember going to Heaven, seeing my grandparents and my dad. My grandpa told me to go back to Earth."

Goette was in an induced coma for several days. He loves to tell his story and has related it to school children and to local church groups.

Mayor Goette now has another story to tell, one about how his community put an arm around him in a time of need.

Times earns 6 state awards

Outstanding community leadership takes place with the Steele County Times.

That's at least according to the Better Newspaper Contest through the Minnesota Newspaper Association as the Times captured the coveted Lynn Smith Community Leadership Award for the second time in four years.

On Thursday night, the Times received the top honor at the annual awards banquet of MNA in Bloomington. The Times also captured five other awards.

The Times earned third place with the Lynn Smith award, but it was the only weekly newspaper honored in the category. The top two winners were daily newspapers in Albert Lea and St. Cloud.

The Lynn Smith award recognizes local leadership initiatives that were encouraged, initiated or promoted by the newspaper. Leadership actions may have caused something positive to happen or may have prevented something negative from happening.

The Times was honored for its year-long campaign throughout 2016 and 2017 against drunk driving. The

campaign culminated with a special section last August. In honoring the Times, judges commented: "Detailed coverage and stories about the effects of drunk driving."

This is not the first time the Times has been honored for community leadership. In 2015, the local newspaper captured first place with the Lynn Smith award. The award is typically given to large daily newspapers.

The Times came away from this year's contest with one first place for sports reporting. Judges remarked, "I thought the front pages were eye-catching and well done, especially the wrestling one, Great job on the wrestling coverage overall and the preview section was nice. Nice balance of all the sports."

The newspaper picked up three second place awards for Editorial Page as a Whole, Website and Portrait and Personality photo. "Solid local pages, legislative directory is good, too," the judge said about the Times' editorial pages. The judges offered no comments about the website.

Publisher Rick Bussler received second place for his photo of Lowell

Trom, a Blooming Prairie area farmer harvesting his crops. The judges said, "A good low-key portrait, fittingly made for story."

The last award was a third place for Advertising Excellence. In choosing the Times, judges commented, "Visually appealing and eye-catching ads. Good use of punctuation. Nice use of spacing and backgrounds."

The Times competes in the weeklies 1,501-2,500 category for most of the contest categories. However, for the Lynn Smith award, the Times competed against all newspapers, including weeklies and dailies.

"I'm proud of the work my staff has accomplished over the past year, despite some internal challenges we faced," Bussler said. "It's humbling to be recognized by your peers for quality work we do week after week."

The Times' sister publication, the Dodge County Independent, also competed in the same category and earned four awards, including one first place for Typography and Design.

Since 2011, the Times has won 35 state awards and 19 national awards, including many first place honors.

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0130-0206

Public-private partnership unveiled to improve local water quality

Cedar River Watershed to benefit from precision ag, conservation

Water quality and farming operations in the Cedar River watershed will mutually benefit from the efforts of a new public-private partnership involving Mower Soil and Water Conservation District.

Partnership members unveiled their collaboration during an event Jan.18 at the Hormel Foods Corp.'s sales cabin in Austin for a group of local agricultural producers who work with CFS Cooperative, an ag retailer.

Described as a "first-of-its-kind," the Cedar River Watershed Partnership aims to improve water quality and address the watershed's water-resource challenges, such as flooding and sedimentation (excess soil in streams). It includes Mower SWCD; Hormel Foods; Land O'Lakes; CFS Cooperative; Minnesota Department of Agriculture; and Environmental Initiative, a nonprofit.

Mower SWCD district manager Justin Hanson, who also leads the Cedar River Watershed District, said the partnership hopefully will help provide a better bottom line for farmers while making positive gains for water quality.

"It's unreasonable to expect that we'll address all our water-resource issues through cost-sharing programs alone," Hanson said. "This partnership shifts the traditional service model for government and ag retail to instead empower landowners and producers with tools, information, technical assistance and financial resources to make the best decisions on their land."

Through the partnership's work, farmers in the Cedar River watershed – which covers parts of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele counties – can work with CFS Cooperative, Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN and Mower SWCD to help implement precision agricultural practices that address water-quality issues. Farmers, in turn, can voluntarily get certified in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

At the Jan. 18 event, Matt Wohlman, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, presented field signs for the MAWQCP program to four newly certified ag producers from

southern Minnesota – a fifth producer was unable to attend. Three of the producers – Justin Krell, Rodney Krell and Larry Schmeling – farm in the Cedar River watershed's upper areas around the city of Blooming Prairie.

MAWQCP – also called Ag Certainty – now has certified more than 500 producers statewide and helped improve water quality on more than 300,000 acres. The program rewards farmers for implementing certain practices that help improve water quality by offering specially designated technical and financial assistance and regulatory certainty for a 10-year period. Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN is the first Minnesota private sector business to assist farmers in getting certified in the program in conjunction with CFS.

"Bringing opportunities to our producers to improve their operations is very important to CFS," said Kevin Kruize, Precision Ag Manager at CFS. "With our Central Advantage GS platform and the partnerships we are establishing with the Cedar River Watershed Project, we are not only gaining insights



A new public-private partnership has been formed for the Cedar River Watershed. The partnership, which includes Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District, was announced Jan. 18 in Austin. The event also recognized newly certified farmers in the state's Ag Certainty program. Those in attendance included: (left to right) Lori Marco, Hormel Foods; Larry Schmeling, area farmer; Matt Carstens, Land O'Lakes; Tom Besch, area farmer; Ashley Schmeling, CFS Cooperative; Justin Krell, area farmer; Mike Harley, Environmental Initiative; James Nash Jr., area farmer; Matt Wohlman, deputy commissioner for Minnesota Department of Agriculture; and Justin Hanson, Mower Soil and Water Conservation District.

into each other's businesses, but are shining a new light on many of the practices our producers have been doing over the years with precision agriculture to support water quality and sustainability."

In a statement, Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson lauded the new partnership.

"We're pleased to be a part of this great partnership that is a model for others throughout Minnesota and the nation," Frederickson said. "The work being done in the Cedar River Watershed shows that we can help improve water quality while helping farmers improve their profitability and yield potentials through precision agriculture."

The Cedar River Watershed Partnership marks a major effort to fulfill a commitment to improve the state's water resources. In May 2016, Gov. Mark Dayton and Chris

Policinski, president and CEO for Land O'Lakes, signed a memorandum of understanding that brought together the resources of the agribusiness company and the state to help enhance Minnesota's water quality.

Farmers and agricultural landowners in the Cedar River watershed and Mower County can learn more about MAWQCP/Ag Certainty by contacting Mower SWCD's resource specialist Steve Lawler at 507-434-2603 or steve.lawler@mowerswcd.org.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Warm-blooded vertebrates

8. Semitic peoples

13. Supervise

14. Historical German territory

15. Sweat

19. The Wolverine State

20. China

21. Violent disturbances

22. A way to commemorate the dead

23. Midway between east and southeast

24. Bird genus

25. Trim

26. Disparaged

30. More coherent

31. Abnormal rattling sounds

32. Healthy appetizers

33. Partner to "shocked"

34. French pianist Pascal

35. Jokes

38. Marks to omit print

39. Tall

40. Coverage

44. "A Death in the Family" author

45. Role of highlights

46. Fixed-radio access

47. Partly digested food

48. "Lamb Chop" puppeteer Lewis

49. In support of

50. Aluminum

51. Reduction in value over time

55. Running events

57. Portuguese region

58. Slovenly women

59. Strongly criticized

1. Wiped up

2. Opposed to

3. Macon, GA, university

4. Wife

5. Small viper

6. Polynesia garland of flowers

7. Saw-like

8. Maltese-Italian compos-

er Girolamo

9. Moved faster than walking

10. Commercial

11. Covered with mud

12. Marksmen

16. Buenos ___

17. Tailless amphibian

18. Belonging to a thing

22. Mars crater

25. Most fair

27. Citrus fruit

28. Awkward

29. Brews

30. Beloved late broadcaster Craig

32. All alone

34. Copies

35. Poster

36. Symmetrical

37. Grew older

38. Makes tractors

40. Not the front

41. State as fact

42. Long, narrow cut

43. Worked hard for

45. Indicates position in a box score

48. Tax

51. "Lookout Weekend" singer Debbie

52. Unhealthy

53. Imam name ___ Khan

54. A woolen cap of Scottish origin (abbr.)

56. The Golden State

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How to Find Volunteer Opportunities in Retirement



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Dear Savvy Senior,
What resources can you recommend for locating interesting volunteer opportunities? Since I retired, I've been doing some volunteer work but most of the opportunities I've tried haven't been very satisfying. Unsatisfied Volunteer

Dear Volunteer,

For many retirees, finding a volunteer opportunity that satisfies your interests, utilizes your talents and matches your availability can be challenging. To help you find an interesting and satisfying volunteer opportunity, here are some tips and online tools that can help you search.

Getting Started

Volunteering is a great way for retirees to make a positive contribution to their community and stay actively engaged, not to mention it's good for your health too. But how can you find the right opportunity for you? Start by asking yourself some basic questions like: What types of organizations or activities are you interested in? What kind of skills can you offer a volunteer organization? How much time are you willing to give? What do you want to gain from your experience (for example, meet new people, learn new skills, help those in need, exposure to a particular issue)?

Once you get a general idea of what you'd like to do, there are dozens of volunteer websites that can help you search for different opportunities in your area.

Most sites work like search engines that let you choose an area of interest and type in your ZIP code or city and state. The sites will then give you a list of opportunities that you can check into. Depending on your interest and expertise, here are some top websites to help you get started.

General volunteer matching sites: To find a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in your

community, check out VolunteerMatch.org, IdeaList.org and AllForGood.org – a Point of Light website (the world's leading volunteer service organization) that lets you search for local volunteer opportunities or start your own project and invite others to help you. Also see HandsOnNetwork.org, another Point of Light enterprise that connects volunteers to opportunities through more than 250 volunteer centers throughout the U.S.

Retiree volunteer sites: If you're interested in opportunities targeting older adults and retirees, some good options include AARP's CreateTheGood.org, along with SeniorCorps.gov, which matches retirees with community projects and organizations that need experienced volunteer help.

Senior Corps offers three different programs: RSVP, which has a variety of volunteer activities with flexible time commitments; the Senior Companion Program that brings together volunteers with homebound seniors who have difficulty with day-to-day living tasks; and the Foster Grandparent Program that matches volunteers with kids in the community that have exceptional needs.

Government-sponsored sites: There are also a number of government-sponsored websites that can help you look for different volunteer opportunities. To locate dozens of general options in your area visit Serve.gov. To find natural and cultural volunteer opportunities in places like national and state parks, see Volunteer.gov. If you're interested in emergency preparedness and disaster response volunteer services go to Ready.gov. Or, if you're interested in longer-term volunteer opportunities check out AmeriCorps.gov and PeaceCorps.gov/50plus, which offers a bevy of three-month to two-year programs in the U.S and abroad.

Professional and executive sites: If you have expertise in areas like business planning and development, marketing, communications, finance, fund raising, web and graphic design, or writing and editing there are sites – like Catchafire.org, TaprootPlus.org and ESCUS.org – that can link you to volunteer opportunities with nonprofit organizations in need. Or, you can help entrepreneurs and small business owners through the SCORE.org volunteer mentoring program.

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.

Judge doubles jail time for Times embezzler

Restitution on hold as Hammer challenges the issue

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The former business manager of the Steele County Times will spend nearly two months in the county jail for her role in an embezzlement scheme at the newspaper in 2016.



Hammer

On Thursday, Steele County Judge Karen Duncan sentenced Kimberly Kay Hammer, 54, of Clarks Grove to 60 days in jail. Assistant county attorney Julia Forbes had asked for 30-days of jail time, but the judge responded by doubling the sentence.

Judge Duncan offered no explanation in court about why she handed down the tougher sentence. Asked about the sentence after the hearing, prosecutor Forbes speculated that the judge did so because of a "breach of trust" in the case.

In addition to the jail sentence, Hammer was ordered to serve five years probation, cooperate with probation, have no contact with the newspaper and abstain from any alcohol or other chemicals. She will also have to pay a small fine.

Forbes asked the court to order restitution of \$15,848. However,

the issue has been deferred at this time as Hammer is challenging the restitution. A special restitution hearing will likely be called at a later date, Forbes said.

Hammer pleaded guilty to a single felony count of theft on Nov. 21. She embezzled funds from the newspaper between February and October 2016. The company lost nearly \$16,000 from the embezzlement and other expenses incurred because of Hammer's actions.

The police investigation showed that Hammer wrote duplicate paychecks to herself on numerous occasions, as well as writing petty cash checks and cashing them at a Blooming Prairie bank. The checks ranged from \$75 to \$700, court records show.

Hammer attempted to cover her tracks by altering company deposit slips to account for her double paychecks.

Johnson, Doerhoefer and Miner accounting firm of Blooming Prairie verified the embezzlement after conducting an audit on the company business records.

As soon as the embezzlement came to light, Hammer was fired from her job. She had only worked for the company for eight months. The embezzlement started less than two months after she had been hired.

COYOTES: Unusual hunt benefits local cancer group

FROM PAGE A1

Object of the fundraiser was to have coyote hunters hunt during the daylight hours.

Then the hunters and friends met at The Cue Company to celebrate the hunt by buying raffle tickets and by enjoying some home cooked soup prepared by Collette Lea of The Cue Company.

She made some delicious chicken wild rice soup and potato and ham soup. Some homemade bars and cookies were also on the food table. Guests were asked to leave a free will offering.

An estimated 200 individuals attended the first annual affair.

"The event went far beyond our expectations," said Craig Anderson, one of the organizers. "We are so grateful for those who attended the fundraiser and for those who donated prizes to be given away on a series of raffles," added Elliott Herdina, the other organizer of the event.

Anderson and Herdina offered special thanks to Collette and Tony Lea for helping host the fundraiser.

About 30 hunters went out on the hunt during the day and brought

their collection of coyote hides to the back parking lot of The Cue Company. Hunters brought in 12 carcasses, three skinned animals and one red fox pelt.

"We are very thankful to the landowners in Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele counties who let us hunt," Herdina said.

A group photo was taken and posted on the Minnesota Coyote Chasers Facebook page by Gary Spatenka.

The furs were sold to Cumberland's Northwest Trappers Supply, Inc. of Owatonna.

Raffle tickets were sold during the night and winners announced by Herdina.

A Savage Axis II .223 was won by Lindsey Hanson of Hayfield. It was donated by Wiebke Fur. A Husqvarna chainsaw, donated by Jeff and Craig Anderson, was won by Julie Noble of Blooming Prairie.

On the silent auction, a four-hour guided fishing trip was donated by Clear Lake Bait & Tackle and won by Greg Johnson from B to Z Hardware.

"This effort was just unbelievable," said Cheri Krejci of the BP Cancer Group. "We thank them over and over," she added.

SUPER BOWL: Surprise gift for Medford student

FROM PAGE A1

began to speak.

"We were actually talking about him before he came to talk to us," Pleschourt said. "Once he gave me the tickets, I really didn't know what to say."

Pleschourt, a sophomore at Medford High School, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma on Oct. 4.

Miraculously, after undergoing intense chemotherapy treatment the past four months, doctors no longer see any cancer in Pleschourt's body.

"He had his last round of chemo on New Year's," said Pleschourt's mother, Heather Lique. "He goes in on Feb. 9 to have his final tests and scans and all that. So, we will find out everything that day."

Lique said the family would like to thank the For A Day Foundation because they're the ones who gave Pleschourt tickets to the Saints game and started everything.

"I'm not sure how it all transpired from there and how Goodell found out," Lique said. "It

just means a lot to us. Everyone had been so supportive and tried to do so much for Logan and our family."

The For A Day Foundation also worked it out so the family received two additional tickets so they all could attend.

"I didn't know who to chose and it was hard decision,"

Heather Lique
Logan's Mother

Pleschourt said. "So they ended up sending two more tickets which made things easier for me."

Lique said she's not a huge football fan, but she is extremely thankful for the chance to attend the game with her family.

"I'm going so I can see Logan enjoy it all," she said. "I'm just looking forward to seeing the look on face and enjoying the whole experience."

"Everything has just been kind of whirlwind," Lique continued. "We are very excited for Logan to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Pleschourt said he is a weird combination of a Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers fan, but he will be cheering for the Philadelphia Eagles in the big game.

"I'd just like to see them win," he said. "I'm sure it's been a while since they have been in the Super Bowl. I just can't wait to be at the game and soak everything in."

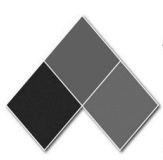
SUPER BOWL MANIA

See special section inside

Tab highlights the Super Bowl with stories involving Steele County area residents and businesses.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cashwise Liquor of Owatonna has donated \$3,060 to the Owatonna Foundation. Making the presentation were (left to right) Dale Gandrud, Foundation trustee; Dave Issacson, Cashwise Liquor manager; and Ray Stawarz, Betsy Lindgren, Matt Kottke and Bob Heers, all trustees of the Foundation.

Cashwise Liquor donates to the Owatonna Foundation

Cashwise Liquor of Owatonna recently made an in-kind donation of \$3,060 to the Owatonna Foundation. “We are extremely grateful to Cashwise Liquor for their continued support of our Wine and Beer Fundraiser,” said Laura Resler, executive director of the Foundation. “For several years they have organized and sold tickets for a wine and beer tasting for us. The tasting has been an important annual fundraiser for the Foundation. Their continued commitment helps us to continue the Foundation’s mission of improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education.” The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 60th year of serving the Owatonna community, provides capital grants in Owatonna and its environs. The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$11.8 million dollars in grants to Owatonna projects and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students. For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit our website at: www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call our office at 507-455-2995.

Recipe Corner

Corn Tortillas with rajas and queso

Makes 8 tacos

Rajas

4 fresh poblano chiles
Olive oil, for brushing

2 large yellow onions, peeled and cut into 12- inch slices

Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese (for topping)

Soft Corn Tortillas

1 cup instant corn masa flour

18 teaspoon salt

23 cup warm water

Prepare a hot fire in your grill. Brush the poblanos with oil and grill, turning often, until the skins blister and burn. Transfer to a plastic bag and let them steam. Brush the onions with oil and grill marks on both sides. Remove the stems, skin and seeds from the poblanos, and then slice into strips. Cut the onion slices in half and break apart. Combine the poblanos and onions and season to taste. Keep warm until serving.

To make the tortillas, place the masa flour and salt in a bowl. Stir in the water to make soft dough, adding water if necessary. Divide the dough into 8 portions, forming each into a ball. Cover with a damp cloth to keep the dough moist. Place each ball of dough between two unopened plastic sandwich bags, then press to a 5- to 6-inch round in a tortilla press. Preheat an ungreased skillet over medium-high heat. Cook each tortilla for 1 minute on each side until golden in spots. Cover with a damp tea towel until ready to serve.

Divide the rajas evenly between the 8 tortillas and sprinkle 1/4 cup of cheese on each taco.

Sponsored by

Krejci Ford

15th Presidents Award Winner

Bloomington, 583-2046

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Save money at the library



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

One of the smartest ways to save money this year is to use the services offered by the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Instead of purchasing books, magazines, movies, and audiobooks, just come in and check them out. If we don't own the specific item you are looking for, we will do our best to get it from other libraries throughout the state of Minnesota. But there are more ways to save money through your library. If you don't want to invest in your own internet

service at home, come and use our wireless internet. Have a Nook, Kindle, iPad, or other device? Try out the new Libby app, an easier version of Overdrive. You can access both audiobooks and ebooks through Libby. Items are checked out for three weeks and there are no late fees! Want to learn a new language? Mango Languages can teach you 70 different languages online for free with your library card. Your library card also allows you to use the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM). These databases provide information from magazines, journals, newspapers, and encyclopedias. All of those services and more can easily be reached by links at www.owatonna.info. While at that site you may want to look at “What's New at the Library,” and try the Library Value Calculator to discover how much money you save by using the library.

HARVEST OF THE MONTH Mango, Okra, Cayenne

Bloomington Elementary School Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

Prices

Breakfast: Regular \$2.40, Reduced/Free \$0.00, Adult \$3.65, Milk (extra or with sack lunch) \$0.50

Wednesday, Jan. 31
Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait with Fruit and Granola, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Italian Meatball Sub, Tex Mex Bowl, Ginger Cookie

Thursday, Feb. 1
Breakfast: Long John, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk
Lunch: Roasted Hot Dog on a Bun, Oven Roasted Chicken, French Bread, Baked Potato Halves

Friday, Feb. 2
Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Cowboy BBQ Burger, Roasted Broccoli

Monday, Feb. 5
Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait w/ Fruit & Granola, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Chicken Tender Basket, Fish Nugget Basket, French Bread, Kettle Potato Chips, Rice Krispie Treat

Tuesday, Feb. 6
Breakfast: Long John, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk
Lunch: Breakfast Pizza, Easy Egg Bake, Cinnamon Roll, Minted Fruit Salad

Wednesday, Feb. 7
Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, 1% Milk
Lunch: Pulled Pork Sliders, Italian Meatball Sub, Tator Tots

Breakfast: Milk choice of 1% White or Skim is included with breakfast. **Lunch:** Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate. Skim is included with lunch. **Entree Salads** are served with Dinner Roll.

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

HARVEST OF THE MONTH Mango, Okra, Cayenne

Bloomington High School Lunch Menu

All meals subject to change without notice

CC = Classic Cafe

DC = Diner Cafe

GG = Chef Salad

CS = Creation Station

PP = Pizza Parlor

Wednesday, Jan. 31
CC: Tex Mex Bowl, Spicy Pinto Beans **DC:** Fish Nuggets
GG: Ham Munchable
CS: Sweet and Sour Chicken

Thursday, Feb. 1
CC: Oven Roasted Chicken, Baked Potato Halves, French Bread, Chocolate Chip Cookie
DC: BBQ Rib Sandwich
PP: Breakfast Pizza **CS:** Build Your Own Baked Potato

Friday, Feb. 2
CC: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup **DC:** Crispy Chicken Tenders **CS:** Build Your Own Sub

Monday, Feb. 5
CC: Chicken Parmesan w/ Pasta **DC:** Fish Sandwich with Cheese **GG:** Chicken Caesar Salad **CS:** Sweet & Sour Chicken

Tuesday, Feb. 6
CC: Walking Taco, Refried Beans, Rice Krispie Treat **DC:** Cheeseburger on Bun **PP:** Pepperoni Pizza

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate, Skim is included with lunch. **Entree Salads** are Served with Dinner Roll

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

DEATH NOTICE

Dennis Johnson, 93 Blooming Prairie

Dennis Johnson, 93, of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2018 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018 at 11 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service. Interment will be in Union Cemetery at Bixby. Arrangements are being handled by Worlein Funeral Home in Blooming Prairie. A full obituary will appear in next week's Times.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 30
Julia Manges
Michelle Krell
Ken Behnken
Jess Motl
Norah Savage

Jan. 31
Tammy Wehner
Cara Ramsey
Chelsea Miller
Gloria Hernandez

Feb. 1
Jon Vogt
Nathan Arndt
Cody Doerhoefer
Kim Meiners

Feb. 2
Mary Burr
Joe Farr
Brayton Ingvalson
Ayvah Sunde
David Clark
Mike Farr
Don Hameister
Ayla Ingvalson

Feb. 3
Ryan Klemmensen
Jay Iverson
Sophie Thomas
Natalie Winzenburg
Dan Miner
Emery Clayton

Feb. 4
Justin Peterson

Samantha Abbe
Michael Thomas
Andi Klemmensen
Gabriella Salinas
Andi Klemmensen

Feb. 5
Josh Johnson
Melanie Winzenburg
Christopher Anderson

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 2
Tom & Nancy Peterson

Feb. 4
Alan & Melody Benson

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Tuesday - Ham
Wednesday - Turkey

Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef

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SEMCAC Senior Menu

All meals subject to change

Wednesday, Jan. 31
Chicken Chili, Crackers, Tossed Green Salad, Muffin, Hawaiian Cake

Thursday, Feb. 1
Pork Loin Steak With Dressing/Gravy, Parslied Carrots, Cinnamon Applesauce, Banana Pudding

Friday, Feb. 2
Goulash, Coleslaw, Pineapple Slices, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Crisp

Monday, Feb. 5
Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Pudding

Tuesday, Feb. 6
Chicken Parmesan, Cheese Scalloped Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Fresh Fruit

GRIEF RELIEF



Many people aren't quite sure what to say when they visit a funeral home. The fact is nothing can be said to adequately express our lost or make the bereaved

family member to feel better. Words are not important. But it is appreciated that you care enough to express your sympathy. When a friend loses a loved one convey your feelings at the funeral home with a hug or a word. And offer your assistance. You'll be appreciated for caring.

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Cory Michaelson

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Folks are not alone with faith communities



PASTOR STEPHANIE WOOD
AURORA AND TRINITY LUTHERAN, OWATONNA AND BLOOMING PRAIRIE can be. Instead, it is a mix of scrap cloths that seem placed together without much rhyme or reason. The only detail work on this rather average looking quilt is two machine-stitched names, the name of the church I grew

up in and mine.
I received this quilt from my home church when I graduated from high school. The quilting ladies with love made it. Each high school graduate received a quilt so that it might remind him or her of Holy Cross. It served as a physical symbol of this community that had watched me grow up. As a child, it was there that an elder named John gave me and others candy whenever we said hi. Despite my spunkiness and questions about faith in my teenage years, it was my Sunday school teachers and chaperones that listened patiently as they allowed me to challenge them. This church became a second home. I saw people more regularly there then I did my own extended family. As a result, they became another family, my church family.
Quilts, by their nature of being a quilt, require multiple pieces. It is a fitting image for that of a community

of faith. A scrap of four-inch cloth is limited in its purpose but combined with others it becomes a blanket to keep one warm, walls in a refugee camp and a comforting reminder of loved ones. As a community of faith we are stronger together, made up of folks with different gifts and backgrounds. We may rely on each other for encouragement and support. United in Christ, in faith, we can work together as we care for our neighbor and the world.
Like my patchwork quilt, faith communities are not perfect. Some folks have even experienced them at their worst. Yet knowing their potential, I wouldn't trade them for anything. It is in part due to the people who gave me that quilt that I became a pastor. It is because of communities of faith that folks are not alone when they struggle spiritually, financially or personally. When we are at our best, we can transform a life and the world.

OBITUARY

Sandra Lee Shanley, 75
formerly of Blooming Prairie

Memorial services will be held at a later date for Sandra Lee Shanley (nee Youngdahl), 75, of Anoka. Sandra was born in Chicago on Sept. 9, 1942 and died on Dec. 23, 2017.
Sandra grew up on farms in Iowa and Blooming Prairie. She attended the University of Minnesota for her B.A. in history and M.A. in library science. Sandra was a librarian her entire life despite Multiple Sclerosis. She never stopped reading and searching out new information.
After her MS retirement, she was a volunteer coordinator for the local Meals on Wheels for over 25 years, a volunteer caller for Family Table and the Blood Drive at Zion Lutheran in Anoka. She was a proud member of the League of Women Voters for over 30 years.
She is survived by husband Dennis and daughter Elisabeth; brothers Phillip, Douglas (Kristi), and Carl (Patricia) Youngdahl of Sacramento, Calif.; sister-in-law Linda Shanley of Woodbury; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.
Sandra is preceded in death by parents Ann (Johnson) and Anton Youngdahl of Blooming Prairie, later Paradise, Calif. Arrangements are being handled by Cremation Society of Minnesota in Brooklyn Park.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
106 Third St. SE., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
507-256-4288
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC
503 Radel Ct., Ellendale
Pastor Richard Sliper
507-684-2451
Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship;
10:15 a.m. Sunday School/
Confirmation
Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer,
open to all churches
Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy;
3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6
p.m.
Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m.
Youth Group
Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m.
Dec. 24

FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA
434 First St. SW.,
Blooming Prairie
Rev. Heidi Heimgartner,
507-583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sundays
Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC
8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
507-451-3854
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15
a.m. Sun.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS
2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna
Rev. Mark Rosenau,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Greg Schlicker,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4125
www.goodshepherd
owatonna.com
Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA
7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
507-789-6661
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA
9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale
Pastor Mike Walerius
507-465-8366
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
507-451-2720
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Education Hour:
10:15 a.m. Sun.

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday;
10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
Pastor Collin Duling
507-251-5568
Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Pastor Dwight DoBell
507-567-2474
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA
2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
5881 SE 118th St.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
(First Sunday of the month)

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior
Pastor
Rev. Dean Smith,
Associate Pastor
Rev. Amanda Weinkauff,
Associate Pastor
507-451-4520
www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.;
Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. &
10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m.
Sunday School:

8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA
104 First St. SE., Hayfield
Pastor Paul Hauschild
507-477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Worship: 8 a.m.
& 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
108 Third Ave. SW., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighaus
507-451-0447
Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun.
Education Hour:
9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun.

TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS
57043 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
203 Second Ave. NW., Medford
507-451-6353
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 SW First St., New Richland
Father Raul Silva
Fr. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
507-465-8217
Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend
Presider
507-451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Church for
Preschool – 1st Grade
began Sept. 24
Faith Formation for
Kindergarten
– Confirmation: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays
Adult Study: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St., Hayfield
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-477-2256
Mass: 8 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Thursday
Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL
230 Locust Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
507-363-2240
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.;
6:30 p.m. Wednesday

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(Seven miles west of
Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST
200 Sixth St. NW., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksema
507-684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST

815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate
Pastor
Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor
507-451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Contemporary Worship:
10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School/Adult Classes:
10 a.m.
Wednesday night
service at 6:30 p.m.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY
130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous
Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK
30 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
507-477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN
Owatonna Campus
422 North St., Owatonna
Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht
507-254-8514
www.destinyc.org
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.

ELEVATION NORTH
2002 Austin Road, Owatonna
Pastor Doug Jones
507-363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.
com
Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
Spanish Evangelism & Prayer:
7 p.m. Friday

NEW BEGINNINGS
332 14th St. NE., Owatonna
Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson
507-721-1366
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Gateway Connection:
6 p.m. Sun.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across
the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming
Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting:
7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and
United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.
(Fellowship, Church School,
and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept –
May (see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE,
Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

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Enforcement officers, firefighter and other individuals from area businesses take the Polar Plunge on Saturday at Lake Kohlmeier.

Ava Kylo, daughter of Eric and Lisa, won **GRAND CHAMPION** full-blood Aberdeen heifer and also **Supreme Exhibit** at the National Western Stock Show Denver Colorado 2018.

State Farm

Plemel Insurance Agency

Owatonna – Blooming Prairie

State Farm – Plemel Insurance Agency in Owatonna is pleased to announce a satellite office in Blooming Prairie, MN.

Plemel Insurance Agency has been serving clients out of its Owatonna Location since 1999. With the retirement of State Farm Agent Dale Borchert it was a perfect opportunity to give clients the ability to be assisted with Insurance and Financial Services in two locations.

The State Farm – Blooming Prairie office will remain at its current location:
417 Highway Ave S, Blooming Prairie.
The office will be staffed fulltime
January 1st, 2018.

Plemel Insurance Agency

920 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna
Phone: 507-451-4619

417 Highway Ave S.
Blooming Prairie
Phone: 507-583-7747

TAX PREP GUIDE

Filing deadline extended two days this year

The filing deadline to submit 2017 tax returns is Tuesday, April 17, rather than the traditional April 15 date. In 2018, April 15 falls on a Sunday, and this would usually move the filing deadline to the following Monday – April 16. However, Emancipation Day – a legal holiday in the District of Columbia – will be observed on that Monday, which pushes the nation's filing deadline to Tuesday, April 17, 2018. Under the tax law, legal holidays in the District of Columbia affect the filing deadline across the nation. The IRS also has been working with the tax industry and state revenue departments as part of the Security Summit initiative to continue strengthening processing systems to protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. The IRS and Summit partners continued to improve these safeguards to further protect taxpayers filing in 2018.

Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

607 East Main St. • P.O. Box 756 • Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Ellen Stebbins Phone: 507-583-6601
Accountant - EA,RAP, ABA 507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

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BASKETBALL

Huskies' D smothers Tigers, Scarlets

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna boys' basketball team has won eight consecutive games and have been playing as well as any team in the state since Jan. 4.

The Huskies remain among the top of the Big 9 and improved their season record to 11-4 by defeating two conference foes this past week.

Owatonna trailed Austin by one game for the top spot in the conference.

Owatonna coach Josh Williams said Huskies control their own destiny and fans will definitely see what the team is made of the down the stretch.

"I knew we could be here in this position," he said. "But I didn't know if we would be."

Owatonna won, 73-25, against Albert Lea (0-14) on Friday and 76-49 on Saturday versus Mankato West (10-7).

Williams said the number one key to the Albert Lea game was turnovers.

The Huskies forced 35 turnovers against Tigers.

Williams said Nolan Malo spectacular play in the first half gave the early boost it needed to run away with the game.

"[Malo] probably had three 3-pointers in first eight minutes," Williams said.

"Defensively, he got us jumpstarted as well."

Williams said the strong start allowed the Huskies to get into their press and push the tempo of the game.

"We like to play higher possession games and get up and down floor," he said. "We just played well for 36 minutes."

Malo led the Huskies with 15 points. Jason Williamson had 14; Dalton Kubista 12; Alex Raichle 11, Steven Eckard four; Abe Havelka, Andrew Jackson, Jared Fett and Isaac Oppehard had three and Carson Dekam had two.

Senior Andrew Jackson said the Huskies' mentality entering games had played a major role in their recent success.

"We really focus on coming in hard and fast," he said. "We have so much talents, length and height that we know we can do great things."

Jackson said he knew the Huskies were going to be great team despite starting the season 3-4.

"We just needed a couple of games to get our legs underneath us," Jackson said.

Senior Alex Raichle added, "We knew we had talent, but we just weren't gelling right away. We didn't really have the chemistry yet. As soon as we got some practices and games under our belts, the chemistry rouse and we finally started gelling."

Kubista scored a game-high 32 against Mankato West. Malo had 17, Jackson scored 16, Raichle had four and Havelka and Fett added two each.

HUSKIES LOOKING FOR REVENGE

Owatonna plays at Northfield (12-4) on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

It should be one of the top games in the state this week as both team are still in the hunt for the conference championship.

Northfield defeated Owatonna 56-44 on Dec. 12.

Northfield is ranked No. 9 in Class 3A and is led by Alec Rasmussen, who has scored 16.1 points per game this season.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DENNIS MARSHALL
Owatonna's Evan Dushek shoots over an Albert Lea defender on Friday in the Huskies' 73-25 blowout.

WRESTLING

Robb pins his way into Owatonna record book



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL
Owatonna's Peyton Robb pins Austin's Chance Brady on Thursday. The Huskies defeated the Packers 72-4.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna senior Peyton Robb added another impressive accolade to prep career on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Hutchinson Invitational when he broke the school's career pins record.

The previous record of 94. Robb now has 99 in his career and 24 this season. He has a chance to surpass the Owatonna single-season record of 34.

"Peyton Robb has put together a pretty remarkable career both here at Owatonna and in the offseason wrestling," Owatonna coach Adam Voitalla said. "We are just extremely happy for [Robb]. He works tremendously hard and its great to see it pay off. It's a pretty big accomplishment anytime you set a school record."

Robb said it will be nice having his name in the record book as the Huskies' career pins leaders, but it's far from his ultimate goal.

"It means a lot, but it not as nearly as important as the goals I have set for the state tournament this year," he said. "I want solidify my career with another state championship and that's what I'm working for."

Robb won state championship in 2016 at the 120-pound weight class and in 2015 at 106.

Robb said he wants to be remembered as a team player and as a role model, who helped the younger wrestlers.

"When I was seventh grade I was the in the varsity room, but I wasn't the varsity starter," he said. "Working with those older guys made me a lot better because they were so much bigger and they pushed me to my max and that really made me grow as a wrestler."

HUSKIES WINS PAIR AT HOME

Owatonna defeated Mankato East, 51-12, and Austin, 72-4, on Thursday in their first home matches of the year.

"We just kept the energy high and pushed through our matches," Robb said. "It just felt good to wrestle and get some pins in front home crowd."

Voitalla said the team came out and was aggressive from start to finish.

"That's why the scores where they way they were," he said. "Overall, we were very happy with how our kids wrestled."

OWATONNA PLACES THIRD AT TOURNAMENT

The Huskies finished third at the Bloomington Tournament on Saturday.

Owatonna defeated Woodbury in the first round. However, the Huskies lost 29-24 to Zumbrota-Mazeppa, ranked No. 1 in Class A, in the second round. The team followed up the loss by defeating Hastings 34-33.

"The boys are wrestling extremely tough right now," Voitalla said. "We have had a very tough, grueling schedule because we haven't shied away from any of the top competition in the state. The kids have been progressing well and we have seen improvement every week."

FINAL COUNTDOWN FOR EPIC BIG 9 BATTLE

Owatonna will take on Big 9 Conference rival Albert Lea at 3 p.m. on Saturday at home. The meet between two of the top 10 teams in Class AAA has been rescheduled twice this season due to weather.

Robb said there are a lot of different aspect at play when discussing the meet.

"First of all, of course, is bragging rights," he said. " Also we want to win in front of the home crowd. There is also the Big 9 Conference Championship. There is a likelihood that we will be conference champs if we win that meet. Then there is the section seeding, which is another important part because the better seed you have the more likely you are

SEE OWATONNA, B4

BASKETBALL

Panthers maul Tigers

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys' basketball team gained control midway through the first half and never looked back the rest of the way in a 69-36 win over Gopher Conference rival Medford on Saturday.

The Panthers improved to 14-1 and 7-0 in the conference, while the Tigers fell to 2-11 and 0-7 in the conference.

"I thought defensively, we were pretty solid all night long taking away many good looks for them," NRHEG coach Pat Churchill said. "Offensively, we had a lot of balance."

Benji Lundberg led the way with 22 points, Brady Agrimson chipped in 12, Ryan Hannegrefs added, Jerret Utpadal had eight, Jacob Schuller scored seven, Nathaniel Techau contributed six, Blake Ihrke scored two and Gabe Dahle finished with one.

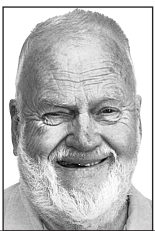
NRHEG is back in action on Tuesday night when they travel to Le Seuer Henderson.

"We ran into a really tough NRHEG team tonight," Medford coach Todd Schneider said. "They are just a much better team than we are. That is a big, deep, athletic team that just over powered us tonight. They are the best team we've seen this year."

Cole Volkmann led the Tigers with 14, Noah PirkI added eight, Ben Sutcliffe scored five, Ryan Hermanstorfer, Brett Johnson and AJ Vanderide contributed two each and Jerone Chavis had one.

Medford return to action on Friday at United South Central.

SPORTS INTERRUPTED



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The first snowstorm of the winter, in fact, the biggest one-day snowfall in almost seven years, put a real crimp in high school sports last week. With no school in session on Monday or Tuesday, several contests had to be postponed, and the basketball teams had to reschedule games against Medford

because of the large amount of snow that fell on the two communities. Later in the week, however, the teams all got back on track.

At that, it seems that our community kind of sat on an island in the storm, as we fell short of the 17 inches or so that descended on Owatonna, and neighboring Austin dealt with less than seven inches. Don't get me wrong, our amount provided plenty of headaches for a couple of days, as roads caused driving problems for motorists early in the week. Anyway, I think most residents found this storm enough for a time.

SEE OTL, B4



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BASKETBALL

New Richland girls tame Medford Tigers

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls' basketball team was limited to a single game for the week because of the snowstorm that knocked all competition in the surrounding area. In that one, the Panthers were able to take a lead in the second half and hung on to that lead for a 59-51 victory over the Medford Tigers. The win improved the season record to 11-5 overall and 6-2 in the Gopher Conference. "In the first few minutes, we were a little slow," NRHEG coach Onika Peterson said. "But the girls turned it around by moving the ball well and dominating the rebounds. It was good to pick up an other conference win." Betsy Schoenrock picked up another double-double with 20 points, 10 rebounds and seven blocked shots. Olivia Christopherson chipped in 14 points, four assists, and three steals. Kelly Harden and Sophie Stork both pulled down seven rebounds and Sidney Schultz contributed 10 points, three assists and four steals. Medford dropped to 9-5 and 3-4 in the conference.

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WRESTLING



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Westfield takes another title

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

For the second time in a week, the Westfield Razorbacks won a big tournament, this time the eleven-team Lake City Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 27. That followed two wins earlier in a home triangular and another tournament victory a week before. In winning the Lake City Invitational, Westfield finished 24 points ahead of second place Northfield. Rochester Mayo placed third, Chatfield fourth and

Wabasha-Kellogg rounded out the top five. Individually, the Razorbacks captured four firsts, two seconds and a fourth place in their total points. At the 106-pound weight class, Ethan Arett took a 7-0 decision over Chase Murphy (Northfield) in the championship bout. Arett earlier won a hard-fought 3-1 verdict over Mason West (Lake City) and won a major decision over Rick Kobayashi (Mayo). Seth Peterson won at 152 by pinning Kolby Olson (Northfield) at 2:21 of the first period. He won his way to the finals with a fall over Bo Noble (Medford), and an

earlier pin of Luke Ihrke (Chatfield) in just over a minute. Colton Krell pinned Cooper Holtorf of Wabasha-Kellogg at 160. He earlier won two bouts by falls over Danny Reynolds (Andover) and Jack Stanton (Northfield). The final first for the Razorbacks came from Morgan Moreno at 195. Moreno pinned Reece Lemke (Dover-Eyota) in just seconds of the finals after first pinning Masyn Elvebak (USC) in two minutes and Dedric Burger (Mayo) in the first period. Both Dylan Nirk and Mitchell Oswald lost in the finals to settle for second. Nirk lost a 3-1 decision

to Carson Ties of Mayo, after winning his first two bouts by falls. Noah Carter (Mayo) earned a 4-1 verdict over Oswald in the title bout. Oswald pinned Alex Bushman (Dover-Eyota) in 1:27 and David Garza (USC) in just 16 seconds to reach the finals. Tristan Rieken lost his bout for third place to Logan Wendt (Saint Charles) by a 7-4 decision. There were three other Westfield wrestlers who competed, but did not place in the tournament. It was quite a day for the Razorbacks. WESTFIELD DOUBLE WINNER After a close 42-35 win over Medford, the Razorbacks had an easier time defeating Byron in a triangular meet on the home mat Thursday, Jan. 25. The locals trounced Byron 57-17 after outpointing the Tigers in the meet opener. There were seven Razorbacks who went 2-0 in their bouts. Westfield took its first lead at 18-17 against Byron, when Payton Simon had a quick takedown and turned it into the first period pin. The Bears won three of the first four bouts with two pins and a major decision, but they

couldn't muster another point in the entire match. The final seven Razorbacks all won by a fall. In the opening match against Medford took a 31-12 lead after 8 bouts, but the Tigers managed just 4 more points in the contest to take the loss. Payton Simon started the run for Westfield with quick fall over Gorge McCarthy at 145. Bo Noble stopped the comeback with a second period pin over Seth Peterson at 152, but Dylan Ehmke used a first period takedown and a second period reversal to take down Zach Wiemke at 165. Colton Krell pinned Greg Larson in 3:20 at 170, before Medford's Nate Meixner won a major 10-3 verdict over Tristan Rieken at 182. Morgan Moreno pinned Nate McCarty in just seconds at 195, Dylan Nirk won by forfeit, and Mitchell Oswald finished the match with another forfeit at heavyweight. Ethan Arett, Simon, Ehmke, Krell, Moreno, Nirk, and Oswald all won both of their bouts in the triangular meet.

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★ STARS OF STEELE ★

Peyton Robb

BOYS

Owatonna wrestler Peyton Robb helped the Huskies have a very successful week. Owatonna won five matches and Robb broke the school's record for pins in a career.

McKenna Hein

GIRLS

Bloomington girls basketball player McKenna Hein scored a game-high 20 points in Awesome Blossoms' 65-56 victory over Aden Conger on Saturday. Hein also had six steals.

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BASKETBALL



Blooming Prairie's McKenna Hein and Ayren Ingvalson trap a USC ball handler on Friday.

STAFF PHOTOS: DENNIS MARSHALL

Blossom girls storm past Knights

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After a high-scoring first half, the Awesome Blossom girls continued to play well and came home with a 65-56 victory over Aden-Conger on Saturday, Jan. 27. The locals increased the advantage to 20 points at one time in the second half, but a late AC rally cut the margin at the end. BP's record mounted to 11-4 for the year.

"We got another win tonight on the road," BP coach John Bruns said. "We played very well tonight, and we were able to hold off a late rally by the home team. Four girls reached double figures and we really took good care of the ball for much of the game."

McKenna Hein scored a game-high 20 points and Sam Wurst recorded another double-double with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Julia Worke and Megan Oswald both added 12 points for BP. Hein also had six steals and an assist for the night, and Oswald pilfered the ball a half dozen times as well. The team shot 43 percent from the field on 29-of-65 attempts, but shot poorly from the free throw line at just 42 percent, getting to the stripe only seven times in the game. The team turned the ball over 16 times in this contest.

The JV girls played an outstanding game and defeated the Knights. AC counted just to points in the second half, after BP had taken a 30-5 lead at the break. The Blossoms evened their record at 7-7 with the win. Maren Forystek scored 11 points for the winners, but Ashley Alwes and Riauna Bishop added eight and seven. There were three other girls who had five points each.

BLOSSOMS PUT DOWN REBELS

In their first outing of the week, the Awesome Blossom girls put down USC 59-34 on the home court Friday, Jan. 26. BP trailed 7-4 early, but then put the clamps on USC and held the visitors to just five more points before the break. The Blossoms, meanwhile, put the offense in gear with some pinpoint passing and timely steals and ran to a 33-12 first half margin.

"After a slow start," Bruns said. "We battled back and went on a 24-0 run to pretty much put the game away. Great passing and a lot of defensive steals fueled the big run. We had nice balance in scoring, with four players counting at least eight points. Maggie Bruns and Maya Lembke came off the bench to give us a spark also and score five points each."

The Blossoms shot an average 34 percent from the field on 24 of 69 attempts and Wurst counted just under her average 15.7 points per game with 14 points. Oswald had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds and Hein and Worke both added eight points.

Ayren Ingvalson contributed seven rebounds, four points and a steal, Hein had three assists and six steals in the game and Oswald also had six steals to go along with her double-double.

The JV team led by just two points at the half, but outscored USC 8-4 after the break in a 33-17 victory. There were three Blossoms who each scored six points: Bishop, Forystek and Alwes. Allison Krohnberg added five points.

"We got more aggressive in the second half," JV coach Cory Hendrickson said. "We moved the ball really well. It was fun to see girls play with some confidence."

SCOREBOOK

BIG 9 CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
Austin	11-1	14-1
Mankato East	10-2	14-2
Rochester	10-2	14-2
Owatonna	10-2	11-4
Northfield	9-3	12-4
Mankato West	7-6	10-7
Rochester Mayo	5-7	7-9
Rochester Century	4-8	4-12
Red Wing	3-8	4-11
Faribault	2-11	4-11
Albert Lea	0-12	0-14

Friday, Jan. 26
Owatonna 73, Albert Lea 25
Saturday, Jan. 27
Owatonna 76, Mankato West 49
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Owatonna at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2
Winona at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5
Rochester Century at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8
Owatonna at Saint Michael-Albertville, 7:15 p.m.

Girls' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
Northfield	14-0	15-2
Owatonna	10-2	11-5
Red Wing	9-3	12-3
Mankato West	9-5	12-6
Austin	8-5	9-6
Rochester John Marshall	8-6	9-9
Faribault	7-7	8-9
Rochester Mayo	6-7	8-9
Mankato East	4-10	4-12
Rochester Century	2-12	4-14
Albert Lea	1-10	2-13
Winona	1-11	1-15

Friday, Jan. 26
Owatonna 76, Albert Lea 43
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Northfield at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2
Owatonna at Winona, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5
Owatonna at Rochester Century, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9
Rochester John Marshall at Owatonna, 7:30 p.m.

Boys' Hockey	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Northfield	9-3-0	12-5-0	24
Rochester Century	7-0-1	13-3-1	22
Mankato East	6-1-1	9-8-2	22
Owatonna	6-2-1	9-7-1	22
Rochester Mayo	5-5-0	9-10-0	18
Albert Lea	7-4-1	11-5-1	16
Rochester John Marshall	3-3-2	5-10-2	13
Red Wing	4-5-1	4-13-1	12
Faribault	3-6-2	7-8-2	10
Mankato West	2-7-0	6-12-0	6
Austin	1-8-1	4-12-1	3
Winona	0-9-0	1-14-0	0

Thursday, Jan. 18
Rochester Century 3, Owatonna 1
Saturday, Jan. 20
Owatonna 6, Red Wing 0
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Northfield at Owatonna, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1
Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3
Owatonna at South Saint Paul, 8 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5
Owatonna at Rochester Mayo, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8
Owatonna at Mahtomedi, 7:30 p.m.

Girls' Hockey	Conf.	Overall	Pts.
Northfield	9-2-0	13-8-2	32
Red Wing	10-1-0	19-4-0	30
Rochester Mayo	13-4-0	19-5-0	28
Owatonna	10-4-0	14-6-0	24
Faribault	10-5-0	14-9-0	24
Mankato East	8-6-0	12-10-0	16
Mankato West	6-8-0	12-11-1	14
Austin	5-11-0	7-14-0	10
Rochester John Marshall	4-11-0	7-15-0	10
Albert Lea	2-10-0	5-14-0	4
Rochester Century	1-14-0	3-19-0	2

Thursday, Jan. 25
Northfield 3, Owatonna 1
Tuesday, Jan. 30
Owatonna at Rochester Mayo, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1
Owatonna at Rochester John Marshall, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 3
Owatonna at Wayzata, 2:30 p.m.

Wrestling	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea	7-0	20-2
Owatonna	7-0	14-6
Faribault	7-1	11-3
Northfield	7-1	8-2
Rochester Mayo	5-4	8-10
Mankato West	4-4	5-7
Mankato East	3-5	13-7
Austin	2-6	2-6
Winona	2-7	2-14
Rochester Century	1-9	3-13
Rochester John Marshall		

Thursday, Jan. 25
Owatonna 51, Mankato East 12
Owatonna 72, Austin 4
Saturday, Jan. 27
Owatonna finished third at Bloomington Tournament
Thursday, Feb. 1
Rochester Mayo at Owatonna, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2
Owatonna at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8
Faribault at Owatonna, 7 p.m.

SCOREBOOK

GOPHER CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Boys' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
New Richland-H-E-G	7-0	14-1
United South Central	5-9	5-9
Bethlehem Academy	4-2	9-8
Blooming Prairie	4-3	9-7
Maple River	3-3	8-6
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	3-3	6-8
Medford	0-6	2-10

Friday, Jan. 26
NRHEG 69, Medford 36
Blooming Prairie 61, USC 37

Saturday, Jan. 27
Blooming Prairie 58, Alden-Conger 30

Monday, Jan. 29
Medford at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
NRHEG at Le Sueur-Henderson, 7:30 p.m.
Medford at Triton, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Saint Clair at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Medford at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.
Bethlehem Academy at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Fairmont at NRHEG, 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5
Blooming Prairie at Maple River, 7:15 p.m.
WEM at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Saint Clair at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8
Medford at JWP, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9
Blooming Prairie at NRHEG, 7:15 p.m.
Bethlehem Academy at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Girls' Basketball	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	9-1	12-3
NRHEG	6-2	11-4
Blooming Prairie	6-2	11-4
WEM	4-4	7-11
Medford	3-4	9-5
Bethlehem Academy	1-6	1-13

Friday, Jan. 26
NRHEG 59, Medford 51
Blooming Prairie 59, USC 34

Saturday, Jan. 27
Blooming Prairie 65, Alden-Conger 56

Monday Jan. 29
Blue Earth at Medford, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Grand Meadow at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.
Medford at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Blooming Prairie at LeRoy-Ostrander, 7 p.m.
NRHEG at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Blooming Prairie at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
United South Central at Medford, 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 3
Fairmont at NRHEG, 5 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5
Medford at Fairmont, 7:30 p.m.
NRHEG at WEM, 7:15 p.m.
Maple River at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8
Medford at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9
Medford at Bethlehem Academy, 7:15 p.m.
NRHEG at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.

Wrestling	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	5-1	5-1
United South Central	2-1	7-5
Medford	1-0	4-0
WEM	0-0	2-5
Westfield	0-0	7-5
NRHEG	0-1	1-5
WEM/JWP	0-2	2-7

Thursday, Jan. 25
NRHEG 21, Madelia/Truman/Martin Luther Jayhawks 0
Blooming Prairie 42, Medford 35
Blooming Prairie 57, Byron 17

Saturday, Jan. 27
Blooming Prairie was first at Lake City Invitational
Medford was tenth at Lake City Invitational

Tuesday, Jan. 30
Mankato West/Saint Clair/TCU at Medford, 5 p.m.
Westfield at Maple River, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 1
Medford at NRHEG, 5 p.m.
Westfield at WEM/JWP, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2
Medford at Madelia/Truman, 5 p.m.
Westfield at TCU, 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8
NRHEG at Maple River, 7 p.m.
WEM/JWP at Medford, 7 p.m.

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK SIXTEEN JAN. 24, 2018
Team Standings

	Won	Lost
1. Kosters' Kar Corner	8.5	3.5
2. F & M Bank	8	4
3. Epic Contracting	7	5
4. J & H/Dairy Queen	5	7
5. B to Z Hardware	4.5	7.5
6. Bunkies' Lanes & Grill	3	9

High Team Game –Scratch
Epic Contracting 593

High Team Game- Handicap
B to Z Hardware 569

High Team Series- Scratch
F & M Bank 1599

High team Series- Handicap
B to Z Hardware 1487

High Game Individual
1. Kathi Peterson 192
2. Judy Esplan 184

High Series Individual
1. Kathi Peterson 465
2. Amy Simon 415

BASKETBALL

Blossoms win a pair on the road

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie boys' basketball team won their second straight game on Saturday, Jan. 27 with a 57-30 victory at Alden-Conger.

After a little slow start, the Blossoms picked it up midway through the first half and kept control the rest of the way.

The Knights used a packed-in zone defense that kept the Blossoms from making even one three-pointer in the game, but BP survived with good rebounding and defense.

The Blossoms led 31-22 at the break, but held AC to just eight second half points.

"We started a little slow," BP coach Nate Piller said. "But we picked it up midway through the first half and maintained control the rest of the way."

"Good rebounding and excellent balance in scoring really triggered the win," he continued. "Determination and hard work made up for some tired legs after two straight nights on the road."

Karson Vigeland counted 13 points to lead the balanced attack and Gabe Hagen had 10 points. There were eight other Blossoms who scored in the game. The win improved the BP record to 9-7 for the season.

BLOSSOMS DOMINATE

The Awesome Blossom boys took to the road Friday, Jan. 26 and came home with a convincing 61-37 victory over the home standing United South Central Rebels.

In an unusual week, with two snow days and a wrestling match that limited the team to just two practices, the Blossoms started slowly, but mounted some positive energy later in the first half to gain momentum and a 28-15 lead at the break. They kept the momentum strong n the second half to steadily pull away.

"I thought we were a little too passive early," Piller said. "But we gained some positive energy later in the first half for some momentum, and we retained that momentum the second half."



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Kaden Thomas led the Blossom attack with 16 points, including a pair of 3-pointer. Vigeland had 14 points. Hagen counted 10. Free throw shooting still was poor, as the team made just 13-of-25 attempts. The

BP defense limited the Rebels to just five players able to score against the winners, with AJ Kloos getting 14 and Colby Klocek and Sam Zebro each adding 9. USC counted just 15 points in the first half.

OTL: Sports interrupted

FROM PAGE B1

BACK TO WINNING

It marked a different week for the abbreviated schedule for the Blossom girls. After losing two straight for the first time this season last week, the girls bounced back nicely to win game number 10 and improve to 6-2 in conference play. The team showed good balance in running past USC, and they also used a stout defense in getting the victory. The girls followed that with a lopsided win at Alden Conger on Saturday

This week will be much busier, as three games are on tap. Competition will be tough, but I am confident that the Blossoms will be ready for the action. They continue to play very solid basketball in the season.

The Blossom boys won their two games for the week, as the big storm limited them as well. In the last Friday contest they took care of business with a dominant victory over USC, pulling away in the second half. Then on Saturday, they limited Alden-Conger to just 8 second half points in another win. They, too, have a busy week ahead.

The wrestling team won a triangular on the home mat Thursday, edging Medford in a pretty close match and then trouncing Byron handily. The team followed that up with an invitational at Lake City last Saturday, which they won. That was the second big invitational tourney the team has captured in just over a week. Several individuals have compiled double digit wins so far this season, which should give them confidence n the playoffs later in the season.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS

The annual school district spelling bee was held two weeks ago, and two students will be advancing to the regional contest next month. First place went to eight-grader Asha Lighthizer and seventh-grader Micah Donnelly finished second. Third place went to eighth-grader Bradley Simon. It took a few more rounds in this year's contest and 24 students competed in the competition. Congratulations to the winners and all the students who participated. It is a nervous, but valuable experience.

BP YOUTH CLUB BENEFIT

This is a last chance to tout the BP Youth Club Benefit this coming Saturday, Feb. 3. The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. with the live auction set for 7 p.m. at the BP Servicemen's Club. Several raffles, kids' games, club kitchen food specials, and many opportunities for socializing will be on the schedule.

This is the biggest fundraiser at the club, and profits all go towards the programming for the year at the club. That this community has a place that is safe and useful for kids after school and in the summer when school is not in session is really a valuable asset to have, and the organization appreciates and urges the support of local residents.

Among the items up for auction will be a processed half hog, plus several other valuable product will be on the auction. A capacity crowd is again expected at the benefit.. Admission is free, and bidder numbers will be available at the door. We will see you Saturday!

THE BIG GAME

Although the Vikings will be sitting out the Super Bowl after their humiliating loss to Philadelphia, a lot of excitement is still being generated surrounding the contest. Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis is offering free entertainment on a huge stage for ten straight nights leading up to the actual game. Several other attractions will be held, including a zip line ride across the Mississippi River. That ride sold ten thousand tickets in just minutes when they went on sale, and another ten thousand also were snatched up in just minutes.

Add to that is the fact that the Saint Paul Winter Carnival is now in progress and football fans will find plenty of entertainment to enjoy before and during the Super Bowl itself. I'll bet that our local volunteers will find the whole spectacle something they will remember for a long time.

It hardly seems possible, but January will be behind us by the end of this week, and the local sports' teams will have two-thirds of the season complete. That also means one month closer to spring. Continue to enjoy winter, go Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

WRESTLING

OWATONNA: Building wrestling careers

FROM PAGE B1

if we win that meet. Then there is the section seeding, which is another important part because the better seed you have the more likely you are to advance."

The Huskies are currently ranked No. 8 in Class AAA, while the Tigers are ranked No. 6. The teams each have five wrestlers ranked in top 10 of their respective weight class.

"That going to be a big test to see where we are at in our conference and section," Voitalla said.

Owatonna 51, Mankato East 12

106: Blake West (Owatonna) over Chase Groh (East) (Dec 1-0). 113: Spencer Ruedy (East) over Michael Bobo (Owatonna) (Dec 4-2). 120: Kaden Nelson (Owatonna) over Braeden Hendel (East) (Dec 7-4). 126: Landon Johnson (Owatonna) over AJ Palmer (East) (Fall 3:19). 132: Noah Parish (East) over Riley Becker (Owatonna) (Dec 5-3). 138: Nick Baier (East) over Matt Seykora (Owatonna) (Dec 8-3). 145: Jerez Autridge (Owatonna) over Paul Hampton (East) (Dec 5-4). 152: Cameron Roberts (Owatonna) over Jacob Glogowski (East) (Fall 2:35). 160: Peyton Robb (Owatonna) over Wyatt Betz (East) (Fall 1:06). 170: Kolin Baier (East) over Parker Westphal (Owatonna) (Dec 5-0). 182: Cade King (Owatonna) over Kieran Hendel (East) (Fall 3:07). 195: Quincey Price (Owatonna) over (East) (forfeit). 220: Nick Staska (Owatonna) over Luther Marc (East) (Fall 2:30). 285: Isaiah Noeldner (Owatonna) over Rielely Fleming (East) (Fall 1:58)

Owatonna 72, Austin 4

106: Blake West (Owatonna) over Jacob Tapp (Austin) (Fall 0:09). 113: Michael Bobo (Owatonna) over Tae Weber (Austin) (Fall 3:40). 120: Kaden Nelson (Owatonna) over Sean Donovan (Austin) (Fall 1:31). 126: Landon Johnson (Owatonna) over (Austin) (forfeit). 132: Riley Becker (Owatonna) over (Austin) (forfeit). 138: Matt Seykora (Owatonna) over (Austin) (forfeit). 145: Aiden Wilson (Austin) over Jerez Autridge (Owatonna) (MD 12-4). 152: Cameron Roberts (Owatonna) over Josh Belden (Austin) (Fall 3:29). 160: Peyton Robb (Owatonna) over Chance Brady (Austin) (Fall 0:38). 170: Parker Westphal (Owatonna) over Kaden Igou (Austin) (Dec 8-5). 182: Cade King (Owatonna) over (Austin) (forfeit). 195: Nick Staska (Owatonna) over Phillip Zynda (Austin) (Dec 7-4) 220: Isaiah Noeldner (Owatonna) over Sam Johnson (Austin) (Fall 0:45). 285: Parker Holton (Owatonna) over Enrique Martinez (Austin) (Fall 3:40).

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VITAMIN D

FOR THE HEART

February is American Heart Month, a month-long United States observance.

Why?

1 in 4 will die from heart disease in their lifetime

Vitamin D, a nutrient many are deficient in, might be able to help and be part of a healthy, heart disease-free lifestyle

It might help by...

- Lowering blood pressure
- Reducing inflammation
- Improving muscle function

Observational studies show that those with the highest vitamin D levels have a 43% reduced risk of all-type heart disease

Talk to your doctor about supplementing today!

American Heart Month

Take These Heart Health Tips to Heart During American Heart Month

Living Natural Today .com

Amazing facts about the human heart

Every Valentine's Day homes and businesses dress up the décor with cupids and hearts to celebrate a day all about love and affection. The heart shape has been used to symbolically represent the human heart as the center of emotion and romantic love. Hearts symbolizing love can be traced back to the Middle Ages.

Those familiar with human anatomy realize that an actual heart bares very little resemblance to the ideographic heart shape used in art and imagery. Similarly, the human heart really has nothing to do with human emotions. Despite this, there are many interesting components of the heart, and a man or woman truly cannot love or live without one.

The heart as an organ is relatively small in size. It is roughly the size of a fist and weighs only 11 ounces on average. Although diminutive, the heart is responsible for pumping 2,000 gallons of blood through 60,000 miles of blood vessels each day. It accomplishes this by beating 72 times a minute in a healthy adult. All of the cells in the body receive blood except for the corneas in the eye.

The heart works harder than any other muscle in the body. In a fetus, it begins beating at four weeks after conception and will not stop until a person's time of death. Even then, sometimes the heart can be revived. A heart can also continue to beat outside of the body provided it has an adequate oxygen supply.

Although many people refer to all of the blood vessels in their body as "veins," they're actually a combination of veins and arteries. Veins carry fresh, oxygenated blood to the body through arteries. The main artery leaving the left heart ventricle is called the aorta, while the main artery leaving the right ventricle is known as the pulmonary artery. Blood traveling back to the heart flows through veins after it has passed the lungs to pick up oxygen. The thumping noise that is heard while the heart is beating is actually the chambers of the heart closing and opening as blood flows through.

While the heart may not be the cornerstone of emotions, it can be affected by feelings. Studies have shown that a "broken heart" is a real occurrence, according to Live Science. Bad news or a breakup with a loved one can put a person at increased risk for heart attack. This type of trauma releases stress hormones into the body that can stun the heart. Chest pain and shortness of breath ensue but can be remedied after some rest.

Conversely, laughter and positive feelings can be beneficial for the heart. Research has shown that a good laughing fit can cause the lining of the blood vessel walls — called the endothelium — to relax. This helps increase blood flow for up to 45 minutes afterward.

Although having a big heart colloquially means that a person is loving and goes out of their way for others, physically speaking, a big heart is unhealthy. An enlarged heart can be a sign of heart disease and compromise the heart's ability to pump blood effectively. Left untreated, it can lead to heart failure.

There is good reason to get amorous with a loved one on Valentine's Day or other times during the month. Being intimate can provide a physical workout, in some instances doubling a person's heart rate and burning up to 200 calories. That's the equivalent of a brisk 15-minute run. Also, a study of 2,500 men aged 49 to 54 found having an orgasm at least three times a week can cut the likelihood of death from coronary disease in half, according to The New England Journal of Medicine.

The heart is an amazing organ responsible for sustaining life. Although it is not directly tied to love and emotions, without the heart such feelings wouldn't be possible.

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STEELE COUNTY **Times**

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BENEFIT BASH



—Blooming Prairie—
YOUTH CLUB



Saturday, February 3

Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club

Free admission!
Food specials available!

Silent Auction Raffles

5:30pm-7:00 pm

Live Auction

starts at 7:00 PM

Several additional raffles and games throughout the night!

- Tribute to LeMar Nelson for his service to BP youth throughout the years
- Awards presented to community members for their dedication to BP Youth Club throughout 2017

Sponsorships and donations can be dropped off at BP Youth Club through February 2nd

Thank you to our sponsors:

Blooming Prairie Vet Clinic • KIK Marketing • Minimizer
Darrick's Preferred Auto • Krejci Ford

Hometown Living

PACKING A PUNCH

Mother Nature walloped Steele County on Monday, Jan. 22 with the highest snow total in the entire state. Owatonna reportedly got dumped on with 17 inches of snow. Governor Mark Dayton called out the Minnesota National Guard to assist stranded motorists in Owatonna as the winter storm swept across the southern half of the state. Interstate 35 was closed between Owatonna and Faribault. Once the storm subsided, residents either dug out from the blizzard or dug in to have some fun. Top left: Olivia Johnson of Blooming Prairie got a chance for perfect sledding as she raced down a pile of snow. Top right: Austin Smith, 8, of Blooming Prairie found a huge snow pile to his liking and used it as a sliding hill. Right: Sue Zwiener of Blooming Prairie wears many hats in the community, and last Tuesday she took on that of a snow removal specialist. It's a family venture for the Zwieners as they can be found around town clearing out driveways.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Snow blast prompts reminders of proper removal

That Monday snowfall of 17 inches in our area was a distraction from reliving all the wrongs of that game in Philadelphia! All of us that are part of CREW 52 and all Minnesota sports fans and residents have to put the game aside and be prepared for Super Bowl Sunday and putting our best foot forward in welcoming all the visitors assuring them of a great time in spite of the treatment in Philly or this snowfall.

Hats off to our public works crew for managing to at least make a pass last Monday afternoon through our city streets and the continued work that went on all week. Of course, we had some equipment issues right away as they haven't been called upon to move this much snow for some time.



Medford Mayor's Lines
LOIS M. NELSON

A big thank you to our residents for helping out their neighbors in sharing snow blowers and shovels to move all the white stuff or help with vehicles that got hung up at the intersections. Also, for understanding that snow removal is a process that has taken all week and will continue until we see the black asphalt or cement of the street surfaces.

Each of our communities has their own practices and city code for snow removal so suggest you read them from your city websites to become familiar. In Medford, we encourage residents to have all vehicles off the streets so interference when the snow plow is coming through is minimal. This was an issue with the white out conditions in last Monday's storm. City code also states that all sidewalks are to be cleaned off within 24 hours. Thanks to the business and home owners who did this without a note from the city. A reminder, too, is not to push snow from your sidewalks and driveways into the street where it may become more of a driving hazard.

We also ask residents help that have a fire hydrant on your property that this is dug out. It is a safety issue for our Fire Department in responding to fire calls. Valuable time in locating and digging out a hydrant may interfere with saving your property or your neighbors. Thank you for taking care of the hydrants around our community!

There is a still lot of winter to go. Drive slower, check the intersections before changing lanes or moving into traffic as the snow piles are quite high and may interfere with visibility. Be safe and enjoy the season.

Lois Nelson is in her sixth year of serving as mayor of Medford. Her column appears in this newspaper monthly.

Fired teacher charged in decades-old sex case

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Acknowledging in a police interview that it was "young and stupid," a former St. Mary's teacher in Owatonna has admitted to police a decades-old sexual relationship with a student.

Terri Ellen Grose, 60, of Owatonna has been charged in Steele County District Court with three felony counts of criminal sexual conduct. If convicted of the charges, she faces a maximum of 25 years in prison and a \$35,000 fine.

Grose had been a gym teacher and athletic director at St. Mary's School until last August. She was fired 11 days after the allegation was made by the former student. St. Mary's is operated by Sacred Heart Church, which falls under the Diocese of Winona.

During a police interview in October, Grose acknowledged a relationship with the victim, but emphasized that she had not ever had a relationship with any other students, according to court records. Grose told the detective it was "young and stupid," and "it wasn't a one-time fling or two-time fling."

Grose could not recall exactly when the physical contact between the victim and her became intimate or sexual. She said some recent medical treatment affected her memory.

In August 2016, Grose was diagnosed with

Ovarian cancer. She was one of the families featured in last year's From the Heart Run and Walk, a cancer fundraiser held in Owatonna.

Grose has expressed to police that she is "so remorseful" for what happened to the victim.

The sex abuse case began to unravel on Aug. 1, 2017 when the 49-year-old victim claimed she was sexually abused by Grose between 1980 and 1986. The victim told Father John Sauer of Sacred Heart Church that the sexual contact began when she was in seventh grade and continued through high school. It ended when the victim moved away to attend college.

Father Sauer immediately contacted additional church and St. Mary's officials to facilitate the mandated report. The attorney for the Diocese of Winona contacted the Steele County Attorney's Office. The case was then referred to Owatonna Police.

At the time the allegation was made, Grose was placed on administrative leave for several days. She was terminated on Aug. 11, 2017.

In an interview with police, the victim said she was struggling and not

fitting in at school when the abuse happened. She recalled being very frustrated and upset. The sexual contact started by taking place at the school during the victim's seventh grade year. The contact continued "hundreds of times," with Grose touching and rubbing her private areas.

When the victim reached age 16 or 17, Grose allegedly began providing alcohol, and the sexual contact progressed even further.

In a letter to parents of students at St. Mary's, principal Jen Swanson noted the administration has been cooperating with law enforcement during this investigation and will continue to provide any assistance to aid them with the prosecution of the case.

St. Mary's has adopted certain procedures to help identify sexual abuse and protocols to immediately report suspicious activity to law enforcement, according to Swanson. "When the victim courageously came forward, those procedures and protocols were followed," she wrote.

Swanson said the staff and faculty at St. Mary's are committed to ensuring the safety and education of their students.

"Child sexual abuse is a horrific crime that St. Mary's School is making every effort to prevent," Swanson wrote in her letter. "Our prayers go out to the individuals and families who have fallen victim to child sexual abuse and who have suffered this unspeakable harm."



Grose

4-H honors top members

Steele County 4-H held its annual Awards Dinner on Jan. 7 at the Owatonna VFW Post #3723. Approximately 150 4-H members, parents and volunteers were in attendance to celebrate accomplishments from the 2016-2017 4-H year.



Steele Talkin'
MISSY KOCH

Steele County is home to 11 active 4-H Clubs, all which were represented by the youth and adults being recognized for their hard work and achievements. Flag pledges were led by Secretary of the Club Council Emily Keck. Next, the candle-lighting ceremony was held for the Installation of the 2017-2018 Club Council Officers. The new officers are Lexie Ignaszewski, Sam Fredin, Lucy Paschke, Elizabeth Karl, Charlea Underwood, William Behne, Nicole Behne, Elizabeth Roesner, Vickie Arthur and Sarah Roesner.

Youth Membership Awards were given to first year members, fifth year members and 10th year members. Adult volunteers were

also recognized for their dedication of service spanning from one year to 40 years.

Also, recognized for their hard work and dedication to Steele County 4-H were county fair 4-H superintendents and committee members, Quiz Bowl teams, judging teams, Shooting Sports team and their coaches.

The 2016-2017 Steele County 4-H Ambassadors were recognized for promoting and strengthening 4-H programs in Steele County.

Each year we honor the achievements, memories and success of 4-H graduates. We honored six outstanding 4-H graduates: Lucas Arndt, Riley Arthur, Cole Ignaszewski, Grace Logan, Kalyn Naatz, Jack Skalicky and Marissa Wagaman.

Each year the I Dare You Award is presented to youth leaders who have been active in their club and county. This award dares them to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through a life of leadership and service. Kalyn Naatz and Brandon Peters were the winners of the I Dare You Award.

The Kottke Dairy Achievement Award winner was Lacey Nelson for all her knowledge, involvement, and accomplishments

in the Dairy industry.

A hero is someone who, in spite of weakness, doubt or not always knowing the answers, goes ahead and overcomes anyway. The 2017 Steele County 4-H Super Hero Award winners are Mike Dinse and Shannon Prostollo.

Carol Sue Ahlborn and the Owatonna VFW Post #3723 were awarded for being Friends of 4-H. The amount of time and support that they have given to Steele County 4-H is very much appreciated.

Angie Finholt and Bill Arthur were named outstanding adult volunteers. Angie volunteers on the Beef committee, coaches the General Livestock Judging team, and is the club leader for Medford Go-Getters 4-H Club. Bill is a Meriden Meadowlarks Leader, he volunteers with the Purple Ribbon Auction, and the Livestock Committee.

Congratulations to all of our 2017 Steele County 4-H Award recipients! Thank you for all your support of the 4-H program in Steele County; making the best better!

Missy Koch is one of the 4-H program coordinators for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various authors representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

New director joins local historical society

A man with an extensive history and non-profit background has been chosen to be the new leader of the Steele County Historical Society.

James Lundgren of Minneapolis began last week as the executive director of the society after the society's board of directors chose him for the position.

Lundgren's career has been focused on working for non-profit organizations, including several historical societies throughout

Minnesota. He has built a reputation of improving organizations in many facets of operations.

He has previously worked as interim director at the Grand Center for Arts and Culture in New Ulm; director of operations for the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio; executive director for the History Center of Olmsted County in Rochester; co-director of finance and operations for the National Eagle Center in Wabasha. In addition, he has served as a consultant.

His educational background includes a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota with a double major in American History and American Indian Studies. He also has a master's degree in Non-Profit Administration from Regis University in Denver.

Lundgren has a passion for non-profit management and local history, commenting that he is excited about working with the SCHS board and staff to develop its continued growth.

SCHS is a non-profit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing.

Lundgren replaces Kim Purscell, who was removed by the society from the top spot last April.

Federated Insurance selected for national recognition

MENTOR, the national organization unifying the youth mentoring movement, is recognizing those who give back to their communities year-round. MENTOR has announced that Federated Insurance of Owatonna and Jeff Fetters, chairman and CEO, will receive the inaugural national Corporate Excellence in Youth Mentoring award given to one outstanding employee representing their company.

Fetters and Federated Insurance were selected from a group of 10 finalists, narrowed down from a nationwide call for nominations.

Federated Insurance, one of the nation's largest mutual insurance companies, advocates for mentoring within the company and community. Federated organizes the Federated Challenge for Kids of Minnesota, an annual event, in its 14th year. The Federated Challenge and their 55 sponsor companies has raised over \$30 million to support the youth mentoring and educational programs of the Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies in Minnesota, home to Federated headquarters. Jeff Fetters and his wife Marty co-chair this event.

Fetters not only champions mentoring in his company, he advocates for mentoring in his personal life. Jeff and Marty Fetters are a Big Couple to their mentee Mackenzie. They were matched with Mackenzie when she was 11 years old. They nurtured Mackenzie's passion for cooking by helping her enroll in culinary school after high school. Today, Mackenzie is thriving as a sous chef at a Minnesota country club. They are real life examples of the power of mentoring relationships to support, inspire and engage young people personally and professionally. Fetters personifies what research makes clear. Mentoring is mutually beneficial for young people and the adults who build relationships with them.

"For me, this recognition further validates that the amazing work of our Federated employees and the wonderful support of our Federated Challenge sponsors are forever changing the lives of kids," Fetters said. "This recognition will also help us continue to increase our support for kids in Minnesota and will help create an example that can be used for mentoring in other states."

The mentoring story involving Federated and the Fetters and others like it took center stage on Jan. 24 at the Excellence in Mentoring Awards Dinner at the Library of Congress. The award ceremony is an invitation-only convening of leaders and supporters of the youth mentoring field and part of the National Mentoring Summit, the signature event for the mentoring field, convening more than 1,000 experts, practitioners, advocates, and philanthropic partners to advance mentoring nationwide. The Summit closes out National Mentoring Month, celebrated each January to focus national attention on the value of mentoring to bring people together and build meaningful, lasting relationships for young people and adults alike.

Finalists for the brand new Corporate Excellence in Youth Mentoring Award represented nine companies, five states, and a diverse array of industries spanning technology to finance to insurance – and they all have one thing in common: a commitment to building meaningful relationships to support young people while building a 21st century workforce.

With support of the Alper Family Foundation, Fetters and Federated will be invited to direct a \$1,000 grant to a non-profit mentoring program of his choice.

Founded in 1904, Federated Insurance is a national insurance and risk management organization that serves the property, casualty, health, and life insurance needs of clients in select industries. The organization has more than 500 recommendations from state, regional, and national associations and buying groups and is rated A+ (Superior) by industry analyst A.M. Best® Company.

Owatonna Hospital Foundation receives generous in-kind donation

Cash Wise Foods in Owatonna recently made a generous donation, valued at more than \$20,000, to Owatonna Hospital Foundation. The donation included 325 cases of diapers and 325 bottles of baby shampoo, lotion and digital thermometers.

"The supplies will be offered to families in need who deliver at Owatonna Hospital and also through the Steele County Diaper Bank," says Natalie Ginter, director, Owatonna Hospital Foundation.

Cash Wise is an annual donor and partner of Owatonna Hospital Foundation. As a supporter of Owatonna Hospital Foundation's My Baby and Me program, they've hosted Diaper Drive events and lunch wagon fundraisers for the past two years. Plus, they will be hosting this year's event on June 14-15.

Added Ginter, "We are so grateful for this substantial gift and for community partners like Cash Wise. Without annual cash and in-kind donations, we would not be able to help meet the needs of our patients, employees or the communities we serve through local programs like the Steele County Diaper Bank."

Owatonna Hospital Foundation received the contribution at the end of 2017 with plans to disperse it now until supplies run out.

"This is such a thoughtful surprise," says Sue Shaft, manager, Birth Center. "Our families will appreciate these useful gifts for their newborn baby."

To learn more about the Owatonna Hospital Foundation or to make a donation, visit allinahealth.org/give or email OwatonnaFoundation@allina.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cash Wise Foods in Owatonna recently made a generous donation, valued at more than \$20,000, to Owatonna Hospital Foundation. The donation included 325 cases of diapers and 325 bottles of baby shampoo, lotion and digital thermometers. The donation involved (from left to right) Natalie Ginter, director, Owatonna Hospital Foundation; Brian Elwer, store director, Cash Wise Foods and Sue Shaft, manager, Birth Center.

Cancer Corner



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Sponsored by

Krejci



A successful Coyote hunt

"This effort was just unbelievable. We thank them over and over."

Cheri Krejci
BP Cancer Group



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

These are some of the hunters who participated in the First Annual Coyotes 'Fur' Cancer Fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 27 to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Hunters scoured the counties of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele and brought in 12 carcasses, three skinned animals and one red fox pelt. The fundraiser raised more than \$16,000 for the cancer group.

NRHEG

PANTHER

of the Week

A black and white photograph of a young boy with short hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a dark shirt with white stripes on the sleeves.

REMY

Sponsored by:

Steve's SMOKEY ACRES
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products
ESTABLISHED 1973

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Remy Johnson. Remy resides outside of Ellendale with his parents Casey and Marilyn and his sister Brittyn and brother Gavin. He is in Ms. Beenken's second grade class.

Remy is very respectful to his teachers and everyone around him! He is always showing Panther pride and encouraging his classmates to do the same. Remy is dedicated and a hard worker who loves to help out in the classroom in any way. He is also sensitive and caring towards his peers - he's a wonderful friend.

Remy's favorite book is Arthur, and his favorite food is spaghetti. He also loves to watch Full House and color. Remy is creative and artistic and loves art projects. Keep up the great work Remy!

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

To become a Blooming Prairie Chamber member, contact Becky at 583-4472

WE UNDERSTAND SMALL BUSINESS BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS.

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
583-7528
314 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie
WWW.JOHNDOERCPA.COM

A black and white photograph of a man and a woman smiling and looking at each other. The man is wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark top.

MEMORIAL BENEFIT FOR

JON CARLSON

Blooming Prairie Cue Company

February 10
4 p.m. - 8 p.m

There will be a free will donation taco feed and silent auction.

A color photograph of a man and a woman standing together outdoors. The man is wearing a dark jacket and a grey beanie, and the woman is wearing a purple jacket and a grey beanie. They are both smiling at the camera.

From owner Tait Ingvaldson:

I am not big on posting stuff on here, but as many of you know I lost a good friend and business parter back in December. This last month has been the hardest thing I have ever had to deal with in my life! I want to thank all of my friends, family and customers that have been willing to help in any way they could. I have never had so much support! I want to give a special thanks to the community of Blooming Prairie you guys have treated me like one of your own!

I'm am writing this to let everyone know that after a lot of thinking I have decided to keep Geneva Lumber going! I have had a lot of people ask if we will be closing the doors. Jon and I have worked to hard for this and I think he would be pissed at me if I walked away now! I have hired a draftsman/salesman who will be starting on Monday. Josh Krueger has been in the business and will be a great asset to our company. With all of this being said I have a lot of outstanding bills that I would really like to collect ASAP. The lumber market is going up everyday and I am trying to buy as much inventory as I can so I can pass on the savings back to you! I want to thank everyone again for there continued support and let's make 2018 a great year!

Excerpt above from Facebook post.

A logo for Geneva Lumber Company. It features a stylized house shape with a roofline. Inside the house shape, the word "GENEVA" is written in large, bold, capital letters. Below the house shape, the words "Lumber Company" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font. There are some evergreen tree silhouettes to the right of the house shape.

BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT

Crash: On Jan. 21, deputies responded to a crash between a vehicle and a mattress at U.S. Hwy. 14 and 260th Ave. in Kasson at 7:31 p.m.

CRIME BRIEFS

Snow brings out worst in some

Last week’s heavy blast of snow appears to have brought out the worst in some people. Owatonna Police responded to a fight at the Hospitality House on E. Main Street on Jan. 22. Officers learned that a dispute took place between two residents over clearing snow. According to the investigation, one of the residents took all of the shovels to make some cash shoveling snow. Another resident was snow blowing at the home and ran out of gas. In order to finish,

he went to use a shovel and found them missing. Police said a confrontation and name calling ensued which led the resident looking for a shovel to grab the other resident by the throat and punch him in the face several times. Police arrested Alan M. Greiner, 38, of Kenyon. He has been charged with two counts of domestic abuse, which are gross misdemeanors.



Greiner

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 15 with Judge Karen R. Duncan:

Gregory M. Huntley, 36, Blooming Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal sexual conduct of mentally impaired or helpless victim. Huntley was sentenced to \$10,870.53, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend sex offender program, no contact with victim, predatory offender registration, no possession of pornography, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, obtain permission to leave the state, no access to Internet without approval and 10 years of supervised probation.

Richard Ramirez, 20, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to \$181, 82 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no trespassing at Walmart, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

Sergio R. Vargas, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault of a peace officer. He was sentenced to \$1,081 and 25 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 15 – 19:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Janie Hernandez, 58, Austin, suspended license and no insurance, \$481.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Nadra W. Abdi, 36, Rochester, speeding, \$100; Yasin A. Ahmed, 20, Faribault, move over law violation, \$131; Ahmed M. Ali, 19, Mankato, possession of marijuana, \$231; Gary W. Andersen, 77, Morristown, speeding, \$121; Emily T. Bowers, 29, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Paul E. Buchanan, 78, Escondido, CA, speeding, \$121; Merton E. Burke, 52, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Adolfo Deluna Jr., 44, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Marie Ellingson, 35, Mason City, IA, revoked license, \$281; Alan M. Greiner, 39, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Alexander F. Gromelski, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jessica D. Hertzog, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$221; Janette R. Hobbs, 34, Ewing, NE, speeding, \$131; Rose A. Kronebusch, 54, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Ka P. Moo, 23, Aurora, IL, speeding, \$131; Derrick M. Nelson, 54, Riverdale, IL, speeding, \$121; Mohamed H. Noor, 32, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Sasha A. Orieny, 21, Maple

Grove, speeding, \$221; Jah-mai L. Phipps, 23, St. Cloud, speeding, \$141; Troy E. Rasmussen, 48, Kenyon, speeding and expired insurance, \$321; Tami L. Rost, 55, White Bear Lake, speeding, \$221; Ashley A. Rozmarin, 24, Lauderdale, failure to use designated lane, \$131; Katie M. Skarin, 30, Waseca, speeding and revoked license, \$331; Daniel L. Spillum, 22, Chanhassen, possession of marijuana, \$181; Jonathon A. Spolar, 18, Plymouth, speeding, \$141; Stephen M. Tha Po, 40, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$131; Gerald C. Withers, 64, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Emma M. Ahlberg, 24, St. Paul, expired registration and speeding, \$151; Falconer R. Bellefy, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Thayne M. Brasseur, 27, Owatonna, theft, \$131, 21 days in county jail and 180 days of unsupervised probation; Lorraine A. Bray, 20, Owatonna, texting while driving, \$131; Angeliue J. Brown, 30, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281; Fred R. Collins, 63, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Halima A. Farkhudin, 16, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Stetson P. Fox, 31, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Eduardo Garcia-Santos, 24, Owatonna, no license, no insurance and expired tabs, \$431; Alan M. Greiner, 39, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Axel N. Herrera Ortega, 23, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Elijah M. Hix, 31, Brownsdale, invalid license, \$181; Jacob T. Jirele, 28, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Timothy W. Kong, 25, Northfield, DWI, \$7,497, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance, attend MADD impact panel, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Priyia N. Lacey, 21, Northfield, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Evelyn Mejia-Garnica, 30, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Khadar O. Mohamud, 20, Owatonna, invalid license, \$181; Michael A. Nicholson, 36, Waseca, following vehicle too closely, \$121; Capri Pickett, 27, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Felix R. Rocha Rivera, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Gilberto O. Rodriguez, 19, Owatonna, accident - failure to notify owner of damage to property, \$181; Matthew R. Summer, 19, Mankato, drink and drive, stay of adjudication, \$181, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Trenton J. Weide, 19, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$231; Jordan M. Wiuff, 27, Minneapolis, headlights violation, stay of adjudication, \$81 and 1 month of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Seon Ayo, 37, Parlin Ave, NJ, speeding, \$281; Kiersten L. Bergquist, 21, Northfield, DWI, \$406, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Bryant

Public input sought on making cameras in courtroom for some cases permanent

The Minnesota Supreme Court is seeking public comments about cameras in the state’s courtrooms. Any person or organization wishing to provide written comments in support of or opposition regarding audio and video coverage in certain criminal proceedings may do so until March 26. A hearing will be held before the Supreme Court on April 25 at 10 a.m. in the State Capitol Courtroom in St. Paul. The public must file a request before March 26 to make an oral presentation before the court about the matter. In August 2015, the Supreme Court authorized a pilot project that allowed audio and video coverage in certain criminal proceedings without the consent of the parties. The project began on Nov. 10, 2015. The Supreme Court also directed the Advisory Committee on the Rules

of Criminal Procedure to monitor and report on the pilot project by the end of 2017. The Advisory Committee filed its report with the Supreme Court on Dec. 20, 2017. The Advisory Committee report recommends that the pilot procedures for audio or video coverage of criminal proceedings be permanently codified in Rule 4 of the General Rules of Practice. The committee also recommends amendments to the rule to address issues regarding coverage that were raised during the pilot. On Jan. 24, the Supreme Court issued an order establishing both a public comment period and a public hearing on the Advisory Committee’s recommendations. During the 18-month data collection period, there were 135 media coverage requests in 79 different cases. Coverage was granted and occurred in 49 cases

with another four pending during the period. Coverage was denied in 25 cases for various reasons, including coverage was prohibited under rule, victim safety and privacy concerns and the media request was untimely. Half of the 53 cases in which coverage was granted were murder cases. The committee found during the period that more than 50 percent of those surveyed found that the presence of cameras or other electronic recording devices was “not at all” intrusive, distracting or disruptive. Only 4 percent found the media coverage to be “extremely” intrusive. Dodge County Judge Jodi Williamson is one of the members serving on the advisory committee, which is made up of judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys.

motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 1900 block of Austin Road at 1:12 a.m. **Arrest:** At 2:45 p.m., police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Shoplifting:** At 9:41 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Property Damage:** Vandalism was reported in the 1300 block of Bigelow Ave. NE at 11:39 p.m.

Jan. 21
DWI: Police made a DWI arrest at Grove Ave. N. and Broadway St. E. at 1:09 a.m. **Restraining Order:** Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 900 block of Elm Ave. S. at 2:52 p.m. **Domestic:** At 2:53 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1800 block of Hartle Ave. SE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Jan. 22
Assault: Officers arrested a subject following an assault in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 8:02 p.m.

Jan. 23
Noise: Police received a noise complaint from the 500 block of Oak Ave. S. at 3:24 a.m.

Jan. 24
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1000 block of Ridge Road NE at 7:51 a.m. **Arrest:** Officers assisted another agency with arresting subjects in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:59 a.m. and 12:28 p.m. **Warrant:** Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 3:53 p.m. **Arrest:** Police arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 4:27 p.m. **Shoplifting:** At 5:05 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. **Restraining Order:** Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 7:29 p.m.

Jan. 25
Hit and Run: At 10:05 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW. **Arrest:** Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:10 p.m. **Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Oakdale St. SW at 2:56 p.m. **Welfare:** Officer completed a welfare check in the 400 block of Elm Ave. N. at 4:42 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF
Jan. 19
Compliance Checks: Deputies conducted compliance checks throughout the county.

Jan. 20
Burglary: Deputies began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of 6th St. in Ellendale at 8:37 a.m. **Crash:** Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor

vehicle accident with injuries at Interstate 35 southbound and Bridge St. W. in Owatonna at 11:28 a.m.

Jan. 21
Crash: Deputies received information regarding a vehicle hitting a deer at Rose St. and 64th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 5:53 p.m.

Jan. 24
Crash: At 6:38 a.m., paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 10800 block of County Road 45 S. in Summit Township. **Assault:** Deputies received information regarding an assault in the 24000 block of County Road 45 S. in Owatonna Township at 1:06 p.m. **Accident:** A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 4100 block of County 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 9:09 a.m. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 1:17 p.m.

Jan. 25
Crash: At 11:55 a.m., a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 86000 block of 128th St. SW in Berlin Township. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 10:39 p.m.

ARREST Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE
Jacob Skyler Farless, 25, arrested at 9:07 p.m. Jan. 19, warrants arrest, \$3,100 bail. **Chad Glenn Griffin, 37**, arrested at 12:30 a.m. Jan. 20, felony fleeing in motor vehicle, fleeing on foot, revoked license, DWI and no insurance, held for court. **Gene Mark Kuehn, 52**, arrested at 3:42 a.m. Jan. 20, DWI, held for court. **David Sidney Hummons, 39**, arrested at 3 a.m. Jan. 21, DWI-test refusal, held for court. **Elizabeth Kong Thor, 20**, arrested at 3:50 p.m. Jan. 20, false name to police, held for court. **Maurice Lovell Giles, 21**, arrested at 3 p.m. Jan. 20, felony aiding an offender/conceal fugitive, held for court. **Angela Nicole Schafer, 32**, arrested at 7:15 p.m. Jan. 21, order for protection violation, held for court. **Alan Michael Greiner, 39**, arrested at 8:16 p.m. Jan. 22, domestic assault, held for court. **Edward James Climer, 36**, arrested at 3:01 p.m. Jan. 24, warrant arrest, held for court. **William Merton Douglas, 47**, arrested at 1:44 p.m. Jan. 24, warrant arrest, \$20,000 bail. **Kayla Tae Nelson, 27**, arrested at 6 p.m. Jan. 24, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Jessica Linn Alwes, 27**, arrested at 5:59 p.m. Jan. 24, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Andrew Michael Popp, 42**,

arrested at 6:50 p.m. Jan. 24, no insurance, held for court. **Sabrina Michelle Henry, 37**, arrested at 11:15 p.m. Jan. 25, warrant arrest, held for court.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 15 – 22:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
David N. Blocki, 29, Brownsdale, no insurance, \$280; Austin I. Drake-Moreno, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Israel A. Dupree, 29, St. Paul, suspended license, \$280; Eric F. Heins, 54, Mantorville, speeding, \$380; Scott B. Morgan, 49, Kasson, revoked license, registration violation and no insurance, \$510; John W. Ruach, 45, North Mankato, speeding, \$140; Jacob K. Schandorff, 20, Hayfield, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Tyler J. Tointon, 20, Oronoco, speeding, \$220; Dixie S. Tumberg, 44, Red Wing, aggravated forgery, stay of adjudication, \$300, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health screening, chemical dependency evaluation, 30 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation; Dale R. Ulrich Jr., 27, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
Taylor A. Autry, 25, Pine Island, parking violation, \$32; Lindsay A. Howard, 30, Forest Lake, revoked license, \$280; Heidi L. Lund, 56, Kenyon, parking violation, \$32; Zachary C. Orth, 30, Kasson, revoked license, \$280; Madison M. Pitt, 21, Faribault, speeding, \$220; Nicholas P. Skogen, 35, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Michelle L. Slowinski, 40, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Kristin K. Thomas, 49, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Martin L. Ulrich, 56, Rochester, parking violation, \$32.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER
Lisa M. Anderson, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$130; Melanie S. Arndt, 36, Waltham, speeding, \$120; Justin R. Baker, 23, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Jesse J. Edelbach, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Keith J. Johnson, 57, Blooming Prairie, gross weight exceeds registered limit, exceed allowable gross weight and inspection decal violation, \$2,180; Jennifer A. Kleckley, 38, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Paul R. Kriegel, 23, Plymouth, WI, speeding, \$130; Eric M. Lofthus, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Nickolay B. Scanlan, 20, Oronoco, speeding, \$130.

WEST CONCORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
David E. Bawidamann, 58, Burnsville, speeding, \$130; Patrick D. Berg, 65, Claremont,

CONTINUED ON C5

WARRANTS: The following individuals have active warrants in Steele County. The Sheriff provides this information as a public service

- 1. Mary Castleberry – DWI - \$750 bail
- 2. Coj Castral – domestic abuse - \$1,000 bail
- 3. Alan Castro – domestic assault – no bail
- 4. Noe Cavazos – DWI – no bail
- 5. La de Felipe Cerda – DWI - \$750 bail
- 6. Otis Chineth – cancelled license - \$1,500 bail
- 7. Sheila Christenson – contempt of court - \$500 bail

- 8. Melvin Cisneros – DWI - \$700 bail
- 9. Luis Clara – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- 10. Scott Clark – no insurance - \$2,000 bail
- 11. Isaiah Coffey – drugs – no bail
- 12. Joaquin Colin – disorderly conduct - \$500 bail
- 13. Calvin Collier – assault - \$1,000 bail
- 14. James Collingwood – worthless check - \$2,000 bail

- 15. Stephen Collingwood – worthless check - \$2,000 bail
- 16. Robert Connell – shoplifting - \$1,000 bail
- 17. Abel Cordova – DUI – no bail
- 18. Omar Cordova Jr. – stalking, revoked license – no bail
- 19. Alberto Cordona – DUI – no bail
- 20. Mario Alexandro Correa – robbery – no bail

Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification and apprehension of wanted individuals

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

JAN. 31
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,
BP Library

FEB. 3
5:30 p.m. – BP Youth Club
Benefit Bash, Servicemen's
Club

FEB. 6
10:30 a.m. – Storytime,
BP Library

Dr. Deborah J. Lison
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
DDS, MBA

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

JAN. 31
7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Ellendale
Codification Manual Work
Session, Ellendale City
Office

FEB. 1
6:15 p.m. – Country Heat
Live Workout, Ellendale
Cafeteria

FEB. 3
4 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Soup
& Pie Supper, New Richland
Cafeteria

FEB. 5
6 p.m. – Ellendale Fire
Department Meeting,
Ellendale Community
Building
6 p.m. – NRHEG Band
Boosters Meeting
6 p.m. – Com Ed (Water
Color Painting with Judy
Tweeten) Class, NRHEG Art
Room

FEB. 6
6:30 p.m. – Karate,
Ellendale Elementary Gym
North

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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

JAN. 31
Noon – Steele County
Work Board Meeting, County
Admin Building

FEB. 1
Hot Reads for Cold Nights
begins at Owatonna Library
9 a.m. – Jr. History
Detectives, History Center
1 p.m. – Woman's Club of
Owatonna meeting, St. John
Lutheran Church
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Good
Shepherd Preschool Taco
Supper & Open House, Good
Shepherd Lutheran Church,
2500 7th Ave. NE Owatonna
6:30 p.m. – History
Detectives, History Center
6:30 p.m. – Family
Storytime, Owatonna Library

FEB. 2
3 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. –
JA Big Bowl, Sparetime
Entertainment
10 a.m. – Kiwanis'
Read Around the World,
Owatonna Library
6 p.m. – 11 p.m. –
Owatonna Eagles Cancer
Auction, Owatonna Eagles
Club

FEB. 3
4:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. –
Owatonna Eagles Cancer
Auction, Owatonna Eagles
Club

FEB. 5
1 p.m. – Senior Place Inc.
Board Meeting, Senior Place
5:30 p.m. – Meet &
Greet New Owatonna City
Staff Members, City Admin
Building
6 p.m. – Owatonna
Firefighters Relief
Association Meeting,
Owatonna Fire Station
7 p.m. – Owatonna City
Council Meeting, City Admin
Building
7 p.m. – Steele County
Planning Commission
Meeting, County Admin
Building

FEB. 6
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
– It's Tale Time, Owatonna
Library
6:30 p.m. – Precinct
Caucus, Owatonna High
School
7 p.m. – Allen Eskens
Author Program, Owatonna
Library

‘How to Stretch Your Dollar’ for dairy farming

University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Dairy Initiative- South Central Region are collaborating efforts to host a free dairy event for dairy producers on Monday, Feb. 12 at 12 p.m. at the New Prague State Bank in New Prague. Farm Business Management Instructor Pam Uhlenkamp of South Central College will be sharing her expertise on “How to Stretch Your Dollar.” With profit margins shrinking on dairy farms, it is important to know and understand areas of opportunity in your business’s budget. Uhlenkamp will also point out grants that are available for dairy farmers to utilize.

With seven years of experience working as a Farm Business Management Instructor, Uhlenkamp not only works with multiple facets of agriculture, but she also currently helps over 50 farms succeed in this unique industry of farming. Prior to Farm Business Management, Uhlenkamp worked as a swine and cattle nutritionist.

This is the fourth annual Winter Dairy Series for the partnership. The final event of the season will be held in March.

Pre-registration is not necessary, but is appreciated for a meal count. Please contact Colleen Carlson, Extension Educator for Carver and Scott Counties at 952-492-5386.

J&H LIQUOR

● **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.
● **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Meets Tuesdays at J&H Liquor from 7 to 8:30 p.m. On these dates: Jan. 30, Feb. 20, March. 20, April 17 and May 8th/Season Finalē. Benefits the BP Youth Club.

2018 EVENTS
● **APRIL 7:** Customer appreciation day “32” years of business
● **JUNE 23:** Cruise for Cancer ride
● **JULY 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
● **JULY 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
● **JULY 21:** B.O.B. ride: “Toys for Tots”

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ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR

Woman’s Club will canoe the Mississippi

After the January break, the Woman’s Club of Owatonna will resume at 1 p.m. Thursdays in the social hall of St. John Lutheran Church, 1301 Lincoln Ave. in Owatonna.

The speaker is Deb Knutson of Owatonna who will present pictures and stories of her journey with two friends “Canoeing the Mississippi.” Over 13 years, they have canoed 2,385 miles from the headquarters of the Mississippi in Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico.

Knutson lives in Owatonna and retired two years ago from Steele County Public Health.

She was born in Willmar and attended elementary school in Anoka and Coon Rapids. Her family moved to St. Louis, for her junior and senior years in high school. She returned to Minnesota and graduated from St. Olaf College with a BA in psychology and sociology. She received her BS in nursing from St. Louis University.

She moved to Owatonna, her husband Paul’s hometown, in 1992. Together, they bought the family farm and raised two sons. Son Ben is a CPA in Minneapolis, is married and has a 5 year-old daughter.



Son Peter is a captain in the Air Force, and is stationed in Oklahoma City.

Knutson says she has always been adventurous. At age 11, she attended a canoe camp in northern Minnesota and

later went rafting with Outward Bound. She jumped on-board, literally, when friends – Anne Sherve-Ose and Deb White -- asked her to do the Mississippi trip.

Over the years friends and family members have joined the friends for a few days. Four years ago, Sherve-Ose’s lifelong friend, Janet Wangness Amos, became a permanent part of the group.

Sherve-Ose has written a book, “Mississippi Misadventures: Thirteen Trips of a Lifetime” that will be for sale at the meeting.

Introducing the speaker will be Joanne Lockner of the program committee.

Greeters for the February meeting will be Bev Macht and Joan Salmonsens. The tea committee is being chaired by Phyllis Urch. The committee members are Diane Engelstad, Dianne Klancher, Bonnie Kruegar, Joanne Lockner, Darlene Pizel and Barb Wiese.

Women who are not yet members are invited to attend the program. Those with questions about membership may call Kay Oberle, 507-451-9476, membership chair, or Sandy Muir, assistant chair, 507-319-3032.

Local dental clinic to offer free care to kids

Main Street Dental Clinics of Bloomington, Owatonna, New Richland, Mankato and Rochester will provide free dental care to less fortunate children on Saturday at their Owatonna location.

Patients interested in scheduling an appointment may call the dental office at 507-455-1000.

Main Street Dental is committed to providing access to quality dental care for all children. The program called, “Give Kids a Smile” is coordinated by the Minnesota Dental Association and has provided free dental care to more than 3 million children.

This is just one example of how deeply committed dentists and their staff are to giving every child the care they deserve. During the program parents will learn about when children should have their first dental visit, ways to prevent early childhood cavities, when to expect changes from primary to permanent teeth,

proper brushing and flossing techniques, thumb sucking, dental sealants, choosing the right mouth protector for active children and adolescents, and teaching their children to say no to tobacco. Parents will also learn about the importance of regular dental examinations.

Patients seeking appointments should be under the age of 18 and must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Interpreters are not provided for their day. The family is in charge of finding one on their own that is over the age of 18. Information needed when contacting Main Street Dental Clinics to schedule an appointment include the patient name, social security number, date of birth, address, contact phone numbers, and parent or guardian name.

If you know of a child or children who would benefit from receiving free dental care, Main Street Dental Clinics would welcome the opportunity to serve these children.

Eagles Cancer Auction set for this weekend

A fundraiser to fight cancer is coming back to Owatonna.

The Owatonna Fraternal Order of Eagles #1791 is hosting an annual two-day Eagles Cancer Auction this Friday and Saturday.

The 56th auction will run from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday and 4:30-11 p.m. Saturday at the Owatonna Eagles Club. The live auctions feature new donated items, gift cards or certificates, gift baskets, event tickets, experiences, and other merchandise sold to the highest bidder.

New at this year’s auction is the Ladies Auxiliary purse raffle.

All of the proceeds stay in Minnesota and will be presented to the Fifth District Cancer Telethon next January, according to Joel Hunt, chair of the auction committee. He said in past years three outstanding cancer research facilities have received disbursements, including Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, Hormel Institute for Cancer Research and the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center.

In 2017, the two-day event auctioned off more than 400 items and raised more than \$52,000 thanks to the generosity of the community and area businesses.

The Owatonna FOE is an organization that lives by the motto of “People Helping People,” Hunt said. FOE is part of the Fifth District, and Eagles Clubs in the district raised more than \$1 million for this great cause.

The auction is open to the public and there is food and drinks available for purchase. For more information visit FOE’s website at www.eagles1791.com/2018-cancer-auction.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VALENTINE DINNER COMING TO HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl is hosting an adult valentine dinner on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. with wine and appetizers with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. The menu includes Windsor chops, salad, baked potatoes, vegetables, rolls, coffee and dessert. There will also be door prizes and entertainment.

Tickets cost \$20. Tickets must be bought by Feb. 4, as no tickets will be sold at the door.

Contact people for tickets are: Carol at 583-7848; Jean at 583-2885; Laurie at 451-2001 or Mary Ann at 451-2564.

SHRINE CLUB HOSTING PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Owatonna Area Shrine Club is hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Owatonna Eagles’ Club.

Pancakes, eggs and sausage will be served. Tickets cost \$6.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Children 5 and under are free. Tickets are available at Kottke Jewelers,

Costas, the Eagles Club or from Shriner members. You can also call 507-213-0575.

Proceeds benefit the Shrine Club, which has been helping area children obtain expert orthopedic medical care at not cost to the family for over 50 years.

AUDITIONS SET AT LITTLE THEATRE

Little Theatre of Owatonna (LTO) is pleased to announce auditions for the comedy by Erik K. Hatach, ‘My Man Godfrey’ on Feb. 18-19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Owatonna, 560 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna.

In the depths of the Depression, Godfrey, a “forgotten man,” is rescued from his packing-crate home by ditzy socialite Irene Bullock during the course of a scavenger hunt. Irene offers Godfrey a job as butler to the banking family of Bullocks. Godfrey tolerates their eccentricities, alcoholism and general nuttiness.

He cures hangovers, dodges missiles thrown by Irene’s jealous sister, Cornelia, and charms matronly Angelica Bullock, who sees pixies every morning. Irene and Molly, the pert Irish maid, both fall in love with Godfrey, but for Irene, it’s serious-and she’s determined to get her man. Falsely accused by Cornelia of stealing the famous Bullock Pearls “de bullock

boils” according to the detective on the case), Godfrey uses the opportunity to recover his personal finances and when the Bullocks end up going broke, he rescues them by getting them all (gaspl) jobs in The Dump, a new nightclub Godfrey has built to provide work for his friends and for the Bullocks, too. Finally, Irene weds her man Godfrey, and it all works out in the end.

Audition packets are available at the Owatonna Public Library or by contacting Mary Butler Fraser at 507-455- 0125. Callbacks, if necessary, will held from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

There are 16 roles for both men and women with ages

ranging from the 20s on up. Between 5-6 roles need to be 20-30 years old. There are a number of walk-on parts that only require being in 1-2 scenes. This would also be a good production for those interested in non-speaking roles or only a few lines.

The artistic director is Jon Terril and the technical director is Mary Butler Fraser. Performances of ‘My Man Godfrey’ will be 7:30 p.m. on April 20-21, 27-28. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on April 22 and 29.

‘My Man Godfrey’ is presented in special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

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PBS

Access for handicapped



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Ellendale Mayor Russ Goette proudly shows a new set of handicapped accessible doors to the front of the Ellendale Community Building. The work was sponsored by the Ellendale Community Foundation, which was organized from donations and a matching grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. The foundation plans to remodel the kitchen as its next project.

Fortune recognizes U.S. Bank as a 2018 world’s most admired company

Fortune magazine has named U.S. Bank as the world’s most admired company, recognizing several of U.S. Bank’s attributes as most admired among all companies. U.S. Bank has also been named the world’s most admired superregional bank for the eighth consecutive year.

Across the 680 companies across all industries, Fortune ranked U.S. Bank as No. 1 in both Management Quality and Use of Corporate Assets, as well as No. 2 in Value as a Long-Term Investment, No. 5 in People Management and No. 6 in both Financial Soundness and Social Responsibility.

“It’s an honor to be recognized among companies that are anticipating and shaping the future,” said Andy Cecere, president and chief executive officer of U.S. Bancorp. “With the world around us changing faster than at any time in human history, positioning our company for growth tomorrow means creating the future today. I’m proud to work with our 73,000 U.S. Bankers up to take on this challenge with enthusiasm and integrity.”

Fortune also named U.S. Bank the most admired superregional bank for the eighth consecutive year. Among superregional banks, the bank ranked No. 1 in eight of Fortune’s nine key attributes of reputation: Quality of Management, Social Responsibility, Innovation, Quality of Products/Services, People Management, Use of Corporate Assets, Financial Soundness and Long-Term Investment Value. Overall, U.S. Bank’s reputation within its industry is the fifth-highest of any company in any industry on the World’s Most Admired Companies list.

Fortune’s World’s Most Admired Companies are determined by a survey of executives, directors and analysts rating companies in their industry on a series of criteria. Visit Fortune to learn more about methodology.

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FORECLOSURE

11-073286

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 1, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$89,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Paula L. Aldrich and Raymond P. Aldrich, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 6, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 310176
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; running thence East 127.60 feet; thence South 66 feet; thence West 127.60 feet; thence North 66 feet to the point of beginning AND
The E1/2 of the following described property: Commencing at a point 2 rods East and 12 rods and 2 links South of the NW corner of E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of Section 3-107-20; thence East to a point 2 rods West of the East boundary of said SE1/4 of said SE1/4; thence South 66 feet; thence West to a point 2 rods East of the West boundary line of said E1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4; thence North 66 feet to point of beginning
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1315 Bigelow Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17.003.2207
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,766.35
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: February 22, 2018, 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 August 22, 2018, or the next business day if August 22, 2018 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: January 2, 2018

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
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/9, 1/16, 1/23
1/30, 2/6, 2/13

FORECLOSURE

17-107902

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: March 30, 2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,708.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jill H. Haubenschild, an unmarried woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100273872511026742
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Envoy Mortgage, LTD
SERVICER: PHH Mortgage Corporation
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 4, 2016, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000406888
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 2 and the West 7 feet of Lot 1, in Hansen's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 116 5th St NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-110-0102
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$103,578.53
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: March 22, 2018, 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 September 22, 2018, or the next business day if September 22, 2018 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.

DONED.

Dated: January 23, 2018

PINGORA LOAN SERVICING LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
Shapiro & Zielke, LLP
12550 West Frontage Road,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/30, 2/6, 2/13
2/20, 2/27, 3/6

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-18-84

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

In Re: Estate of
Ethel M. Quimby,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 19, 2018, at 2:45 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, December 5, 2014, (“Will”), and for the appointment of Suzanne Lea Klukas, whose address is 40501 170th St., Waseca, MN 56093 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Karen R. Duncan
1/22/2018
Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnalawyers.com

1/30, 2/6

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-18-85

NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY,
DETERMINATION
OF HEIRSHIP,
APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of

Ronald Jerome Jensen,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 19, 2018, at 2:45 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Douglas D. Jensen, whose address is 1038 Grandview Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Karen R. Duncan
1/22/2018
Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Eric J. Mattison
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 151609
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: mattison@owatonnalawyers.com

1/30, 2/6

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 8, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$99,170.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy K. Rogness, a married person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 9, 2014 as Document Number A000398644 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 17, 2017 as Document Number A000415345 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Three (3), Block One (1), in Stormo Addition to City of Owatonna, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1314 N CEDAR AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$97,390.07
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.,
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wintrust Mortgage, a division of Barrington Bank and Trust Co., N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-157-0103
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100031200012152291

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. 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: March 20, 2018 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.
to pay the debt then secured by

said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2018.

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.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: January 24, 2018

WELLS FARGO BANK,
N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-1292-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/30, 2/6, 2/13
2/20, 2/27, 3/6

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
December 18, 2017

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 5:15 p.m.
(Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK P a m
Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister

ALSO PRESENT: S u -
perintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Members of the BPTA; School Patron

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
Reports given by Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation, Donations
Motion by Jenny Thurnau seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignation, and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Employment
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the employment of Robert White as an ECSE paraprofessional effective January 3, 2018. He will work approximately 32.5 hours per week with placement on step 3 of the prevailing paraprofessional grid. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
C. Volunteer Coaches
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the following persons as volunteers: Jennifer Johnson and Dean Meshke for varsity girls' basketball and Tanner Kramer for varsity boys' basketball. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
D. School Calendar
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the 2018-19 school calendar as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
E. Door Quote
Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve a quote from Floyd Total Security updating our door locking systems at both. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
F. World's Best Workforce Annual Report
Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the annual report. A public meeting will be held on January 16, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the High School Media Center. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

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

1/31

MEMBERS PRESENT: P a m
Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; School Patron

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the December 18, 2017, regular school board meeting.

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

1/31

G. Polling Place Resolution
A legislative change effective July 1, 2017, states that an entity is required to designate by ordinance or resolution a polling place for each election precinct by December 31st for the following calendar year. Each combined polling place must be at a location designated for use as a polling place by a county or municipality.

In essence, the Blooming Prairie City Council Chambers located in the City Center is the polling place for 2018 that the City of Blooming Prairie has designated. If the district were to have an election in 2018 it will be required to be held at the City Center.

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the polling place resolution. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Resolution Regarding District Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a resolution relating to immigration and customs enforcement. Motion Carried. (6 Aye-Hameister, Vigeland, Thurnau, Ille, Krell, Braaten/1 Nay-Sunde)

I. Addressing Plyler Obligations and School-Based Law Enforcement

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve a policy addressing Plyler obligations and school-based law enforcement. Motion carried. (5 Aye-Hameister, Vigeland, Thurnau, Krell, Braaten/2 Nay-Sunde, Ille)
6:00 p.m. – Budget/Levy Review and Discussion Took Place Prior to Final Levy Certification
J. Final 2017 Payable 2018 Levy Limitation
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the final 2017 payable 2018 levy limitation. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Rotation of School Board Officers
Nominations will be taken from Board members and vote on paper.
B. Committee Reports
A report update was given on the following committees: Education Foundation and Meet and Confer.
C. Enrollment Data
Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year as of December 12, 2017, is 420 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 308 at the high school (grades 7-12) (298 attending BPHS and 10 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 5 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time.

D. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
1. ZED is looking at setting up a ZED Capacity Committee to address the building situation. Meetings will take place on Tuesdays through February at 4:00-5:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Olson will meet with an Owatonna Peoples Press reporter regarding the achievements of the district.
3. Further information will be gathered regarding questions on the ACLU resolutions that were passed at this meeting.
4. A thank you was acknowledged from Stacy Magnus.

IX. ADJOURNMENT
Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Jon Sunde to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)
Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).
A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

1/31

MEMBERS PRESENT: P a m
Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; School Patron

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the December 18, 2017, regular school board meeting.

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

1/31



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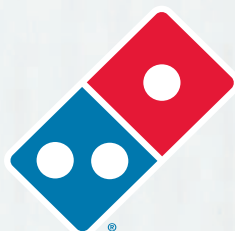
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High-finance seating makes attending Super Bowl a pipe dream

When it was announced that Minneapolis would be the home of Super Bowl LII, to say I was excited would have been an understatement. For years, I had wondered how cool it would be to see all the festivities surrounding the game and the game itself engulf the Twin Cities and to have the opportunity to be a part of that. As we get closer to the game, however, it seems more and more like a pipe dream.

Actually, maybe pipe dream isn't the right word, but it sure seems like the average guy on the street will have no chance to even come near the festivities. As the NFL continues its manifest destiny to line its pockets at whatever cost, the price of going to the Super Bowl just to see what the fuss is about is something that will require most of us reading this column to run to our local bank to take out a loan.



Chris Schadt
DCI SPORTS EDITOR

Odds are good that Super Bowl Sunday will be a complete, expensive cluster in the Twin Cities. For the visitors coming into the state, they'll be subject to sticker shock as my mom found out. While being optimistic that the Minnesota Vikings would be playing the Super

Bowl in their own stadium, she decided to look to see what the price of coming home from Alabama would be for the big game.

After seeing the price north of \$1,200 (without bag fees of course), her response was a "Nope" shortly before the Philadelphia Eagles pounded the Vikings to put an end to that pipe dream.

Of course, those coming into the state also have to see what staying in Minneapolis would be. Although there may be cheaper alternatives to stay in the cities, an online search found rooms at the reasonable rate of \$281 per night in Roseville. The next available price jumped to \$346. Multiply that by five nights and hopefully, you have a large bank account to cover seeing your team in the big game.

For us down here, we don't have to worry about the price of lodging if we don't want to. A simple drive up to the game will have the usual pains such as parking and concessions (which will obviously be higher than a regular Vikings game), but the task of getting a ticket is complex considering you could buy a decent used car for it.

On a resale site, Super Bowl Tickets were going for as low as \$3,700. Sure, that may seem expensive, but with a deal score of 9.0 (on a scale of 10) this is actually a magnificent deal. By the way, this ticket was in the final row of the stadium with your back to the Minneapolis skyline.

Now, I'm not stupid. When it was announced the game was coming here, I knew it would be expensive to get close to the action. But, with the prices so unreasonable, it almost feels like this anticipated event is something that the locals can't even get involved in. Sure, there are ways (such as the Crew 52 program highlighted in this tab), but its disappointing that there's few things that the average person can enjoy.

It's not going to change any time soon, but even ignoring the fact that the Vikings choked one week after the greatest finish in franchise history, the Super Bowl is already a massive disappointment to those who were looking to get in on the action.



Tackle drunk driving before the clock starts

State unveils game plan for safe roads during Super Bowl

Kick off on America's favorite past time is just about set to begin.

With the Super Bowl right around the corner, state safety experts are putting together their game plan to keep you and visitors safe from drunk and distracted drivers.

More than 1 million people are expected to besiege the Twin Cities during the Super Bowl with many more attending parties around the state. To keep everyone safe, state law enforcement officials would like to remind motorists to make sure they have a sober ride during the event.

"We want to encourage folks to turn over their keys to a sober driver—our vote for game MVP—before they begin drinking," said Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose. "Drunk driving can result in serious crashes, injuries or death—so speak up and plan a sober ride."

Here are some recommendations to keep you and others safe on the roads:

- Plan for a safe ride—designate a sober driver, use a cab or public transportation, or stay at the location of the celebration;

- Speak up—offer to be a designated driver or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere. If you see an impaired person about to get behind the wheel, get them a safe ride home;

- Buckle up—the best defense against a drunk driver is to wear your seat belt;

- Report drunk driving—call 911 when witnessing impaired driving behavior. Be prepared to provide location, license plate number and observed dangerous behavior.

This Super Bowl weekend, be a team player and help keep impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel. Don't fumble, experts warn. Designate your sober driver before the big game begins.

And remember: Fans don't let fans drive drunk.

'Crew 52' helps lead the way at the Super Bowl

BY CHRIS SCHAD
DCI SPORTS EDITOR

This weekend, the Twin Cities will become an absolute circus in preparation for Super Bowl weekend. It is expected that a little over one million visitors from across America and globally will make their way towards Minneapolis for the big game and even more of them will be making their first trip to Minnesota.

As anybody who has been on a long trip can attest, adapting to the area and knowing your surroundings can be a tall task. The solution may come in a simple form of 'Minnesota Nice' as the Crew 52 program has been formed to help visitors find their way around the skyways and streets of Minneapolis.

"It's an exciting opportunity," Dodge Center resident Jacqueline Gosse said. "I think it will be busy and just dealing with all the people, I don't know what to expect."

Gosse is among 10,000 volunteers that will help with Crew 52 whose jobs will range from helping people around the skyway system that keeps visitors out of the cold to helping them at local businesses

and hotels. Each volunteer will work a minimum of three four-to-six hour shifts over Super Bowl weekend to help visitors feel welcome.

To get ready for the tall task ahead, all volunteers have gone through a training program that began with a face-to-face interview last fall and several orientation programs throughout the past three months. The programs range from training to spot human trafficking to anything else that may be deemed suspicious at the big event.

"I've spent a lot of weekends driving back and forth to the cities," Gosse said of the training. "We're just looking for those things out of the ordinary to help out."

With Gosse helping greet the sponsors at the VIP lounge at the Mayo Clinic Square in downtown Minneapolis and helping out at the game itself, she feels it's a great way to help others see what Minnesota is all about.

"It's a great chance to spread joy and happiness," Gosse said. "We hear about so many bad things happening in our world and this is an opportunity to do good and be kind to the people visiting our great state."



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SUPER BOWL CREW 52

Noble, Olson volunteer to promote Minnesota



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A colorful Crew 52 jacket will be worn by Crew 52 volunteers days before the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 4. The New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles will square off at 5:30 p.m.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
SCT STAFF WRITER

Two Blooming Prairie women are suiting up for Super Bowl LII.

Becky Noble, executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce, and Diane Olson, Mayo Clinic grant manager, are two of 10,000 volunteers who have become part of Crew 52.

Two area mayors, Lois Nelson of Medford and Tom Kuntz of Owatonna, are part of that volunteer team.

Crew 52 is the National Football League team of kind-hearted volunteers who will be a central part making our Super Bowl a success.

Volunteers often will be the first point of contact for visitors, and Crew 52 volunteers will be a friendly source of information.

Crew 52 volunteers become the face of Minnesota as Minnesota hosts more than one million visitors during the 10-day festival.

In searching for volunteers, the Host Committee looked for bold, friendly people who are passionate about football, about Minnesota, about extending a warm welcome to Minnesota visitors, and can commit to three or more shifts during Super Bowl LII week.

Nearly 30,000 individuals applied to be a Super

Bowl Crew 52 volunteer.

Volunteers were sought with these qualities:

- Must be friendly, warm, outgoing and knowledgeable about Minnesota
- Guest service oriented
- Willing to be flexible and help in all areas
- Must be at least 18

Olson said she learned about the application process through her work at the Mayo Clinic, a sponsor of the Super Bowl. Noble found out about Crew 52 a couple of years ago at a chamber event.

Both Olson and Noble were required to be part of the interview process and about two weeks later they were informed they had been chosen a Crew 52 volunteer.

Olson will be serving as a Skyway Host for three days before the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 4.

Noble will be working three days downtown Minneapolis where concerts, snowmobile jumps, ice



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Becky Noble, Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, was surprised and pleased at the attractive uniform given to Crew 52 volunteers for Super Bowl LII on Feb. 4. Her mittens exclaim "Bold North."

Many of the volunteers including Olson and Noble were hopeful that the Vikings would qualify for the Super Bowl by defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC Championship game. That didn't happen, as the Eagles won convincingly, 38-7.

"Crew 52 volunteers are not volunteering to promote the Vikings; we are here to promote the Super Bowl and Minnesota with all its events leading up to the big Super Bowl game," Noble said.

"I am really looking forward to this experience," Olson remarked.

"It's a great opportunity for Minnesota to welcome guests and showcase our great state and people," she continued.

Noble and Olson are sports fans and Minnesota Viking fans in particular.

Olson admits that she grew up a Green Bay Packer

fan, living in Wisconsin. "Since living in Minnesota for over 30 years, I have seen the light and am a Viking fan," she pointed out.

Her favorite Viking player is wide receiver Adam Thielen, Minnesota born and raised in Detroit Lakes. "He's a hard worker and has done well," she added.

Noble says she is a fan of all Minnesota sports and does not spend much time watching major league sporting events. However, she spends enough time watching car racing events. Husband Mark has been piloting race cars the past many years.

Sports teams give people a lot to talk about, good and bad, Noble believes. "It's like talking about the weather," she says, "it brings people together to spend a day or night watching their favorite teams while eating their favorite foods, and engaging in sometimes crazy conversations."

Minnesota, Noble says, will not only be showcased by the people who come in, but also by the millions of people who are at home watching on their televisions throughout the country!

"We need to take every opportunity we can to showcase Minnesota, showing others what a great state we have. We also want to show others we do not sit inside all winter, we work hard, we play hard, we have great schools, lakes, parks, walking and biking paths, art museums, and theaters.

"I think that is why the volunteers of Crew 52 are so excited! We have been reminded of all the great things we have to offer living here. And maybe some of the volunteers who are not from Minnesota will choose to make this their home someday.

"Like I once told a politician after he gave a speech about what is wrong with Minnesota, I told him there are many positive things he could be talking about. And, maybe if he would be a more positive person, others would be willing to work with him to help fix the things that were not so perfect."

Noble said she is sad the Vikings did not make it to their home field for Super Bowl LII. "I am extremely happy for the pride the team has brought back to its fans this year," she said.

It may be years before Minnesota will have the chance to host a Super Bowl again, Noble says. "Be patient, it may happen again in our lifetime," she predicts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Diane Olson of Blooming Prairie shows off her uniform that she will be wearing as a volunteer of Crew 52, promoting Super Bowl LII. Volunteers participated in training and must commit at least three shifts (four to six hours in a shift) to their volunteer efforts.

SUPER PULL



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS BALDWIN.

The Owatonna Degner Regional Airport is expecting several private aircraft for the Super Bowl weekend.

The Big Game stands to make a big impact on area businesses

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
SCT STAFF WRITER

Events like the Super Bowl promise to have a tremendous effect on the regions that host them. They ignite new rivalries, rejuvenate old ones, and bring countless visitors from out of state.

Last year's Super Bowl, which was held in Houston, is reported by Rockport Analytics, LLC, to have brought an estimated \$428 million in new spending to the Houston area. Fox's broadcast of the game was watched by an average of 111.3 million viewers.

This year, with the Minnesota Vikings fighting their way to an improbable Super Bowl run, despite injuries and odds stacked against them, some Minnesota business leaders may have been secretly hoping for them to fall short. The reason is simple: two out-of-state teams would be likely to fare better economically than a Vikings' hosted Super Bowl.

"We were waiting to see if the Vikings won," said Vicki Lysne, general manager of Comfort Inn in Owatonna. She clarifies that out-of-state teams, while only receiving a small percentage of the available tickets for their fan bases, will still stand to improve the level of traffic expected.

Although it is still early, and reservations don't hasten up until within a week of the Super Bowl, Lysne reports that the Owatonna Comfort Inn already has a few reservations for that weekend. Whether they are

staying for the Super Bowl is another matter entirely.

Lysne said, "They might not all have tickets for the game, but they could be staying here for some of the other events going on." She also knows that "some people wait to see which teams make it before they make their plans."

Jennifer Martin, general manager of Baymont Inn & Suites in Owatonna, echoes these same notions. She feels that it's still too early to tell just how much business the Super Bowl might bring this way. "Typically the push comes after the metro area is full," she says, adding that she is assuming local hotels will undoubtedly see an increase in reservations the closer we get to the Super Bowl.

The level of business generated by these local hotels will depend on the amount of reservations experienced elsewhere and the rooms available. The Super Bowl and its visitors will create a sphere of influence radiating out from the Twin Cities, and if this sphere reaches Owatonna, it should pull some of the economic benefits down this way.

"We're only about one hour away, so we're easily within the circle of reach," said Brad Meier, president/CEO of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Meier is hoping to see a financial windfall from the event. "The Super Bowl in general is a big day for people," he says, "It's a very active day."

Hotels won't be the only businesses affected by the Super Bowl. Those in the food and beverage business

also stand to be affected, although this varies. For example, Buffalo Wild Wings in Owatonna expects a relatively normal Sunday volume of dine-in customers, but predicts more in take-out orders. "We hope to double our take-out sales," Mackenzie Meixner, service manager at Buffalo Wild Wings in Owatonna predicts. She said most people will be ordering from a "party-size" menu, or else opt for wings and appetizers.

The Applebee's in Owatonna, meanwhile, is expecting a slight down tick in customer traffic, due in large part to legal restrictions.

Applebee's doesn't have the rights to air the music incorporated into the broadcast, so it will have to present it without the sound, which might affect the amount of customer traffic they receive in a negative way.

Mark Giga, an AT&T spokesman, said, "Due to music rights restrictions, business customers – like bars and restaurants – are required to obtain licenses to play audio content. Customers are independently responsible for obtaining the applicable licenses from performing rights organizations."

Buffalo's Meixner said, "Our sound is always on." She explains that the franchise sees itself as the premier sports bar and entertainment restaurant, and that this results in a greater emphasis in providing customers with access to all manner of sporting events, including their sound.

Area airports are also expecting a lot of business to swing their way. Dave Beaver, manager at the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport, reports that the NFL Committee predicts around 1,100 jets to be flying into this area.

He said that the metro area can only handle around 800 private jets, and will be dealing with a possible record number of airline passenger traffic as well. This means that local airports will have to pick up the slack as about 300 to 400 aircraft will be obligated to find additional places to land.

Beaver anticipates increased traffic locally, and is working in concert with Air Traffic Control on reservations. He says that "we already have four or five reservations so far, but we try to limit them to a number we can safely handle." With the recent weather, safety is a priority.

"We're looking to try to accommodate somewhere between 10 or 12 aircraft, which is typical with what Air Traffic Control has allotted," Beaver said. He also expects some aircraft to drop their passengers off in Minneapolis and then "reposition" by flying down to the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport to park.

He is expecting that many will be looking to stay at local hotels. "At least flight crews will likely be staying," Beaver says, adding he had a gentleman from Pennsylvania already looking into reservations in the area.

When asked about the possibility for dangerous weather, Beaver said, "The long range forecast for that weekend doesn't look too bad." But just in case, he is confident in his staff. "We do a good job of snow removal and that sort of thing, but we'll certainly be watching the weather closely after this last storm," he said.

Owatonna is roughly a one hour drive from the metro area, which promises that the region, and its businesses, will see an increase in traffic and spending. "The Super Bowl is a big draw," Meier said. "I think we could definitely see a very large number of visitors, both state-wide and locally."

Viracon thrilled to showcas



“The most challenging portion of the project was helping the architects accomplish their vision for a stadium that invites you in.”

Seth Madole

Viracon Director of Sales

STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS SCHAD

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The pride of Steele County will be proudly displayed at U.S. Bank Stadium as football fans from the entire country converge on Minnesota for the Super Bowl.

U.S. Bank Stadium is an epicenter of Minnesota pride. That pride is showcased with 180,000 square feet of glass all produced in Owatonna by Viracon.

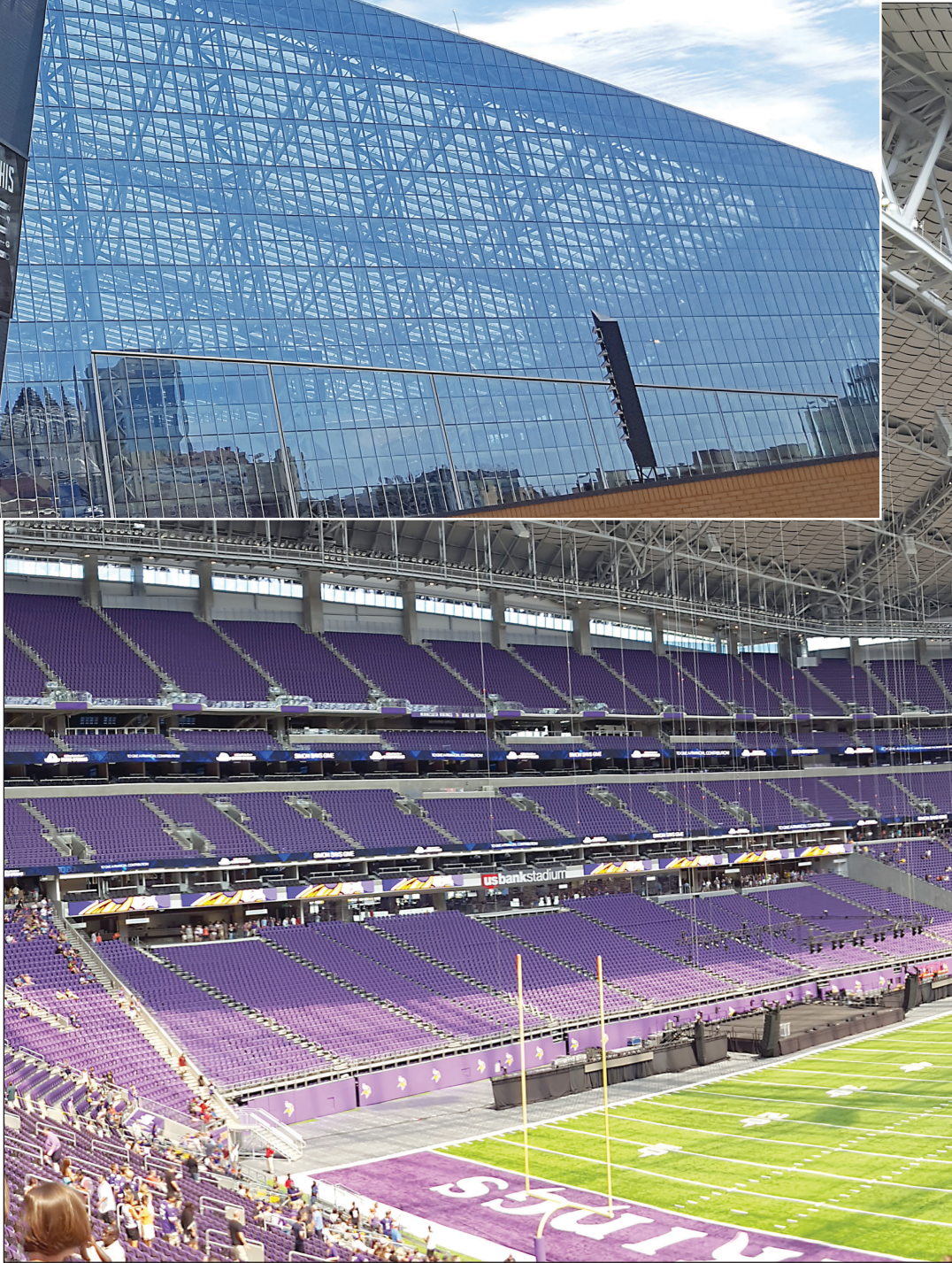
“Any time a great stadium gets additional publicity from a big event like that, it boosts the company,” said Seth Madole, director of sales and operations for Viracon. “It’s awesome to be a part of it.”

Viracon, Madole said, provided U.S. Bank Stadium with 9,000 insulated unit windows. About 300 windows were transported from Viracon’s Owatonna facility to the new stadium each week for about 20 weeks back in 2016.

And providing the glass came with its challenges.

“The most challenging portion of the project was helping the architects accomplish their vision for a stadium that invites you in,” Madole explained. He said it was also challenging to manage the needed performance of the glass to tolerate the temperature extremes in Minnesota. It can swing from 100 degrees in August to -30 in January.

While the U.S. Bank Stadium project was a big one for Viracon, Madole says it proved to be just another day in the life of the glass manufacturer. He said there are as many as 300 projects



e glass at Super Bowl home

of the Vikings scale going through Viracon at any one time.

To put it in perspective, Madole said even though the Vikings project was spread out over a 20-week period, the glass could be manufactured and completed in less than two days. He said the stadium builders wanted the glass in a certain sequence, which is why it was spread out over a longer period.

Madole said the upcoming Super Bowl is “awesome for local morale” at Viracon. A number of employees are volunteering at the Super Bowl.

Amongst the Viracon employees are some Packer fans. “We didn’t let them work on the glass. We were worried about them,” Madole said with a chuckle.

The home of this year’s Super Bowl is impressive by many accounts, and Madole is certain it will dazzle visitors. “It’s awesome to have the ability to have an enclosed climate-controlled stadium with a feeling of being outside,” he said. He added there

is a high percentage of visible light throughout the stadium making fans forget that they’re actually indoors.

“Absent of the glass, they did a great job with the acoustics,” Madole said.

He is glad that many Owatonna fans got a chance to see the stadium last fall when the Owatonna Huskies captured the state football championship.

Viracon is involved with some other NFL projects. One of them is the new Las Vegas Raiders Stadium. Madole said Viracon will be supplying all the glass for the stadium within the next 12 months.

“We do a lot of stadium projects around the country,” Madole said.

But chances are U.S. Bank Stadium will hold the most pride for Viracon employees, and the rest of Minnesota for years to come.



The greatest of all time

don't think there is much more debate that Tom Brady is the best quarterback to ever play the game. He has five Super Bowl rings and this Sunday in Minneapolis, can build onto one of the most impressive careers in American sports history when he starts his NFL-record eighth Super Bowl.

I have heard a number of impressive stats and facts about Brady and the Patriots over the past week, but perhaps the most impressive is that only four franchises (Pittsburgh, Green Bay, Dallas and San Francisco) have won as many playoff games as Brady.



Dennis Marshall
SCT SPORTS EDITOR

I'm hearing less and less debate over whether Brady is the greatest quarterback or football player of all time and a new discussion has emerged: Is Tom Brady the greatest American athlete of all-time?

I don't think you're going to find many people outside of Foxborough who would put Brady ahead of Michael Jordan, but the question is now a relevant one with Brady having the opportunity to tied Jordan with sixth league championship this Sunday.

However, Brady could be without his top target, tight end Rob Gronkowski.

There is still uncertainty if Gronkowski will play after he suffered a concussion in the AFC

Championship. Gronkowski caught six passes for 68 yards in the Patriots' 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLIX, but missed last season's Super Bowl LI due to injury.

There is no doubt that Gronkowski's health will be one of the top headlines the week heading into the game.

REMATCH OF SUPER BOWL XXXIX

The Patriots and the Eagles are meeting for the second time in the Super Bowl. New England defeated Philadelphia 24-21 in Super Bowl XXXIX. Brady finished with 23-of-33 in that game for 236 yard and two touchdowns and no interceptions, but Patriots wide receiver Deion Branch was named MVP. Branch caught 11 passes for 133 yards, but I will always remember the heroic effort made by Eagles' wide receiver Terrell Owens in the game. Owens had suffered severely sprained ankle and a fractured fibula early in the season, but returned for the big game. He finished with nine catches for 122 yards.

The Patriots look to win their sixth championship on Sunday, which would tie the Steelers for the most in league history. The Eagles are appearing in their third Super Bowl and are looking to their first win.

EAGLES FANS SHOULD BE ASHAMED

Let me start by saying that I know there are bad apples in all fans bases, but I think we can all agree that the Philadelphia fans as a whole, are the absolute worst. Videos posted to social media this past Sunday showed a hostile environment for Vikings fans attending the NFL Championship, which the Eagles won 38-7. Some Vikings fans were booed, taunted and subject to expletives at close range as they walked through the parking lot and another video showed what appeared to be a beer can being thrown at the Vikings fans heading to the stadium. To Eagles' fans credit, some donated \$10,000 to Vikings coach Mike Zimmer's foundation as a means

of apologizing for their behavior. However, don't expect a change from Philadelphia fans as they have displayed a pattern of inexcusable behavior. Some of the worst moments for Philadelphia fans include: in 2010 when a Phillies fans intentionally vomited on a 11-year-old girl; in 1983 when Eagles fan assaulted and broke the leg of Kansas City Chiefs' mascot Chief Zee and perhaps the most infamous when Eagles fans booed and threw snowballs at Santa Claus in 1968.

In my opinion the worst moment in Philadelphia sports history came in 2002 NFC Championship Game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers when Eagles fans committed a despicable act of taunting Bucs wide receiver Joe Jurevicius about his son, who has been born prematurely five days earlier. However, Jurevicius and the Bucs reigned supreme, and defeated the Eagles 27-10 in route to eventually winning Super Bowl XXXVII.

MORE THAN JUST A GAME

Super Bowl LII brings much more than a game to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Throughout the week preceding the game, hundreds of student athletes will have the opportunity to learn and develop football and like skills through a series of Play Football events hosted by the NFL Youth and High School Football department. From family football festivals to character development camps, students and football players of all ages will be celebrated all week long.

There will be a Play Football Family Festival on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Shakopee High School. Guests will have an opportunity to participate in various activities and enjoy entertainment elements such as photo opportunities, and breakout panel sessions. The festival will conclude with an NFL player speech. A Play Football Middle School Developmental Camp on Thursday, Feb. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Braemar Arena in Edina for current and future football players in middle school. Participates will learn various football skills and drills designed for developing football players and a chance to discuss character and football values associated with the game.

The NFL Youth and High School Football department will host a breakfast for 40 key partners and stakeholders on Thursday, Feb. 1 at the NFL House to help foster further development and support for youth and high school football initiatives, provide networking opportunities, and serve as an open forum to discuss the Youth and High School Football landscape.

The NFL will celebrate high school football participants on Friday, Feb. 2 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. at the Super Bowl Experience at the Minneapolis Convention Centre, The NFL Youth and High School department will provide 300 complimentary tickets to local high school football players. These student-athletes will have an opportunity to invite one peer who does not currently play football but interest in joining the squad to attend and learn more about the game.

The NFL will also host the third In The Huddle: Women's Summit for Young Women. The event will bring together today's leaders, women from Minnesota area colleges and Universities and member of the NFL Football Family to celebrate women in sports.

SEE **GREATEST**, PAGE 10



'The energy will be incredible'

Byron women among 10,000 Super Bowl greeters

BY RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI MANAGING EDITOR

There were 30,000 applicants for "Crew 52," the volunteer welcoming committee for Super Bowl 52, set for Feb. 4 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Some 14,000 were interviewed, and 10,000 energetic souls were chosen – including two women from Byron.

"I love it," said Gail Nelson, an event coordinator for Mayo Historic Properties in Rochester. "The energy will be incredible. You're not going to get many experiences like that."

"I'm just excited to be part of the energy and meet new people," said Nicki Nicholas, an education program manager with the Mayo Clinic. "And if the Vikings are in the game, it's just 100,000 times more exciting. The buzz is just incredible."

Nelson will be a skyway host in downtown Minneapolis, guiding some of the estimated 1 million visitors expected to descend on the Twin Cities.

She heard about Crew 52 by email at work, applied on a whim last spring, and was chosen in September.

She will work a Super Bowl Week shift on Wednesday, Jan 31 – and back-to-back shifts on Super Bowl Sunday.

"It'll be a long day, but it'll be exciting," Nelson said. "I'm just going to take it all in."

Crew 52 members are trained in the basics to welcome and help the public: How do we find the stadium, where are some good places to eat, and what can you tell us about Minneapolis and St. Paul?

Nelson said Minnesota provided a warm welcome for visitors to the 1992 Super Bowl, at the old Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, and the NFL hopes for a repeat.

"Everybody's excited to do it," she said. "You wouldn't volunteer

"Some people think it's crazy that there'll so many people, but I love that. I'm going to take full advantage. Whatever happens, it'll be fun."

Gail Nelson, Byron

One of about 10,000 "Crew 52" Super Bowl Week volunteers

to do this unless you're excited to show off Minnesota. I'm proud of being from here, and I'm excited."

Crew 52 members won't see the Big Game in person, but they will receive a nice uniform, a warm coat with zip-in liner, a long-sleeve polo shirt, a scarf, mittens, socks, discount tickets to Minnesota Wild, Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Lynx games, and a "Love Your Melon" beanie, knitted by Minnesota Knitting Mills in Mendota Heights.

And there's always the possibility of spotting Justin Timberlake, this year's halftime performer. And The Tonight Show's Jimmy Fallon will host his show in Minneapolis after the game.

"I think it'll just be fun to see all the people," Nelson said. "Some people think it's crazy that there'll so many people, but I love that. I'm going to take full advantage. Whatever happens, happens. It'll be fun."

Nicholas will volunteer as a greeter at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bloomington. She also was a Super Bowl host during the 2015 event in Glendale, Ariz.

She registered for an



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gail Nelson

email newsletter and checked out Crew 52 when she heard Minnesota would host the Super Bowl.

She was a bit nervous upon being chosen.

"There were so many energetic Vikings fans," she said. "But I was just excited to tell (the interviewers) about why I wanted to showcase Minnesota, why it's so great to live here and be here."

"If the Vikings are in the game, it's just 100,000 times more exciting. The buzz is just incredible."

Nicki Nicholas

Also a Crew 52 volunteer from Byron



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICKI NICHOLAS

Nicki Nicholas, with Bold North mittens – Nicki Nicholas, Byron, is pictured with outdoor clothes she received for volunteering with "Crew 52" during Super Bowl Week in Minneapolis. Bold North is "a collection of innovators and idealists, scientists and risk-takers, explorers and storytellers," spotlighting Minnesota during the Super Bowl, according to mnsuperbowl.com.

Super Bowl dates back to 1967

BY LEMAR NELSON
SCT SPORTS WRITER

One of the few persons, Becky Noble of Blooming Prairie, who missed the miracle ending to the Vikings' victory over New Orleans happened to be attending a training session for Crew 52, the thousands plus volunteer organization that will welcome the many visitors to the Twin Cities during Super Bowl week. That group met for the second time and again displayed a great upbeat atmosphere for that annual event.

There is no doubt, but that this year's Super Bowl will be an extra special event. The Super Bowl played its first championship game on Jan. 15, 1967, and was the championship game of the National Football League. The National Football League and an upstart American Football League agreed to

merge in 1970.

With the 2018 game the 52nd in the series, it has become the most watched American television event, and the seven most watched broadcast events are seven of the Super Bowl games. In fact, the game is one of the world's most watched programs.

Since that first game, the Pittsburgh Steelers have won six times, the most by any team. New England is one of three teams to win five times, and Tom Brady is a five-time winning quarterback.

Green Bay won the first two Super Bowls, and the first AFL team to win the title was the Joe Namath New York Jets who upset Baltimore in Super Bowl III. Kansas City defeated our Minnesota Vikings in the next year's game.

The NFC dominated the two decades of the 80s and 90s, winning 16 of the 20 games, but since then, the victories have been fairly evenly split.



PHOTO BY CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Greatest: *Dennis runs 'em down*

FROM PAGE 8

OTHER COUNTLESS POSSIBILITIES

For many Minnesotans, Super Bowl LII lost some of its allure without the home-state Vikings, but there are still many reasons for excitement including 10 days of free concerts, fan activations and a lot more leading to the game.

The Super Bowl is also projected to generate \$400 million for the local economy and many expect to believe the game will have a greater economic impact without the Vikings because more people from outside the community will be coming in.

I'm thrilled to participate in some of the events in the week leading up to the game and I encourage area residents to do the same.

Super Bowl Live runs from Jan. 26 to Feb. 4 at Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. The event is free to the public and will feature something for everyone, including free live concerts, national broadcast activities, food and fun, with nods to winter that showcase Minnesota's authentic, Bold North brand.

Tickets are still available for the Super Bowl Experience from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3 at the Minneapolis Convention Center where fans can get an NFL experience like nowhere else. The event includes virtual reality stations, autograph sessions with NFL players, photo opportunities with the Vince Lombardi Trophy, flag football clinics and even a Play 60 Zone.

There are also great musical options throughout the week that includes concerts by Future and Cardi B., the Chainsmokers, Florida Georgia Line, Post Malone, Jennifer Lopez, Rick Ross and the Dave Matthews Band among many others. There are also countless opportunities to enjoy some of the best cuisine at events like Taste Of The NFL at the Saint Paul River Centre on Feb. 3. Chefs from each NFL city will serve signature dishes alongside a current and alumni NFL player. There will be more than 35 food stations where guests can sample fine cuisine, meet and mingle with renowned chefs and NFL greats.

SUNDAY GAME SPECIALS

Pepperoni/Sausage Pizza	Hamburger & Fries	4pm Sunday Buffet
\$6	\$5	\$12

Home of:
Tracy's Homemade Pizza
FREE CHEESE BREAD!
With any pizza purchase.
Limit one per order

A large, round pizza with various toppings, including pepperoni and sausage, is being served on a metal tray. A woman with glasses and a floral shirt is smiling next to it.

FRANK N STEIN'S

Football Special All Weekend
Take & bake available!

Free birthday meals!
15 Frontage Rd, Byron
507-775-6440

A glass of beer with a thick head of foam, likely a craft beer, is shown in a close-up shot.

Blitz 52 Tailgate Party to highlight pre-game Super Bowl



Daryl "Moose" Johnston

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Carl Eller

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Blitz Tailgate (www.blitztailgate.com) is proud to announce Minnesota Vikings Legend and Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee, Carl Eller will be a special guest alongside event host, 3-time Super Bowl Champion Daryl "Moose" Johnston, signing autographs and giving game day commentary on the main stage during The Blitz Tailgate 52 on Feb. 4, at the Rock Bottom Brewery in downtown Minneapolis.

"It's an exciting time for Minnesota with the Super Bowl in town. The Super Bowl is a great event that brings all fans of the game together. I'm looking forward to meeting these great fans at The Blitz 52 Tailgate before the game," Eller said.

Eller, who was drafted in the first round by the Minnesota Vikings in 1964, played 14 years with the team and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004. During his career with the Vikings, he was a 6-time Pro Bowl player, NFL Defensive Player of the Year, and was part of the Vikings defensive unit known as the "Purple People Eaters."

The Blitz Tailgate will be hosted by former

Dallas Cowboys 3-time Super Bowl Champion, Daryl "Moose" Johnston. This will be Johnston's second time hosting the event, the first being in Houston in 2017 when the event was called "Texas Tailgate."

"I had so much fun last year in Houston, and I'm excited to be coming back, this time to be alongside Vikings Great Carl Eller at The Blitz Tailgate Party. I look forward to seeing everyone there!" Johnston said.

The Blitz Tailgate will take place, Feb. 4, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Rock Bottom Brewery located at the LaSalle Plaza, 800 LaSalle Ave., in downtown Minneapolis. Admission to the event is \$450 per person and includes unlimited gourmet buffet, top-shelf liquor, unlimited Rock Bottom Craft Beers, free autographs, live entertainment and pre-game TV coverage. At the conclusion of the event, guests not attending the Super Bowl can stay to watch the Big Game. Tickets are available online at www.blitztailgate.com. Limited tickets will be available at the door on Feb. 4.

DARYL "MOOSE" JOHNSTON

- 3 time Super Bowl Champion with the Dallas Cowboys
- 2-time Pro Bowl Player
- 11-year NFL veteran
- Fox Sports Commentator and Analyst

CARL ELLER

- 6-time Pro Bowl Player
- Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame
- Hall of Fame
- Minnesota Vikings Ring of Honor

WHAT: The Blitz Tailgate 52 It is a pre-game hospitality event prior to the big game.

WHERE: Walking distance to the US Bank Stadium at an indoor, climate controlled facility. All-you-can eat gourmet buffet, premium liquor, beer, wine, and live entertainment.

WHEN: February 4, (12:00pm - 4:00pm). Game kickoff is 5:30pm CST.