

Opinion

Our view

U Booze, U Drive, U Lose

Times kicks off year-long project focused on impaired driving

It has been a century-old problem. Advances have been made to correct the issue, but there is much more work that still needs to be done. Since the era that cars were first mass-produced, there have been issues with impaired driving. The first such offense reportedly came in 1897 in London. In the states, the first drunk-driving law was passed in New York in 1910. Other states followed suit, eventually introducing blood alcohol content levels as standards for the crime.

Many worldwide advances have been made over the past century, including the introduction of the Breathalyzer in 1953 and the influential lobbying efforts of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving in the 1970s. Despite this progress, many more improvements are needed to make our roads safer.

This newspaper recognizes that the media is a key component in facilitating the progress needed to effect change. That's why this week the *Times*, along with our sister publication the Dodge County Independent, kicks off a year-long project focused on impaired driving. Over the next 12 months, we will be periodically publishing in-depth stories dealing with the devastating toll caused by alcohol and driving.

Every 53 minutes on average, someone is killed in a drunk driving crash. In 2011, fewer than 10,000 people died at the hands of a drunk driver. Every two minutes, someone is injured because of this entirely preventable crime.

If you think this is a big city problem or something that simply happens elsewhere, you're sadly mistaken. Or should we say dead wrong.

For the period 2007-2011, the most recent five-year period available, there were 29 traffic fatalities in Steele and Dodge counties. Of those 29 deaths, seven were alcohol-related. In addition, officers in both counties arrested almost 1,700 drunk drivers during that period.

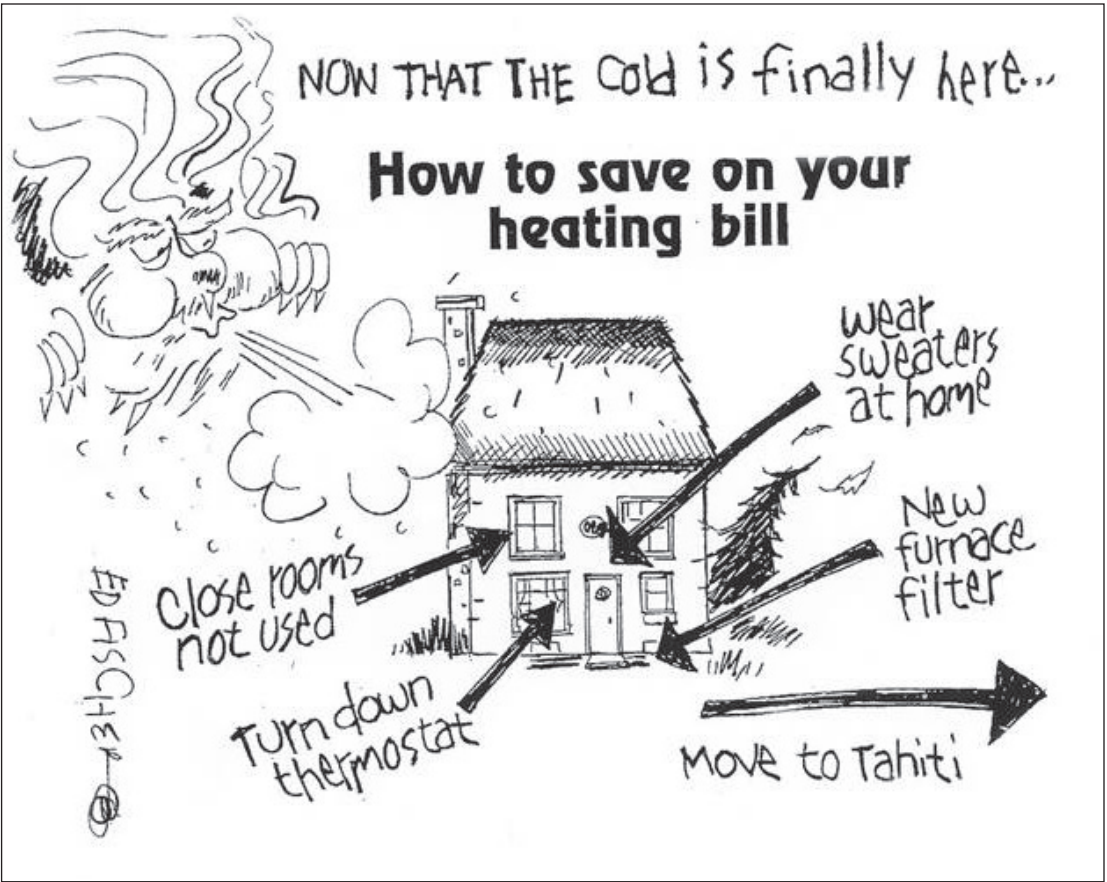
Add in Freeborn and Mower counties and it becomes much worse. There have been 47 traffic deaths in those counties from 2007-2011 with eight of them being alcohol-related. Officers in those counties took nearly 2,600 drivers into custody for impaired driving.

We hope this is enough to get your attention. But this upcoming series isn't about statistics and numbers, though they help illustrate the problem. It's about real life families and individuals who are ravaged by drivers who make the stupid choice to get behind the wheel after having one too many.

The series will feature families who have lost loved ones or have been dealing with life-long debilitating injuries of family members. We will explore what law enforcement and the courts are doing to handle the nagging problem. The community plays a key role in all of this as well, and we'll see what efforts are being made before it's too late. We'll even hear from offenders who now have to live with the deadly consequences they caused other families.

We're not here to advocate prohibition of alcohol or discourage people from enjoying a brew or wine periodically. But we are here to convey the message that impaired driving is unacceptable and should not be tolerated as a society. We all have a responsibility to make sure drunks don't get behind the wheel to drive.

The message is pretty simple—don't do it! Impaired driving can wreck your life as well as the lives of innocent people. One thing is certain. If you booze and you drive, you will lose.



Help needed for a struggling mother

A sad case involving a helpless almost 2-month-old baby has captured state and national headlines in recent weeks.

Myles Daniel Scott Stucky died while being cared for by his father, Cory Neal Stucky, 30, in their Blooming Prairie home in July. On the morning hours of July 18, the child's mother, Amy Solland, found the child lying face down by Stucky's right arm. When she noted the baby was cold to the touch and not breathing, she immediately began to cry and scream, called 911 and started CPR on her own child.

Stucky has since been charged with second-degree manslaughter and child endangerment. He is accused of drinking at least 24 beers on the day prior to the child's death. Neighbors described Stucky as being "tanked" throughout the day. The medical examiner ruled that the baby died of asphyxia.

Myles may have been a tiny little guy, but in his short time on earth, he stole the hearts of many. Family and friends greatly miss him.

I must admit when I was called into action to write a story about this horrible tragedy I was in great anguish. It's one of the most difficult stories I have ever encountered in my long journalistic career.

As you can imagine, Solland is left struggling with what has happened. "I'm broken," she told me last week. "Unless you've been there, you can't imagine what either of us are going through."

Besides battling the aftermath of losing a loved one, Solland is struggling financially. She has been left with burial expenses of more than \$3,100. She has no way to pay for those bills. A friend has established a GoFundMe fundraising website to assist her with raising some money to help out. Donations can be directed online to gofundme.com/zsjc7yk.

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

do is provide some financial support to at least help the mother get back on her feet by taking care of some of the unexpected funeral costs.

Sadly, Myles is somebody most of us never crossed paths with in his short life on this earth. But I hope that won't stop people from sharing some of their love and generosity through a financial donation. Myles didn't have a fighting chance.

This sad case has been compounded by the apparent alcohol abuse by Myles' father. In a front page story in last week's edition of the *Times*, Solland shared her vision of getting court-ordered help for Stucky and his alcohol problem. She said she has tried for a year and a half to get him to sober up, but nothing has worked.

Solland is struggling and reaching out to get some help. The least we can do is go in hot pursuit of helping with just even a small financial donation.

Solland continues to live in Blooming Prairie where her 5-year-old son attends kindergarten. She volunteers at the school and takes pride in helping other kids, especially special education students. Her heart seems to be in the right place. But, sorrowfully, her heart is broken and shattered in a million pieces.

There is nothing anybody can do to bring this little fellow back to life. But what folks can

Baby's death fundraising campaign



Donations are being accepted for burial costs of Myles Daniel Scott Stucky. To make a donation, visit:

gofundme.com/zsjc7yk

Myles Stucky

A GLIMPSE OF STEELE COUNTY



ALAN VAN ORMER

We wish you the best moving forward

Friday will be a sad day for many at the Steele County Times office. That is the last day for Lynn Borchert, our office manager. She has been the glue that holds this office together. Those who worked with her in this office and those who dealt with her outside the office will sorely miss her.

Lynn has accepted another job in Owatonna and will start there in the next few days.

From a personal perspective, she has been more than a co-worker; she has been a good friend to Susan and me. When I cracked my head open last January, she was there in the hospital checking to make sure that I was okay. She was there for Susan when she needed someone to help her through seeing her husband not knowing who he was or where he was over a good portion of 2015. That shows the depth of this person and the caring attitude she has for people.

In the office atmosphere, she has made sure I don't step too far out of bounds. There have been many times where she will look at me or say to me, "think before you speak!" That is very appreciated and it will be something I will have to continuously remind myself of after she walks out these doors.

She has also provided much of the organization that is needed to run a growing newspaper like the Steele County Times. Just the other day I had walked by her desk and saw perfect rows of stacked papers and only she knows what each of the rows stands for.

There was one thing I never got to see. In the almost three years we have worked together, not once has she brought in anything that she has cooked for our potlucks! She will tell you 'Yes, she has.' I will argue 'No, she hasn't.'

All fun aside, Lynn is a special person. She genuinely cares about the people that she works with. Lynn will be missed.

Good luck Lynn, and thank you for what you've brought to us at the Steele County Times.

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

Congressman Tim Walz Washington D.C. Office 1034 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-2472 Rochester Minnesota Washington, DC Office	Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: 507-388-2149 877-846-9259 Sen. Al Franken Washington DC Office 309 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-5641	Suite 213 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 288-2003 Sen. Amy Klobuchar Washington D.C. Office 302 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3244 Fax: 202-228-2186	Southern Office 1130 1/2 7th Street, NW, Room 212 Rochester, MN 55901 Main Line: 507-288-5321 Fax: 507-288-2922 Toll Free Number: 1-888-224-9043
Mankato District Office 527 ½ South Front Street	Rochester Office 1202-1/2 7th Street NW		

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

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

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2015 4 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2014 3 National Awards 3 State Awards	
2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2012 2 State Awards	
2011 4 National Awards	

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

STAFF
PublisherRick Bussler Managing EditorAlan Van Ormer Staff WritersLeMar Nelson News Editor.....Laura Berndt Office Manager.....Lynn Borchert Sales Manager.....Julie Snyder Advertising SalesShauna ChristiansenEileen Johnson
Graphic Designers.....Miranda Wadewitz
DEADLINES
News: Noon Fridays. Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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

Second Front

Owatonna community rallies against devastating disease

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

It was a bittersweet evening at Owatonna High School as the community paused to celebrate the life of Juan Villarreal Jr. During this “Coaches vs. Cancer” fundraiser, community members raised \$2,195 for the American Cancer Society.

The fundraiser took place in honor and memory of Villarreal, who passed away in October 2015 after battling stage-four pancreatic cancer. One of Villarreal’s nephews, Jake Borchert, is a member of the Owatonna High School boys basketball team. Borchert and Villarreal’s other loved ones assembled on the basketball court during a time-out on Saturday night. The group proudly held a check, designating \$2,195 to the American Cancer Society.

Jodie DeKam, Elizabeth Malo and Cindy Emanuelson work together to help organize Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising events at the school. Prior to the event, t-shirts were sold and supporters also had the opportunity to enter raffles for prizes. “Our goal is just to collect money for Coaches vs. Cancer,” said Emanuelson. “All the money goes straight to the American Cancer Society.”



Owatonna High School cheerleaders Evelin Cuellar and Vivica Rosenberg collect donations during the Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser on Saturday night at Owatonna High School.

Emanuelson notes that the community always bands together in support of the fundraisers. “We have great business and community support,” Emanuelson said, noting that Saturday’s event in particular garnered some excellent prize donations.

“Any time there’s an effort like this, no matter if it’s for music, athletics or any other cause, the Owatonna community comes together to support the cause,” said DeKam. “I think the community really shows its support and I think it brings people together.”

DeKam shared that the events are also extremely meaningful

for the people who are honored. DeKam’s own family was honored after a loved one passed away from cancer. “This will always have a special place in my heart,” said DeKam. “It allows that family, or just any body who is going through this, to see that the community rallies around them.”

In addition to the raffle and t-shirt sales, other fundraising activities also took place during Saturday night’s basketball game between the Owatonna Huskies and the East Ridge Raptors. One activity took place during halftime, when volunteers canvassed the crowd, accepting as many donations as



Staff photos by Laura Berndt
Juan Villarreal Jr.’s family members, loved ones and supporters hold a check, representing the Coaches vs. Cancer donation for \$2,195 to the American Cancer Society. The event was made possible by the Owatonna Boys Basketball team and Coaches vs. Cancer.

possible during 76 seconds. The number “76” symbolizes the fact that 76 people in the state of Minnesota are diagnosed with cancer each day.

During a time-out, announcers also read a statement from Villarreal’s family. “Juan always had a drive to give back, and this is something cancer could not take away from him,” the state-

ment read. Villarreal devoted his time to Adopt a Highway, Big Brother/Big Sisters, the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County, District One Hospital and From the Heart Run. He also raised money for the American Cancer Society through the Relay for Life.

“Having Juan honored at the Coaches vs. Cancer night truly

touched our family,” continued the family’s statement. “To us, this is a way for Juan, through others, to continue to do what was most important to him: making this a world a better place by helping others.”

Any one interested in donating to the cause is encouraged to contact the Owatonna High School’s Hoops Club.

REMEMBERING KELLY JO

Continued from Page 1A

the driver might luckily end up at home, may end up having to pay huge fines, or having to attend an impact panel session, or they might take someone else’s life including their own. “Those who make that decision to drink and drive are taking a big risk,” he added.

Roger related that he has been part of a victim impact panel where an offender spoke about being drunk and killing a father of four children. “His story had a lot of impact,” Roger said.

Roger and Joanne said most who attend the impact panels because of a court order are angry. “They are angry because they got caught, because they had to pay \$50 to enroll in the session and because it was a court order they had to be there,” Roger explained. Many of them appear without a driver’s license, the Sorensons said.

Offenders span all ages, the Sorensons said, but most dominantly are those in their 20s.

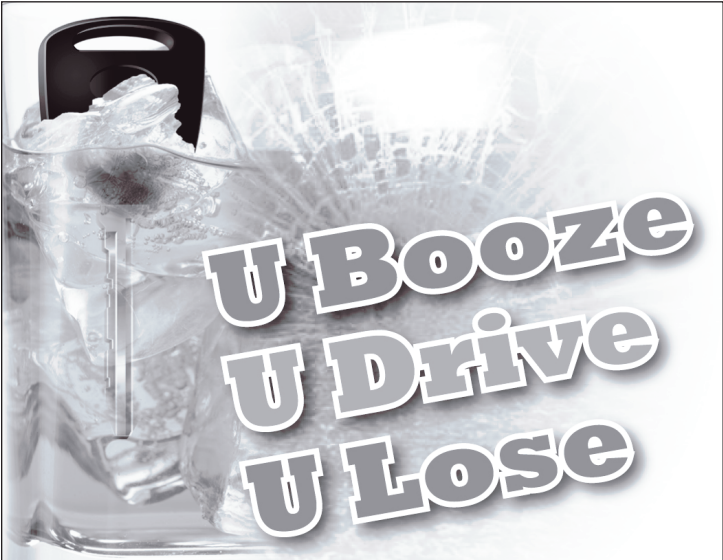
Roger has chosen to speak for him and his wife and said his 15- to 20-minute talk more recently has become a half hour. “I don’t do it for any motivation other than hoping to save lives,” Roger remarked.

Roger and Joanne reside in a ramblar with their energy-packed Dachshund named Addie. As the Sorensons welcome visitors to their home, they laugh and say, “Welcome to our gated community.” They are speaking of a portable gate in place indoors to keep Addie under control. “She adds so much life around here,” Joanne said. The Sorensons have previously owned Dachshunds and had Gertie when Kelly was living with them.

The Sorensons said they became “damaged goods” upon the death of their daughter. “We had to develop a new normal,” Joanne says. “We could never be normal parents again,” Roger pointed out. They have a son Jeff who is three years younger than Kelly would have been. The two siblings were very close, the Sorensons related. “Jeff lost not only his only sibling but his confidante and sibling support system,” Joanne said.

“We’ve heard it all,” says Roger. “People say, ‘Can’t you get over it?’ ‘She is in a better place,’ ‘You have such wonderful memories,’ or ‘God doesn’t give you more than you can handle.’”

The Sorensons said daughter Kelly Jo had just finished her first year at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. She was working as a certified nursing assistant at the Prairie Manor Care Center during the summer of 1984. A Blooming Prairie



High School graduate, Kelly Jo was a member of the BPHS and Gustavus Adolphus College golf teams and also loved to play the piano and act in plays.

“She was an easy daughter to raise; she had such a bubbly personality,” Roger attests. “There was so much potential that was destroyed by the act of one person,” he adds.

“I will always remember her goodness; she continues to live in our hearts,” Joanne quickly interjects.

On the Sunday night she was killed, Kelly was a passenger in a car driven by a friend, Barbara Iverson. Kelly had been asked to accompany her friend in taking a relative to Austin. Both had just finished playing softball in Blooming Prairie.

On the return to Blooming Prairie, the crash occurred on a sharp curve just north of Lansing Corners.

The Sorensons talk openly about the night of the crash, saying their daughter left the house without a purse, thus she had no identification on her when the crash occurred. Roger said. More often than not, the Sorensons would have stayed up, awaiting their daughter’s return. “Mysteriously, we went to sleep and did not awaken until the door bell rang at 4:30 in the morning,” Roger Sorenson said.

The State Patrol brought the news of Kelly’s death after first going to another house, thinking the victim’s parents lived there. The Patrol had identified the driver as Barbara Iverson. She was critically injured and did survive.

The driver of the other car was also seriously injured. In talking about the other driver, the Sorensons choose not to reveal his name even though it is a matter of public record. “This person’s bad decision took our daughter’s life,” Joanne said. “No one knows how many people this driver met that night and he might have taken someone else out, too,” Roger said.

“You can be doing all the right things and run across somebody who does the wrong thing,” Roger says in wonder.

“She never gave us heartaches until she left us,” Joanne said.

Both Roger and Joanne became disillusioned by the court system in the months to come after the crash. “We went to the county attorney and he challenged us to let our daughter rest in peace,” Roger recalls. “We wanted justice; something went wrong here,” he added.

No charges were brought until two years later when a newly elected Mower County Attorney Patrick Oman said he would actively move the case. With the help of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building evidence, the county attorney charged the driver with reckless driving, alcohol involved.

The man was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 30 days and jail and a \$300 fine. A judge later suspended the sentence providing the defendant be on good behavior. The Sorensons recall seeing the offender and said he showed no remorse and never apologized to the Sorensons. “Had he shown remorse, we maybe could have handled things better,” Roger said.

Joanne said they are often asked if they have forgiven the offender and they reply that they

have forgiven him “not to excuse him for his actions but we want to live our lives to the fullest. It’s what Kelly would have wanted,” Joanne said. “I don’t care if he’s alive, dead, in jail or wins the lottery,” she continued. “We do not allow him to be a part of our conscious life any more,” Joanne said.

“Our recovery from this tragedy was made more possible by our faith and by some really good friends, including some not to close friends, who came out of the woodwork,” Joanne shares.

In dealing with her grief Joanne chose to visit a psychiatrist who helped her deal with some of her fears associated with loss. The couple also attended Compassionate Friends grief support group meetings.

She said she thought she could never return to Gustavus but was told by a psychiatrist to visit the campus, daughter Kelly’s dorm and the school cafeteria. The Sorensons made the visit.

Joanne also said she never wanted to drive to Austin again. “The psychiatrist told me to make two to three trips to Austin and feel the pain and suffer the sharp edges. “We did it together,” Joanne said.

The Sorensons were most gratified when Gustavus invited them to attend the graduation of Kelly’s class. They were presented with a degree posthumously. “We were reduced to tears,” Roger said.

Roger often compares their loss with being in the deepest valley and trying to crawl out. To this date the Sorensons have had no contact with the offender.

The Sorensons also learned that the defendant was later arrested on another DUI charge and sentenced to time in jail.

DWI laws have changed significantly and have become tougher the past 32 years and that has been a good sign, the Sorensons believe.

Attitudes about drunk driving

have also changed, the Sorensons claim. “People talk about designated drivers and that’s a good thing, too,” Roger said.

Both are also concerned about distracted driving and said it can be as bad as driving drunk.

Roger taught in the Blooming Prairie school system for 36 years. He taught seventh-grade English and also high school world history. Joanne has been employed as a registered nurse at the Owatonna Hospital since

1981. Both are retired, however Joanne still works part-time at the hospital.

“Kelly’s spirit is with us always,” says Joanne. “It’s hard to describe but she is with me all the time,” Joanne continued.

“Even in recent years when we were on the highest mountain in Norway, Kelly Jo was with us in our conscience,” Roger says with comfort.

DANGEROUS DRUNK DRIVING



2007-2011 DRUNK DRIVING IN FIVE COUNTY AREA

STATEWIDE	5 COUNTIES	
761	DEATHS	34
166,962	DWIs	9,043

Steele • Dodge • Freeborn
Mower • Olmsted

STEELE	DODGE	OLMSTED
FREEBORN	MOWER	

DRUNK DRIVING VICTIM SERVICES

24-Hour
Victim Help Line

877-MADD-HELP

Education

Youth will never forget the experience

By **JESSICA NAFE**
Steele County Times Intern

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) marching band spent part of Christmas break in Orlando, Florida, where it performed at halftime of the Russell Athletic Bowl, marched at Universal Studios and spent time enjoying the balmy weather. The 41 band members left for their biennial trip on Dec. 26, braving the 26-hour drive to Florida, and arrived back in Minnesota on Jan. 1.

Free time at Cocoa Beach occupied the first day of the band's itinerary. Students enjoyed swimming in the Atlantic Ocean, walking the scenic boardwalk, eating at beach-side restaurants and browsing through Ron Jon's Surf Shop.

"It was relaxing and a lot of

fun! We never really get to go to the ocean, so it's exciting to be there," senior band member Nicole Edon said. "It was a nice way to start the trip; going from snow to sunshine on the beach."

The band was back to business early the next morning, as it started practice with 25 other bands from around the country to prepare a halftime show for the Russell Athletic Bowl. The large ensemble of dancers, color guard, drumline and wind players totaled nearly 2,000. "Shout it out Loud," "Mustang Sally" and "Killer Joe" were chosen as the show pieces.

Sophomore Kyra Possin's favorite part of the trip was the mass-band rehearsals. "Showing up to mass practice on the first day and seeing all the bands was pretty cool," she said.

Playing with such a large ensemble was a first for Devin

Buendorf, a freshman band member. "I got better at playing my own instrument and got to learn new techniques from other schools," he stated. "It was great!"

With two practices under their belts, the students were able to perform at the Baylor versus North Carolina game's halftime show on Dec. 29.

Playing at the bowl game was sophomore Lillian Bell's favorite part of the trip. "The crowd was bigger than we'd ever come close to playing in front of," she commented, remembering the energetic atmosphere of the stadium.

Another valuable experience for the band was marching in the Macy's parade in Universal Studios. The NRHEG band played "Eye of the Tiger" through the streets of the famous park, entertaining hundreds of people from

around the world in attendance.

"They really cheered for the band; it was a great atmosphere!" Director Jacob Bender stated.

The parade featured two other high school bands as well as many Universal-character themed floats and giant balloons.

Panther band members were able to spend free time at Universal Studios while in Orlando, enjoying the many rides, rollercoasters, restaurants and shops the park offers. As a group, the band ate at the world's largest Hard Rock Cafe inside the park and attended a Blue Man Group show.

"I really liked the Blue Man Group because there was a lot of really cool percussion stuff," said snare-drummer Ben Lewer, a sophomore at NRHEG.

Students were able to explore the park individually as well,

making valuable memories with their friends. Thanks to that free time, Lillian Bell states, "I got close with a lot of other people that I didn't really talk to before."

Orlando was the first band trip for Bender, who was hired at the beginning of the school year. He was accompanied by chaperones Karen Nafe, Beth Logan and Curt Stenzel. "It was great, very successful," Bender said of the trip.

The only rough patch came from engine issues, causing some stop-and-go travel while heading down to Orlando in their coach bus. The band did not even make it out of Florida before the bus broke down completely, causing them to wait four hours at a rest stop until another bus was delivered. Never a group to lose spirit, the teens passed time easily by playing

card games and listening to music.

"With these trips, there's always going to be hiccups," Bender said, "but I didn't hear any complaining from the band. They just rolled with the punches!"

According to Nicole Edon, there were no punches felt. "It was still warm, so it was fun to hang out together for a little longer," she comments.

Now back in Minnesota, the Panther band can put all that they learned from working with other band students from around the country into practice as they prepare for their upcoming spring concerts.

"The trip was a good thing for the band and I think everyone took something from it," Kyra Possin states. "We all improved for the better."

Submitted Photo
Senior band members pose in front of the Blue Man Group building. From left to right are Bayli Possin, Grace Logan, Jessica Nafe, Emily Eder, Nicole Edon and Torrie Stencel.



Photo by Beth Logan
Panther snare drummers learn their drill at mass-band rehearsal. From left to right are Ben Lewer, Nicole Edon and Torrie Stencel.



Photo by Beth Logan
From right to left are Lillian Bell, Aubrey Johnson, Sophia Morotz and Will Rudau play their bass drums at mass-band rehearsal.



Photo by Beth Logan
The halftime performance at the Russell Athletic Bowl.

AMERICORPS LEAP

Continued from Page 1A

unteers in the community. She's even spearheaded a movement to establish a monarch butterfly preserve and pollinator park in New Ulm.

Steinberg worked for many years as a lab coordinator with Kraft Foods, then worked with Uehling as a paraprofessional before receiving her AmeriCorps LEAP position. She works with 40 students in Creative Kids and 17 students in Head Start.

"It's been a real eye-opener to work with these preschoolers and learn a little bit about their backgrounds and to be their positive social, emotional support," said Steinberg. "We work one on one with these students, trying to overcome some of these issues so they are ready to learn

'We work one on one with these students, trying to overcome some of these issues so they are ready to learn and listen.'

— Deb Steinberg, AmeriCorps LEAP member

and listen."

Penny further explained that the members record their progress with students. "We have a really high success rate in terms of dealing with those behavioral issues throughout the year," he said.

SMIF also partners with Abdo Publishing, which allows SMIF to receive books that can be used specifically for the AmeriCorps members to use in the class-

room. The AmeriCorps members read the books with the students and also develop related activities designed to engage students with the books.

The AmeriCorps members also receive strong support from SMIF during all aspects of their work. "We provide initial training in the August time-frame, before the school year begins, and once a month there's almost a day-long session where

we bring them all together and provide additional resources and additional instruction. They share stories and learn from one another."

Klobuchar noted that President Obama touched on the importance of early childhood education in his recent State of the Union address. Glantz, an AmeriCorps LEAP member who serves full-time at Head Start in Mankato, agreed that it's critical to help students deal with some of their challenges before entering kindergarten.

"It's such a pivotal point," he said. "It's so important just to develop strictly the social and emotional needs, and that's why I think our position is so vital to early childhood education as a

whole."

Although the students benefit greatly from the program, so do the AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members earn a salary stipend and can also receive educational vouchers, among other benefits. What's more, said Steinberg and Glantz, the opportunity is also incredibly rewarding. "To see these changes in these kids in their development, just in a short period of time, is amazing," Glantz said.

"I don't know what we would do without it," said Uehling, of the AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative.

Penny adds that SMIF, a non-profit, is in the second year of a three-year commitment, and has been offering the program for about 20 years. "We're going to re-apply and we hope to get an-

other three-year extension," he said. "We'd love to expand it."

Klobuchar shared that education is a topic she's passionate about and that she enjoyed hearing more about SMIF's work to help young children be successful in the classroom and as life-long learners.

The AmeriCorps members also enjoyed the opportunity to share more information about their work and its importance. "It was a wonderful opportunity," Steinberg said, of her talk with Klobuchar. "I think we need to be heard, because I don't think a lot of people are aware of it. I think the more information we can get out about how important early childhood education is, and about our specialty with the social emotional part, the better."

STATE OF THE UNION

Continued from Page 1A

For Gail Dennison, director of Development and Public Relations at The Hormel Institute, hopefully it means more support for cancer research funding. "It all takes money to conduct this research as we are not selling a product or service," Dennison said. "Therefore, hopefully it'll lead to a larger budget for the National Cancer Institute and

researchers will find it easier to secure grants so they can do the research they've dedicated their lives to."

Finding a cure for cancer is difficult because of its complexity, according to Dennison. "Cancer is actually not one disease, but more like a couple hundred," she said. "Several cancers can be put into remis-

sion or 'cured' if found in time now, thanks to research discoveries. Other cancers, more progress and more research must continue."

One thing those dealing with cancer research know is that it takes research to find those answers. "Cancer is a complex disease and many things cause cancer and many cancers are very

different, even different types of breast cancer, for example," Dennison said.

Finding a cure for cancer takes teamwork and that means between researchers, people who support cancer research, research physicians administering new treatments and people doing all they can to prevent cancer, Dennison said.

Clarification

In the Dec. 29 issue of the Steele County Times, the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce offered Happy Holidays to those who are part of the Chamber. Not mentioned were Jennifer and Philip Milton, Judy and Howard Lestrud, KIK Graphics, Eagle Insurance, Geneva Lumber, Heavy Metal and Vandals' Family Market.

How to find discounts for people with disabilities

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any worthwhile discounts available to people with disabilities, and if so, how can I find them? My wife – who’s 48 – has Multiple Sclerosis that now requires her to use a wheelchair.

Need to Save

Dear Need,
There are actually a wide variety of discounts and services available to people with disabilities and those living with a chronic illness that can literally save you hundreds and even thousands of dollars each year. Here are some tips to help you find them.

Always ask
The first thing to know is that most businesses that offer discounts to people with disabilities or their escorts don’t publicize them, so it’s important to always ask.

Also note that most nonprofit organizations and government agencies that provide disabled

services or benefits will require proof of disability through a letter from your doctor or some other form of verification before they will accommodate you.

Search locally
The disabled discounts available to your wife will vary depending on where you live, so a good place to start is to contact the local chapter of the nonprofit organization that specializes in your particular disease or disability – in your wife’s case that would be the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (nationalmssociety.org, 800-344-4867).

Local chapters often know where to find discounts on the medical supplies, mobility equipment and support services. Some organizations have even negotiated special discounted rates with suppliers, and a few even provide subsidized equipment directly.

To search for other disability or disease specific organizations, use any Internet search

engine, any type in your disease or disability followed by organizations – for example “Arthritis Organizations” or “Hearing Loss Organizations.”

Search online
DisabledDiscounts.com is one of the best resources for finding disabled discounts online. This is a free website that lists thousands of discounts in all 50 states. You search by state and county in 30 different categories ranging from assistive technology to federal and state tax discounts, entertainment to education and so much more.

Also visit Benefits.gov and BenefitsCheckUp.org, two great sites that will help you look for financial assistance programs your wife and you may be eligible for, and will tell you how to apply. And see Disability.gov, a site that connects people with disabilities to helpful programs and services in your area.

Types of discounts
Here are a few examples of

the different types of disabled discounts and services that are out there.

Recreation
Most movie theaters, museums, zoos, theme parks and aquariums provide reduced admission to people with disabilities or their escort. And, the National Park Service offers the “America The Beautiful Access Pass” (see nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm) to disabled residents, which provides a lifetime of free access into all national parks and federal recreational lands.

Taxes
There are numerous federal tax deductions and credits available to people with disabilities, and a number of states and counties also offer property tax deductions to disabled homeowners.

Utilities
Many utility companies, including electric, gas, phone,



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by:

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus



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

water and trash services offer discounts to customers who are disabled, elderly or low income.

Communication devices
47 states have equipment distribution programs (see tedpa.org) that offer free amplified telephones to residents with hearing impairment.

Home modifications
There are a number of federal, state, local and nonprofit organizations that help pay for home accessibility improvements like wheelchair ramps, handrails and grab bars for elderly and dis-

abled people in need.

Travel
Amtrak offers a 15 percent rail fare discount to adult passengers with a disability and up to one traveling companion.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

Bryce Schlichter, son of Ted Schlichter and Tess Koster, was awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony at Camp Spiker in Iraq. Schlichter, who entered the Army National Guard in February of 2000, went overseas Jan. 7, 2005. On July 21, 2005, his convoy was hit with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) near the Samara Bypass. Bryce spent three days in a hospital in Camp Spiker due to a broken thumb, a large contusion on his right hip and smoke inhalation. He returned home on Nov. 9, 2005. When Bryce is not working with Evenson Electric of Prior Lake, he has been spending time working on his house. The Purple Heart is awarded to soldiers wounded in combat. “It’s a prestigious award that

nobody wants to receive,” said Schlichter.

The January meeting of the Blooming Prairie Public Utility Commission set the stage for Robert “Bob” Dandeleit’s last meeting. Amy Doerhoefer has been named to fill Bob’s position on the Blooming Prairie Public Utility Commission.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

Information on recent happenings took up much of the regular school board meeting Tuesday, Jan. 16. The most important recommendation came with the passage of employment background checks, a policy handed down by the state legislature. The policy allows the school district to hire an individual pending completion of the back-

ground check and, if that person’s report comes back negative, they can be terminated.

Extreme games take on a new dimension in southeastern Minnesota this Feb. 10 when the Greater Midwestern Toboggan Open takes flight on a hill with a 450 foot, straight-down chute of ice eight miles south of Owatonna, says Craig Kruckeberg, of the Blooming Prairie Jaycees. Called “Ice Flight ‘96”, the event is a one-day toboggan race. “It’s possible to careen down the hill at a leisurely 25 miles per hour,” said Kruckeberg, “but with the right waxes and secret formulas and equipment, it’s possible to reach record speeds.” Kruckeberg should know. Last year, his toboggan racing team won first place in the National Toboggan Championships Developmental Class in Camden, Maine. His team reached speeds in excess

of 45 miles per hour, both winning the event and setting a new record for their division.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, Jan. 20, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrl Krejci, Editors

Ron Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. O.E. (Joe) Peterson, Blooming Prairie, has been named television production manager of KMMT-TV, Channel 6, Austin. Ronald is a graduate of Blooming Prairie High School, attended St. Olaf College, Northfield, and Brown Institute of Broadcasting and Electronics. He joined KMMT and transferred into TV production a year later. Mr. Peterson has served as film editor and TV supervisor since April, 1963. Ronald is married and lives in Austin.

The Cozy Inn Cafe, popular eating place in Blooming Prairie for many years, closed its doors to the public on Saturday night, Jan. 15, it was announced by Peder Madson, co-owner. The reason given for discontinuing in business was the illness of one of the partners.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, Jan. 23 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Oscar Bakke, commander of the American Legion post here, informed the club members that the Legion was looking for co-sponsors in a plan to give suitable and practical gifts to the young men leaving Blooming Prairie now and in the future to enter military service. The club went on record as favoring, at Mr. Bakke’s suggestion, the gift of a subscription to the Bloom-

ing Prairie Times to every man entering military service. Frank Krejci, publisher of the Times, stated that all subscriptions donated by the various organizations would cost them half the usual rate.

Bernard Kubicek announced that he was resigning his position today (Thursday) as tank man here for the Standard Oil Company, after six years service with that organization. He did not state at the time what his immediate plans were. No successor has been appointed as yet, although two of the “brass collars” for the company were today trying to persuade someone to accept the job. “Kubbie” is a local boy who was born and reared in Blooming Prairie and he has countless warm friends whose best wishes will follow him in any venture that he may decide to undertake.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified Public Accountant **Tamzen R. Johnson**

319 East Main Street, Blooming Prairie | 888-933-6828 | Fax: 507-583-2389

Automotive



Koster's CAR KORNER

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

Advertising

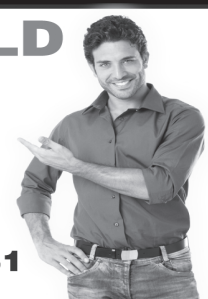
YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Construction



Johnson Construction & Tree Service

Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured

KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Siding & Windows

J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.

Siding & Windows
Lic. #20533878

- Maintenance Free Siding
- Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
- Custom Trim Work
- Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
- Lifetime Warranty

For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413



Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselfers!

Dental Care

BLOOMING PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER

“Dentistry for the whole family”

Jeffrey A. Schwert, D.D.S.
132 2nd Ave. NE
Bloomington ~ 583-6613

Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

Contact the Steele County Times Today!



507-583-4431

Always local, all the time.



Dental Care



Main Street Dental Clinics

comfortable dentistry

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

Funeral Planning

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING



507-583-7561

www.worlein.com

Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S., Bloomington, MN

Garbage



333 2nd St. NE • Blooming Prairie

507-583-7562

William P. Walsh, Owner

Garbage Service, Inc.

“A family-owned, hometown business serving the Blooming Prairie community for over 45 years.”

Residential & Business Hauling

Insurance

Holman Insurance Agency

For all your insurance needs
Keith & Carol Holman
421 E. Main Street

• **507- 583-7294** •



Lumberyard



GENEVA Lumber Company

For all your Lumberyard & Home Design/Drafting needs.
Stop in and see Jon or Tait today!

413 West Main St. • Geneva • 507-256-0045

Recreation



MINERS Outdoor & Rec

Outdoor Power Equipment,
Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service,
Parts & Accessories

Hwy 218 S.
Bloomington

www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service



SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.

656 3rd St. NE
Bloomington, MN

Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
583-6620

Community

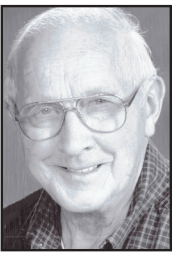
Obituaries

Edwin S. Snider, 81, Blooming Prairie

Edwin S. Snider, age 81 of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, at the Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Edwin Sylvester was born Sept. 13, 1934, in Newry Township, Freeborn County, to Frank and Mary (McConnell) Snider. Ed grew up on a farm just south of Blooming Prairie and attended Blooming Prairie Schools. He was united in marriage to Lillian Lavon DeRaad on Nov. 3, 1955, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. For 35 years Ed worked as a custodian for the Blooming Prairie Public Schools, retiring in 1991. For many years following his retirement he did maintenance work and mowing for St. Columbanus Catholic Church.

He enjoyed watching television, fishing, and snowmobiling. Ed loved family gatherings and playing cards, especially 500 and Canasta. In 2004 Ed and Lillian moved from the farm into Blooming Prairie. He has been a resident of Prairie Manor Care Center since 2010.

Edwin is survived by his son Greg (Gloria) Snider of Blooming Prairie; daughters Pam (Randy) Seykora of rural Owatonna and Debra Trom of Pringle, South Dakota; six grandchildren Amy Snider and special friend Micah Andrews, Kristine Trom and fiancée Patrick Spindler, Jeremy Snider and



special friend Erin Finholdt, Jennifer (Jesse) Duholm, Steven (Heidi) Seykora, and Stacy (Andy) Anderson; great-grandchildren; brother Lyle (Barb) Snider of Owatonna; three sisters, Mercedes (Ray) Stanke of Owatonna, Loretta Wurst of Blooming Prairie, and Betty Jensen of Owatonna; brother-in-law and sisters-in-law and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 55 years Lillian; infant son Edwin; parents; three brothers Garth, Simon and Robert; and three sisters Gertrude, Dorothy and Rita. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Fr. Thomas Niehaus officiating. Interment will be in the St. Columbanus Cemetery. Visitation will be held Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Worlein-Blooming Prairie Funeral Home, and will continue Wednesday morning from 10 to 10:30 a.m. prior to services, at church. There will be a 7 p.m. parish rosary recited Tuesday evening at the funeral home. Services pre-arranged and performed by Worlein-Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Jerry Paul Rysavy Sr., 99

Jerry Paul Rysavy Sr., age 99, passed away surrounded by his family Jan. 15, 2016, at Koda Living Community in Owatonna.

Friends may greet the family 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016, at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home (1603 Austin Rd) and one hour prior to the funeral service at church. Funeral Mass is set for 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Owatonna. Interment will be at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Litomysl.

Jerry was born on June 8, 1916, in Aurora Township to John and Frances (Svercl) Rysavy. He grew up in Somerset

Township where he attended school through 8th grade. He worked on the family farm until he married Roselyn Simon in 1940's. The wedding took place in the basement of Litomysl church which was under construction at the time.

After they were married Jerry and Roselyn bought their own farm and that is where they raised their seven children. He farmed for 40 years until "retiring" in 1980 when he moved into town.

In his retirement he could always be seen out on the farm



helping out where ever he could. He enjoyed wood working, gardening, playing cards, fishing and traveling with Roselyn, but most of all he loved spending time with his family. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife Roselyn of 75 years; children, Jerry (Mary Ann) Rysavy, Owatonna, Thomas (Ana) Rysavy, Random Lake, Wisconsin, Kenneth (Betty) Rysavy, Laurens, South Carolina, Joseph (Cheryl) Rysavy, Owatonna, Michael Rysavy, Ellendale, Rita (Gary)

Wandrey, Owatonna; 18 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; one daughter-in-law Arlys Rysavy; and one sister-in-law, Dorothy Rysavy; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by one son, David Rysavy; daughter-in law, Gail Rysavy; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren; five brothers; and two sisters. He was the last of his immediate family.

Memorials preferred to Owatonna Homestead Hospice House and Holy Trinity Catholic Church Litomysl. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

BP CANCER GROUP

Continued from Page 1A

Hormel Institute in Austin. Many pancake fans braved cold, subzero temperatures to attend the BP Cancer Group's first fundraiser of the year, the pancake breakfast at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. "I thought the cold weather might keep people away but it didn't," said a happy volunteer Dan Miner.

Many of the volunteer workers at the breakfast and silent auction were wearing attractive t-shirts saying "Fighting for a cure for cancer for 15 years."

Two of the volunteer workers were putting in their second year of helping out with the breakfast. Cousins Greta Sunde, 12, and Isabelle Sunde, 12, were busy clearing tables, refilling cups and helping in the serving line. "My grandma died of cancer and it feels good to be able to help out," Greta said.

In addition to receiving free-will offerings, bids on donated auction items, the Cancer Group thanked youngsters who brought in coins to put into a jar designed for kids donations. Prizes were given plus the BP Dairy Queen



Jennifer Milton, left, and Cheri Krejci, right, of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, presented a check for \$73,000 to the Fifth District Eagles Cancer Telethon on Saturday night, Jan. 16. This is the largest donation the local group has given.

gave certificates for a free ice cream cone.

"The support we have re-

ceived is very amazing," Krejci said. She also said the Group recently received a generous donation from longtime Blooming Prairie residents George and Tillie Ressler.

Cancer donations have allowed the local group to provide more funds for the community fund which provides gas cards

and other assistance for those needing cancer treatment. Families young and old have helped with donations, Krejci said. "Cancer touches almost all families," she added.

Next fundraiser planned by the BP Cancer Group will be ham bingo on Thursday night, March 10.

10% Off Your Project

WINTER DISCOUNT

AMERICAN WATERWORKS

★ Basement Systems ★

Wet Basement?

Basement Wall Bowed?

Foundation Settling?

Radon Testing & Mitigation!

• FREE Estimates

• Financing Available

Toll Free 1-800-795-1204

www.american-waterworks.com

(Project must be scheduled by March 1, 2016. Cannot be combined with any other offers)

10% Off Your Project

Dean's

SMOKE SHACK

Looking for something different for Supper?

Salisbury Steak Burgers, Potatoes and even Gravy!!!

Check us out, Small Town with Big Town Flavors!!!

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

www.deanssmokeshack.com

D.O.T. Physicals

Dr. Eischens is a Certified Medical Examiner and on the National Registry for DOT Health Cards

Try Chiropractic! New patients welcome!

Most insurances accepted. Auto, Work Comp, P.I., MA, Medicare, Federated, BCBS, Medica, Preferred One, Mayo, and many more!

"From Pain Relief to Wellness"

PRAIRIE FAMILY & SPORTS CHIROPRACTIC, P.A.

"Established to serve your health care needs"

Chad M. Eischens, D.C.
344 East Main Street
Blooming Prairie, MN • 583-2271
1-866-5DR-CHAD

www.drchad.org

Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays Jan. 19 Bob Farr Carol Holman	Joann Nielsen
Jan. 20 Cameron Brown	Jan. 23 Loretta Wurst Kim Hillson Timothy Wacek Jacob Krebs Dorothy M. Johnson
Jan. 21 Dale Borchert Laura Thomas Kennedy Bishop	Jan. 25 Collin Meiners
Jan. 22 Jon Esplan	Anniversaries Jan. 21 Mike and Katie Ingvalson

Milestones is sponsored by:

Best kept secret!

Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials

ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham

Wednesday - Turkey

Thursday - Your Choice

Friday - Beef

The Bakery

Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

Computers: Empowering tools

Bill Gates said, "I think it's fair to say that personal computers have become the most empowering tool we've ever created. They're tools of communication, they're tools of creativity and they can be shaped by their user."

If you have wanted to take a step into the world of computing, consider joining us at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library for a four-week basic computer skills class.

Topics covered include setting up an email account, navigating the Internet, downloading books to your devices, as well as time for personalized instruction. The classes will be held for an hour on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the library on the following dates: Feb. 2, 9, and 23, and March 1.

If you would like more information, please call the library at 507-583-7750.



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Mark your calendars for an evening storytime on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Stories, songs and crafts will center on our Winter Wonderland! Hot Reads for Cold Nights, the reading program for adults, will begin the week of Jan. 18 and continue until the end of February.

See you at the library!

SEMCAC senior menu

Jan. 19: Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Oriental Vegetables, Cherry Crisp	Coleslaw, French Bread, Mandarin Orange Dessert
Jan. 20: Hot Pork on Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Beets, Fresh Fruit	Jan. 25: Hawaiian Chicken, Confetti Rice, Peas, Kidney bean Salad, Vanilla Ice Cream
Jan. 21: Chopped Sirloin Steak w/Mushroom Sauce, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Seasoned Green Beans, Peaches/Pears/Grapes	Jan. 26: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Dilled Carrots, Beet Pickles, Pears/Caramel Sauce
Jan. 22: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Parslied Carrots,	Jan. 27: New England Boiled Dinner, Alt: Sliced Turkey/Potato, Green Salad, Dinner Roll, Lemon Bar

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET

Prices Good 1/18-1/23

John Morrell Bacon

12 oz BUY 2 Get 3 FREE

Eckridge Smoked Sausage

BUY 2 Get 3 FREE

7up Products

12 pk 3/\$8

8 pk 12 oz 3/\$8

Pepsi

2 Liter 4/\$5

Bottom Sirloin Steak

\$5.99 per lb

Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!

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

Area Church Spotlight



First Lutheran Church, Ellendale

Pastor's corner

Pot, immigration and Black Lives Matter

When I was a young student at a Bible Institute, a preaching professor said, "You should always preach with a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in another."

His point was that, as preachers, we ought to specialize in knowing what is going on in the world, communicate it and then communicate God's perspective and encouragement as it pertains to that issue. Not only ought preachers to aim for that, but so should each church and Christ Follower. If we don't, we prove the accusations of some who aren't Christ Followers: Christ followers, churches and yes, preachers, are

out of touch with the real world, and are thus preaching to the choir (if you don't have a choir, then preaching to the worship team or praise band).

Jesus often began his interaction with an audience, "You have heard it said". He then referred to what was being said or believed in culture, and challenged it starting with, "But I tell you". He acknowledged and addressed what was being talked about outside the four walls of the temple. We ought to follow our leader: acknowledge the issue and address it. God has a word for the World around us. He could've sent it through a message in the clouds

or gold tablets, but he chose to send you and me.

On Jan. 31, Cedar Creek will start a sermon series called, "You have heard it said", where we will deal with pot, Islam, Immigration, politics and racism. These are just a few of the issues of our day and they are always changing. However, we have a God and his Word that doesn't. Are you willing to let Him speak through you? The world is waiting.

*Pastor Aaron de Neu
Cedar Creek Church
Hayfield*

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

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

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

8:30 a.m. worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m. worship

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

firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

www.peaceclaremont.otsnot.org
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September 19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning
Services held at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Offered each
Saturday Evening Service and
2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each
month. Sunday School - starts
September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Krisin Venne
(507) 256-4288

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale



Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Worship 8:30 AM

Sunday School 9:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS

108 Third Ave S.W., Medford

Pastor Mark Bieghauser

(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday

Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden

Pastor Patti Meyer

(507) 451-2165

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA

609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna

Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor

Dean Smith, Associate Pastor

(507) 451-4520

www.tlcowatonna.org

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC

Ellendale, Minnesota

Pastor Richard Sliper

Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's

Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.

Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;

10:15 Coffee and Fellowship

Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open

to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer

Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;

6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands

of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Catholic

St. AIDEN CATHOLIC PARISH
Hwy 30 Ellendale
507-465-8217

The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Rural Geneva

The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor

The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar

(507) 465-8217

Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

150 NW Second St. Hayfield

The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Reconciliation: Before Mass

Adoration: Tuesdays 9 to noon

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

307 First St. SW., New Richland

The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor

The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar

(507) 465-8217

Services: 9:15 a.m.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH

114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie

The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784

stcolumbanuschurch.com

Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday

and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Adoration: Mondays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL

9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor

The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar

(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

with Children's Church

Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday

Family Faith Formation and Adult

Bible Study after Mass with noon

potluck; 2nd Sunday of month

Confirmation class: 2nd Sunday and

Wednesday evening

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
303 North Cedar Ave., Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

Sundays 10:00 AM
enter through Owatonna Fit Lab

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neu
(507) 477-2255

www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH

2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com

Sun 10 a.m. English Service

10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone

2 p.m. Spanish Service

Wed. 7:00 Bible Study

Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna

Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Owatanna Campus

422 W. North Street, Owatonna

Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson

507-254-8514

www.destinycc.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH

Pastor Todd Lundgren

507-451-5661

Sundays 9:30

Meeting in the Country Goods

building across the

freeway from Cabela's.

Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie

Dennis Martin

(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216

Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

404 31st St. N.W., Austin

Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042

Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

109 E. Main St., Hayfield

Pastor Vanessa Syvertsen
(507) 477-2631

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna

Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143

Service: 11 a.m. Saturday

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

211 Main St. S., Medford

Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596

Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

702 Third St. S., Ellendale

Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421

Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m.

vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

104 First Ave. N.E.,

Blooming Prairie

Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673

Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER

118 5th Ave.
Ellendale

507-684-2471

Andy & Mary Lerberg

Minimizer

www.minimizer.com

800-248-3855

Blooming Prairie

FLOOR TECH

322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie

507-583-2276

ALYSNE CONTRACTING CORPORATION

3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna

507-451-7121

Garlick's Water Conditioning

Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing



800-722-1282

www.garlickswater.com

Koster's CAR KORNER

FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Hwy. 218



Protect your vehicle from snow, ice and damage from the cold

Winter can be an unforgiving season. Freezing temperatures coupled with snow and ice can take its toll on people who live in climates where cold weather is a fact of winter life.

While winter can test people's patience, it also can be harsh on cars and trucks. Understanding what components of a vehicle can be compromised by dropping temperatures and snowy roads can help drivers take action to safeguard their automotive investments.

While the Canadian Automobile Association notes that winter can wreak havoc on just about every part of a vehicle, there are some parts that seem to bear the brunt of Old Man Winter's abuse. Properly servicing and caring for a car or truck can help.

Drivers should take their vehicles for a tuneup and inspection before wintry weather arrives. A mechanic will examine the car battery and check antifreeze levels and make sure that the thermostat, defroster, brakes, and even wiper blades are working effectively. Have the tires inspected for adequate tread, which can make navigating roads safer. If the treads are worn, replace the

tires.

In addition to visiting their mechanics, drivers can perform some inspections and fixes themselves.

Check that all of the vehicle's lights are operational so your car can be easily seen during inclement weather. Exchange your existing windshield washer fluid with one that will not freeze in cold conditions. Check the nozzles on the windshield-washer system routinely and clear out any blockages of ice or debris. While addressing windshield washer fluid, also replace worn out windshield wiper blades with ones that can withstand snow and icy weather.

A new coating of wax can serve as a shield against road salt, snow, sleet, and rain. Try a polymer wax to protect the

paint. Whenever possible, rinse off salt and grime so it does not dry on the car and gradually wear away at the paint. Some drivers mistakenly believe that salt stops being a problem once it dries simply because moisture is the active ingredient for a corrosive reaction. But humidity in the air is enough to keep the salt eating away at the car's paint, and that can contribute to rust. Be sure to rinse off the undercarriage of the vehicle as well.

Have your tires' alignment checked toward the end of winter or early spring. A season of traveling over pothole-ridden roads or hitting curbs buried under snow drifts can affect the alignment. Get everything back on track. Similarly, inspect tires routinely, as weather changes

can affect tire pressure and strength.

Use a soft snow brush or a foam brush to clear snow off of the car. Avoid hard plastic scrapers you might use on your windshield, as they can scratch painted surfaces.

Try to park the vehicle in a garage or under a car port, each of which can protect cars and trucks from the often harsh elements of winter.

Vehicles can be affected by the cold weather. Keep them running efficiently to prevent damage this winter.

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150





CSI: Collision Specialists Inc
www.csiaustinmn.com 507.437.2837

Stay Happy See Kappy!



COLLISION CENTER
OWATONNA'S COLLISION SPECIALIST

Charlie Kaplan 507-451-8989 www.kappysauto.com kappysauto@gmail.com



Medgaarden's SOUTH WEST SALES

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

The TRANNY Shop of Austin

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

Northstar BODY SHOP

25446 US Hwy 218 N • Austin, MN

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



507-527-2241
115 State Street, West Concord

We carry multiple brands of tires & Interstate batteries

See our inventory at www.boeautocenter.com

Claremont Service Center, Inc



ASE Certified Technicians

- AAA Towing
- Car & Truck Repair
- 4 Wheel Computerized Alignment
- Major & Minor Engine & Transmission Repair
- Many Computerized Diagnostic Tools Available Including Factory Scan Tools

The Difference Is The Service

111 Front Street, Claremont, MN •
Service Center: 507-528-2233 • After Hours Towing: 507-456-4158

CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER

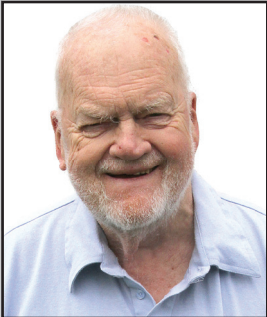
Your Complete Truck & Auto Care Provider!



507-455-2679 or 507-463-2679

7123 SW 82nd Ave • Owatonna • www.kecksrepair.com

OUTSIDE THE LINES



LEMAR NELSON

Milestone reached

The big news of the week in sports came when Blossom basketball player Anthony Nelson notched his 1,000th point in a home contest against New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG). Earlier this season another player Oakley Baker, had reached that milestone for his team as well.

Nelson finished his week with 1,037 total points, and the achievement certainly went to a deserving athlete. Nelson is unquestionably the team leader overall, and this season he has sacrificed some scoring opportunities to run the offense and help his teammates succeed. Nelson not only leads the basketball team, but he is a three-sport outstanding athlete. He was one of the leaders of the football team in offense and on defense, and he is one of the fastest runners in Blooming Prairie High School track. A big tip of the hat to Nelson for his great accomplishment.

The Blossom team finally escaped its recent funk of three straight losses by big margins, when it defeated Kenyon-Wanamingo in a physical contest on the Knight floor. It was a relief to get back to winning, and maybe that will turn things around for the boys, as they continue the schedule.

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 2B

1,000 POINT SCORERS

Two county athletes join elite group



NRHEG junior guard Oakley Baker joined the elite 1,000-point club during a boys basketball game in December against St. Clair.

Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

Baker: Fell in love with basketball at a young age

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It started by winning the national free throw shooting contest in Massachusetts as a 9-year-old. Just before Christmas, junior guard Oakley Baker scored his 1,000th point as a 16-year-old against St. Clair.

"It's humbling," said Baker, who starts at guard for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball team. He was pushed by Spencer Tollefson, who is the school's all-time leading scorer. Tollefson broke that mark last year. The two worked together last summer. "It is nice to be around him, and he had a good work ethic," Baker said. "He worked hard every day."

Baker's coach, Pat Churchill, said him reaching 1,000 points is a "tremendous" achievement. "It is a credit to his dedication and hard work that he has put in."

Churchill added that Baker is the purest shooter he has ever coached. "He has

worked tremendously hard to get stronger and play more physical," he said. "He moves well without the ball getting open. We have been developing a post-game, which is something he needs to improve upon. He is a great teammate and locker room guy."

His interest in basketball started when he was 2- or 3-years old. He was 8 when he participated in the national free throw shooting contest, winning it the next year in 2008.

"That made we want to do even more," he said.

He started watching Minnesota Timberwolves games going into day-care each day. "I love watching basketball and playing it," he said.

His free throw shooting started by going with his dad to the gym three to four times each week. He would shoot free

BAKER
Continued on Page 3B



Blooming Prairie senior guard Anthony Nelson joined the 1,000-point club in a game against the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers at Blooming Prairie High School.

Staff file photo by Laura Berndt

Nelson: Capping stellar basketball career

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Blooming Prairie High School (BPHS) senior basketball player Anthony Nelson joined New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva junior Oakley Baker last week when he notched his 1,000th career point in the game with the Panthers.

Baker had reached that special milestone earlier in the season. Nelson joins eight other males and three females as 1,000-point scorers at BPHS.

After last night's win at Kenyon-Wanamingo, Nelson now has 1,037 points, with both he and Baker having several games to go.

When asked his immediate reaction to the achievement, Nelson remarked, "I was really happy, as this has been one of my goals ever since I began playing basketball. It is also a relief finally to reach that goal, and I give a lot of credit to the many hours of hard work I have spent and to my teammates for giving me the opportunities to get the points."

NELSON
Continued on Page 3B

BP vs. NRHEG BOYS BASKETBALL



Mitchell Jones goes up for the basket during last week's game against New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG). Attempting to block his shot is NRHEG's Jack Schultz.

Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Boys salvage win at KW

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A tough, physically played game at Kenyon on Thursday, Jan. 14, found the Blooming Prairie boys basketball team salvaging a first win after three straight losses by big margins. BP outlasted Kenyon-Wanamingo, 59-55, at Kenyon in the non-conference contest and improved the overall record to 6-10.

"An illness and some early foul trouble really hindered us," commented Coach Nathan Piller, "and the game had a lot of physicality, but we did prevail for the win. It was a good victory for us after a tough game all the way around."

The Blossoms led by three at the half, 25-22, and were able to

BP BOYS
Continued on Page 3B

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Wrestling teams participate around the area

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Medford was at the Hayfield Invitational. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) traveled down south to Lake Mills, Iowa. Blooming Prairie participated in the LCWM Invite. (See accompanying story.) All had wrestlers that had a solid performance.

In Lake Mills, NRHEG finished the event 2-2, good enough for a third place finish overall. The Panthers defeated Garner-Hayfield-Ventura, Iowa, 48-29, and Lake Mills, Iowa, 46-34. The team lost to Southeast Polk JV, Iowa, 34-32, and North Butler, Iowa, 42-33.

"We had another strong performance this weekend," said Panther Coach Shawn Larson. "It was fun to go to this tournament in Iowa because we are unfamiliar with the competition, and we can just get out and have fun without worrying about who our opponents are and where we should place certain people into the lineup."

Larson added it was a good opportunity to teach their wrestlers to compete like this, even

if they do know who their opponents are. "If we can wrestle with this intensity the remainder of the year, we can be competitive in any match," he said.

The main highlight on the day was 126-pound wrestler Cordell Peterson earning his 100th career victory. He had four falls on the day. Cole Staloch, Wyatt Fitterer and Zeke Erickson each went 4-0, while Bryce Okland continued to wrestle well finishing 3-1 on the day.



Medford's Nick Masso tries to pull his leg out of the grasp of Ryan Epps of Cannon Falls in a 145-pound wrestling match at the Hayfield Tournament on Saturday.

Staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

BP sixth at LCWM Invite

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

For the second weekend in a row several individual Blooming Prairie High School wrestlers placed at an invitational meet, led this time by a title for Mitchell Oswald at 195 pounds.

The Blossoms had eight places overall in the tourney, besides Oswald's championship, including two seconds, a

third, three fourths and a sixth. The host school won the meet on Saturday, Jan. 16, and BP finished sixth of eight teams entered.

Oswald drew a bye and then pinned Eli Mutz of Windom-Mountain Lake in just 48 seconds. He won the title with a wild 9-6 decision over Colin

WRESTLING
Continued on Page 2B

Sports

BPHS grad enters Hall of Fame

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

A former standout wrestler and Blooming Prairie High School graduate, Paul Vaith, recently was notified that he will be inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame this spring.

Vaith’s nominator, Josh McLay, commented, “If there ever was a sure thing when it came to the Hall of Fame, it had to be Paul Vaith.”

Vaith coached the Hastings High School wrestling team from 1991-2009 and later stepped back into coaching as an assistant.

McLay, a former wrestler for Vaith, said it was pretty cool, as he didn’t even know he had been nominated.

“Vaith is such a humble guy,” remarked McLay, “He coaches for all the right reasons, and he really cares about the kids and the community.”

Vaith graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1976, after a storied career in his high school activities. Besides his accomplishments on the wrestling mat, he was a Homecoming king candidate, participated in track and acted in the all-school musical, “Oklahoma” and the senior class play.

Vaith’s record in wrestling included a career 84-14-1 record. He lettered four years, made the

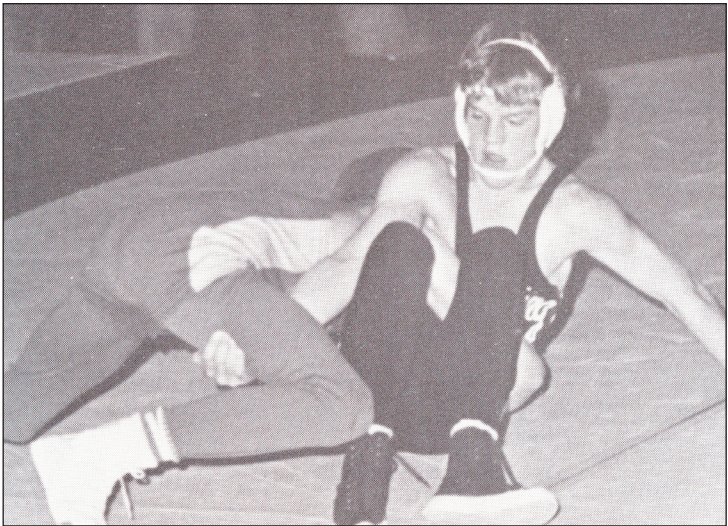


Photo courtesy of Blooming Prairie School District
Paul Vaith is shown here wrestling for Blooming Prairie High School in 1973.

All-Conference team four years, was a two-year team captain and earned a spot in the state wrestling tournament as a junior.

As McLay continued, “When the opportunity arose to nominate him, I jumped at the chance. He belongs in the Hall. He’s such a good guy, and he makes everyone around him better. That’s just who he is. He has been a positive role model for countless young men and continues to mentor and lead. There are so many of his former wrestlers who stop in just to say hello.”

After his graduation from BPHS, Vaith attended St. Thomas College, where he made the wrestling team as a freshman

and a sophomore and compiled a 28-7 record. Unfortunately, he ended both seasons having to undergo knee surgeries. He signed on to coach wrestling at Hastings High School in 1991 and thus began an extraordinary career.

Vaith coached the wrestling Raiders from 1991-2009 and finished with a record of 412-99-1. His conference mark stands at 141-7. Hastings earned a conference title 12 times, earned section titles eight times and runner-up section honors nine times. His team competed in the state tournament eight times, and he stepped back into coaching just a few years ago to be an assistant.

McLay concluded by remarking, “Vaith’s record as a coach speaks for itself. But what isn’t on his list of accomplishments are all of the lives he has touched. He believes in two things that will make a successful coach- a positive mental attitude and a good work ethic. Vaith learned those two things way back in his high school days in the halls of BPHS, and he still follows them today.”

Former classmates recall the determination and the work that went into his career. “He just wouldn’t give up,” commented a wrestling teammate.

As Steve Pfeifer remarked, “I was two or three years behind Paul in school. With the A and B squads practicing under separate coaches, I have many more wrestling related memories with his younger brothers Steve, Tom and Doug.

“I do remember Paul as always being very encouraging and often working with individuals on specific moves that would best suit their wrestling style. It is easy to understand why he became such a successful coach.”

Another former BPHS teacher, Dean Meshke, said, “Paul was a special student with a wealth of talent. He shone in the classroom just as brightly as he did on the wrestling mat. He was a special kid.”

ing the next three, the last after an injury default.

“I have to be pretty pleased at the results,” commented Coach Chad Gimbel, “as only one of the wrestlers we brought did not place in the invitational. We lost a couple of bouts that we maybe could have won, but overall, I thought we wrestled pretty good.”

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1B

Schmoker of Wabasha-Kellogg.

At 106 pounds, Ethan Arett took one of the two second places when he lost the title bout 9-3 to Caleb Clobes (LCWM). He beat Thomas DeBoer (Spectrum) by a fall in his first bout and then won a prolific 10-6 verdict over Hunter Eckstrom (WML) to reach the finals. The other second went to Colton Krell at 152, who decisioned Cooper Martens (LCWM) 13-3 and then edged Trevor Turner

(PL) 4-3, before losing a 7-4 decision to Luke Wilson (LH) in the championship bout.

Riley Olson earned a third place at 182 (ML) by pinning Richard Catalina at 3:20 of the bout. He lost his first two bouts, before reaching the finals. Jon Hansen, Seth Peterson and Brad Staska all finished fourth. At 132 pounds, Hansen lost the third place bout by a technical fall. He had earlier lost by a technical fall but came back to win by a

fall in just 1:10 seconds.

Peterson placed fourth at 145, losing his last bout by a 6-0 verdict. He had lost his first fight by a fall, but then won his next two bouts by 13-9 and 5-3 decisions. Brad Staska earned the other fourth at 285. He won his first bout by a fall at 1:03, but then lost the next two by falls at 2:25 and 59 seconds. Dylan Nirk counted the other points for the Blossoms, winning his first bout by a 6-4 decision, but then los-

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 1B

As far as the girls are concerned, I continue to be impressed with the play of the team. They have a weakness on offense as the team is short a real scorer, but the defense and the gritty way the team continues to play opponents deserves notice. A 10-4 record is pretty good for a team that came into the season with very little experience and a new coach. Good for them.

The wrestling team spent Saturday at an invitational tourney at Lake Crystal- Welcome Memorial, and some of the Blossom individuals will be expected to do well. Both Ethan Arett and Colton Krell are now in the area rankings, and other wrestlers are still compiling winning dual record. The team is fun to watch, despite the lack of numbers up and down the roster.

Mystery unraveling

A couple of faithful readers gave me clues last week as to the solution to my mystery of remembering when we presented “Harvey” as a community theater offering. I will follow those clues this week, and hopefully, I will be able to clear up that little puzzler, at least for me.

Big Bash coming fast

Less than two weeks remain now until the annual Benefit Bash (formerly the Gala), and plans are quickly rounding into fruition now. Raffle tickets are a hot item around the community, with a big TV and two cash prized to be awarded. The organizing group has also been able to round up some great

offerings for both the silent and auction.

A big change in the format this year is that all of the club members will be having their own party at the club. No admission will be charged for the Bash this year, either, with the only charge a fee to purchase a bidding number. Sandwiches off the Servicemen’s Club menu will be offered for those in attendance, instead of the usual snacks by the club.

Among the items up for bidding at the live auction will be airline tickets round trip to any place in the lower 48 states and a half hog already processed. These are just two of many items up on the block. The date is Saturday, Feb. 6, and more details will be available on posters around town and in this column next week. Make plans now to attend.

Another cancer success

The local Cancer Group

sponsored a pancake breakfast and a silent auction at the Pizza Cellar, and the group is also ready to turn over their annual contribution to the Rochester Eagles telethon. I don’t know the exact amount to be contributed, but I am assured that it will be a goodly amount.

A big tip of the hat to that group for the money they contribute for cancer research and for the many services they provide for families in the community touched by cancer. Well done, everyone.

Another musician gone

Lately the music field has taken a big hit with various personalities leaving us. David Bowie died last weekend, following complications from liver cancer at the age of 69. Although he was never a musician to whom I listened a lot, he had a long and storied career as a singer, songwriter, record producer, and multi-instrumentalist.

Bowie was born in London, and spent much of his later life between London and New York City. He first gained fame in this country in 1975 with a song “Fame,” and his album “Young Americans” became a best seller. In 1996 he collaborated with Queen on a popular album, he was as inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame the same year.

His latest album was released just a week before his death on his birthday. One of his two wives was a top model Iman, and he leaves behind a legion of fans that loved his music and his song production.

Let’s close this week with a word of encouragement for residents to make plans to attend the Benefit Bash, Feb. 6. The local B & G Club is a most worthy organization, and the one big fund-raiser is the silent and live auctions of the Bash. Resolve to attend, and we’ll talk again.

Gopher Conference Standings

Girls Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	5-0-0	11-3-0
Blooming Prairie	4-2-0	10-4-0
NRHEG	4-2-0	12-4-0
United South Central	4-2-0	11-3-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-4-0	6-8-0
Medford	1-4-0	1-10-0
Maple River	0-5-0	1-11-0

Boys Basketball

	Conf.	Overall
Maple River	6-0-0	14-2-0
NRHEG	5-2-0	10-6-0
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown	5-1-0	12-3-0
United South Central	3-3-0	8-5-0
Blooming Prairie	2-5-0	6-10-0
Bethlehem Academy	1-5-0	5-11-0
Medford	0-6-0	2-12-0

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
United South Central	3-0-0	4-0-0
Maple River	2-1-0	3-3-0
WEM/JWP	1-1-0	2-6-0
New Richland-H-E-G H.S.	1-1-0	2-4-0
Blooming Prairie	1-3-0	1-7-0
Medford	0-0-0	1-3-0

Big 9 Conference Standings

Girls Basketball

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

Boys Basketball

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

Wrestling

	Conf.	Overall
Albert Lea Area	4-0-0	14-0-0
Owatonna	4-0-0	8-2-0
Faribault	3-1-0	7-1-0
Rochester Mayo	3-1-0	4-2-0
Austin	2-1-0	4-3-0
Rochester John Marshall	2-2-0	5-10-0
Northfield	2-3-0	2-3-0
Mankato West	1-2-0	2-4-0
Winona/Winona Cotter	0-4-0	0-10-0
Mankato East	0-2-0	2-6-0
Rochester Century	0-5-0	0-6-0

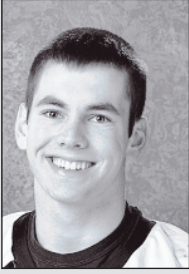
Source: Minnesota Scores website

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Kaci Gwilt

Kaci Gwilt, a junior guard for the Blossom girls, is steadily working into the lineup after spending months rehabbing a surgically repaired ACL. She has quickly added a spark to the local offense, despite playing in just her third game of the season. She is quick to accept leadership and has scored 17 points in the most recent two games. She will be counted on heavily as the season rolls along.



Anthony Nelson

Nelson became an obvious choice this week when he scored the 1,000th point of his brilliant career. He joins eight other Blossom male players to reach that coveted pinnacle. Nelson counted 19 points in each of two games last week and now has 1,037 points in his career. The senior co-captain has been the unquestioned leader on the team and is doing a good job of running the offense, as well as scoring.

Sponsored by:

OVERBY

ORTHODONTICS

Eric R. Overby, DDS, MS

- Free Consultations and 2nd Opinions

- Email & Text Appointment Reminders

- Invisalign™ and Incognito™ Provider

- Payment Plans Available

- Online Account Access

OverbyOrtho.com

Sports

Girls split a pair in week

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Sports Writer

After being ambushed at New Richland earlier in the week, the Blooming Prairie (BP) girls basketball team regrouped for a hard-fought 52-43 victory over Kenyon-Wanamingo (KW) Thursday, Jan. 14.

A late surge by the locals broke a game open in which neither team could find much success shooting the ball.

“We earned a solid win on the home court,” said Coach John Bruns. “We got great defense, good rebounding and used some depth in playing time to get the victory. We did a good job locating scorers, especially in the last four minutes, and limiting the Knights to one shot on each possession.”

KW took a 16-14 lead into the break, as neither team could find any shooting success. BP had a 12-8 lead with just over three minutes left in the half, but five straight points by Savannah Blees put the visitors up at the half. BP took the lead early in the second half on a three-pointer from Kaci Gwilt, and the Blossoms maintained a slight lead through the first eight minutes of the game. With BP leading 35-30 after 8 minutes, a late surge gave the winners seven of the last nine points and the victory margin.

BP shot 25 percent from the field, while KW made 27 percent. Lauren Larkoski drove the floor for 12 points to lead the local scoring, while Blees led the losers with nine. The

Blossoms had a 41-25 edge in rebounding, with Hannah Ahrens pulling down 13. Larkoski also had two steals and an assist, as did Gwilt.

BP raised its season record to 10-4. The team is 4-2 in the conference.

The junior varsity team made a late rally in its prelim, but the girls fell short in a 38-33 defeat. Ayren Ingvalson scored 11 points and Julia Worke chipped in eight.

KW won the ninth-grade game, 37-12, with Rachael Oswald high for the Blossoms with eight points. The JV team is now 7-6, while the C squad drops to 1-9.

Panthers get revenge

After losing big to Blooming Prairie just before the Christmas break, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) girls got revenge for that loss with a 61-43 victory over the Blossoms on its home court Tuesday, Jan. 12. The loss was the second lopsided defeat in a row for the locals, who had dropped a big one to Mankato Loyola just three days earlier.

“Although the game was an 18-point win for the Panthers,” remarked Coach John Bruns, “the game was much more competitive than the final score would indicate. We trailed by just three points with over 8 minutes left in the game, but we just couldn’t capitalize on our chances. Gambling on defense late in the game gave the winners several easy baskets.”

NRHEG led 34-29 at the break, and BP was behind just

42-39, before the Panthers broke away on some timely shooting from Maddie Wagner. NRHEG shot 35 percent from the field on 20-of-57 attempts, while BP made just 25 percent of their tries.

Maddie Wagner led all scorers in the game with 25 points and Marnie Wagner and Rachel Collins each added nine. Kaci Gwilt, playing in just her third game back from ACL surgery, had 12 points for the Blossoms and Marissa Larson and Hannah Ahrens added eight and seven.

The home team had a slight edge in rebounding 35-32, with Maddie Wagner pulling down 11 rebounds and adding six assists. Ahrens had 11 boards for the Blossoms. NRHEG made 17-of-21 free throws, and BP made 19-of-25 tries.

On the other side, Coach Onika Peterson commented, “The first time we faced them, BP played very well, and we struggled to make a basket. Tonight we were able to hop out early and keep the pressure on a lot better.”

The team improved to 11-4 overall and 5-2 in the conference.

Both the JV and C teams dropped games to NRHEG. The Panthers scored 47 points to BP’s 24 in the JV loss, and the home team defeated BP 41-19 in that game.

Julia Worke had 11 points in the JV contest, and Maya Lembke counted five points and Marti Snider and Jillian Wigham each had four points.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Alex Emanuelson attempts a basket for the Huskies, with Jay Sullivan by his side. The Huskies edged East Ridge in boys high school basketball action on Saturday night in Owatonna.



Staff photo by Laura Berndt

Preparing for the rebound are Blooming Prairie’s Jake Ressler and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva’s John Cole. Also pictured is Blooming Prairie’s Mitchell Jones (far right.)

BAKER

Continued from Page 1B

throws constantly a couple of hours each evening. He admits the free throw shooting helped him as he headed to the high school level.

Baker also developed a strong work ethic. “It is crucial because if you don’t work hard there are people that and you’re behind,” he said. “If you are in the gym and they are not, it is going to separate you from them and make you a better player and teammate.”

Over the summer, he worked for four hours each day with Tollefson in the weight room and in the gym on different basketball techniques.

Besides shooting, Baker said that his strength is being smart

and making the right decisions. What he needs to work on is improving his post-game, attacking with the dribble and improving his athleticism.

Having a height advantage at the guard position, Baker has mismatches once in a while. “Taking advantage of these in the post is going to help me.”

Against St. Clair, Baker had a general idea he was closing in on the 1,000th-point mark. He started out hot scoring 10 points in the first few moments. When Baker hit that milestone the game stopped and the crowd congratulated him on his accomplishments.

“It was just a relief getting past that, letting you focus on

the teamwork and winning the game ahead.”

Along with the milestone, Baker has enjoyed being with the team and growing as a team. “When we started off we didn’t have the best chemistry,” he said. “It started to improve and it is good to see because you need team chemistry heading into the playoffs.”

The team goal is to get a better seeding heading into the playoffs. “We feel if we can stream together some good wins we can make it to the state tournament,” Baker said. “That is our ultimate goal. I feel we can achieve that if we keep working hard every day and keep building as a team.”

NELSON

Continued from Page 1B

also a devout Christian. He is one of five junior ambassadors for the local chamber of commerce and has offered aid in many community projects. He comes from a sport-minded family and credits his dad, Brian, for his basketball ability and accomplishments. He gets his moral support from mom, Lois, and he was preceded by a sister, who also played varsity basketball.

Piller continued, “Anthony works hard at his craft, shooting hundreds of shots, dribbling and shooting off the dribble, and encouraging and

pushing teammates to get better. Finally, he is the best player on the team and this year has become more of a setup player through necessity. He has learned the value of discipline and hard work, and the young guys on our team have learned from his example. The way he competes in games and in practice illustrates a quality that we want all of our players to embrace.”

Nelson is still undecided to which college he will attend, but he will make the decision once the basketball season ends. He hesitated as to what

his favorite subject is, but he does acknowledge that right now calculus is giving him the most trouble.

If not participating in a sport, watching sports is his main interest. He is unlike many youngsters of his generation in that he would like to be a farmer like his family has always been. His bucket list includes a mission trip to Ireland this summer, and he attends youth activities in an Austin church each Wednesday night and enjoys them a great deal.

BP BOYS

Continued from Page 1B

maintain a slight lead throughout the game. The team had a good shooting night, making 44 percent on 19-of-43 attempts.

Anthony Nelson led the scoring with 19 points, and Marten Morem added 14. Max Romeo gave the team a lift off the bench with nine points, all coming on three treys. Nelson handed out four assists and had four steals, and Morem had an assist and two steals. Jake Ressler and Mitchell Jones helped the rebounding advantage for the locals with seven and six boards, respectively.

The BP junior varsity team held a 16-13 lead in the prelim, but the second half belonged to the Knights, as they outscored BP, 31-16 and a 44-32 victory. Romeo and Trent Swenson led the local scoring with 13 and 10 points.

The team dropped to 7-8 for the season with the loss.

Panthers wither Blossoms

About the only real bright spot in the BP basketball loss to NRHEG Tuesday, Jan. 12, belonged to senior captain Anthony Nelson who wasted little time in the game to reach the 1,000-career point mark. Nelson counted point number 1,001 on the second trip down the floor when he notched a

short jumper at the 16:46 point of the game.

When asked about his accomplishment, Nelson said, “I was really happy to get those points, as it has been an ambition of mine ever since I began playing basketball to reach that goal. I give credit to the hard work I have put in and to my teammates for their support and setting me up to succeed.”

Unfortunately, the rest of the night belonged to the Panthers in a 64-36 conference romp on the Blossom court. The loss marked the third straight lopsided defeat and sent the locals to a 5-10 season record.

In all three defeats, poor shooting has hampered the BP play, but more telling, the passing and ball handling has been even poorer.

Coach Nate Piller bemoaned the fact that the players were standing around way too much, and too many passes were delivered late in the offense.

A 12-0 run of points for the visitors in the middle five minutes of the first half propelled the Panthers to a 19-6 lead at the 10-minute mark, and some hot shooting by Oakley Baker and John Cole increased the lead to 35-21 at the break.

BP could never get closer than 41-38 at the four-minute mark of the second half, but NRHEG then

ran off the next 10 points to pull away for good. Reserves finished the game for both teams.

“Besides Nelson’s record-setting output,” commented Piller, “the other highlight of the game marked the first action of the season for Mitchell Jones, who has now recovered from a broken leg injury suffered in the football season. In the game there were some moments when we played competitively, but too many times we did not play up to our abilities. I still hope we can change that.”

Oakley Baker and John Cole scored 20 and 19 points to lead all scorers in the game, and Nelson counted 19 for the Blossoms, but nobody else could score more than eight points. The team shot only 27 percent, the third game in a row in which the percentage fell below 30 percent. Jake Ressler pulled down 11 of the team’s 31 boards, and Nelson had five steals and an assist in the game. It marked the second tough outing against the Panthers this season.

In a very poor first half for the Blossoms, NRHEG defeated BP 53-34 in the prelim. The Blossoms managed just nine points in the first half against Panther pressure and never could catch up. Romeo and Nick Thompson each had seven points for the losers.

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



LOCAL
ALL THE
TIME!

STEELE COUNTY
Times
Always local, all the time.

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

Austin
Shirley Richardson
Blooming Prairie
Brian & Lois Nelson
Owatonna
Glen Hanson
Carmen Reul
Colleen Borchert
Dorothy Allmon
Lavone Cahoon
Deb Disdensa

Sports

Solid ‘D’ sparks Panthers

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

Solid defense sparked New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) to a 68-38 win over United South Central (USC) in boys basketball action on Friday night.

The win boosted the Panthers record to 10-6 overall.

“I thought for the second straight game we played outstanding defense for an entire game,” Coach Pat Churchill said.

“We held USC to 28 percent shooting for the game. We really set a tone on the defensive end.”

Leading the way offensively for NRHEG was Oakley Baker with 26 points and eight rebounds. Benji Lundberg had possible his best offensive performance of the season scoring 12 points and dishing out five assists.

Ryan Kloos had 19 points to lead USC.

The game was close for the first eight minutes. USC scored the first five points, however, NRHEG started rolling and took a 32-16 halftime lead.

“The second half we were able to extend the lead,” Churchill said. “We were never really threatened in the second half.”

The Panthers also won the junior varsity contest, 73-53.

Bucs too much for

Panthers

Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town (WEM) defeated NRHEG, 62-51. The Bucs led at halftime, 31-17.

Churchill said the Panthers struggled offensively early in the game. It took the team six minutes to get its first point of the game. “Thankfully, WEM had only scored six,” he said.

He added that it seemed the team was a bit tentative offensively, dropping some passes and not finishing. “I thought we

had very good defensive possessions and that kept it close early,” Churchill said. “Then WEM pushed the lead to double figures with six minutes left in the half and went into halftime up 14.”

In the second half, the lead stayed around 10 points throughout. “I felt we played a little better in the second half, but we dug ourselves too big a hole to climb out of and had too many turnovers in the first half,” Churchill said.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
Of Blooming Prairie

2016 Boys & Girls Club BENEFIT BASH

Fun for the whole family!

Kid Party for school aged children at the Boys & Girls Club when the live auction starts until it is over. Transportation and adult supervision will be provided.

All proceeds to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie

Includes Silent & Live Auction Raffles and Games

Save the date

5:00 p.m.
February 6, 2016
BP Servicemen's Club

Contact
Lianna Doocy 583-7096 or
Cheri Krejci 507-438-6895
for details

Advisory Board
LeMar Nelson • Lianna Doocy • Nolan Christianson • Angie Carlson
Becky Josephson • Orio Toquam • Kay Toquam • Craig Kruckeberg
Robyn Kruckeberg • Tamzen Johnson Pastor Charlie Leonard

ATTENTION: Juniors & Seniors in high school!

Are you interested in traveling to Washington DC this June on an all-expenses paid trip of a lifetime?

You'll join 1,500 other students for 6 days of fun at our nation's capital, visiting museums, monuments, chatting with politicians and meeting new friends, etc.

***Apply for Youth Tour 2016, sponsored by FMCS & MREA.**

- Travel Dates are June 11- 16, 2016
- **Deadline to apply is Thursday, February 18, 2016**
- Interview Banquet is Tuesday March 15, 2016.

***Applicants must be members of FMCS and reside in our service territory. (Receive electric service from FMCS)**

Contact Dawn Schroeder
or go to our website for more information.
507-379-8841 | dschroeder@fmcs.coop
www.fmcs.coop | www.youthtour.coop



GET TO KNOW US

THE FACES BEHIND THE STORIES

Anna Segner

COUNTY STAFF WRITER

ORIGINALLY FROM: Owatonna

FAMILY: I'm not married or engaged, so get off my back. Haha. My parents are Ron and Pat and my sisters are Josi and Cory.

FAVORITE PAST-TIME: Painting, reading intense Russian literature, hiking, cross-country skiing and canoeing. I also enjoy spending time with the many characters that color my life.

BEFORE THE TIMES: I graduated from Saint Mary's University with degrees in Literature with Writing Emphasis and Studio Art. I have written for Minnesota Public Radio's local Current Blog and Big River Magazine. My art has been in galleries around Minnesota, and I have painted the slogan sign for the Steele County Free Fair for the past three years.

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBES ME BEST: Energetic, unpredictable and feisty

FAVORITE BOOK: "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery

IF YOU COULD EAT ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE: Bruschetta all day every day.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS: I would start by paying off my late fees at the library.

LAST MOVIE YOU WENT TO: "The Intern" ... it was pretty adorable.

IF YOU COULD HIRE AN ASSISTANT, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE THEM DO: Braid my hair

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME FOR A WEEK, WHAT YEAR WOULD YOU TRAVEL TO: I would go back to last year. I miss seeing my college friends every day.

SONG THAT ALWAYS MAKES ME WANT TO DANCE: Anything by Abba... but first get me an unflattering satin outfit and some platform boots.



OWATONNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN '16

JANUARY-FEBRUARY: Cottage 11 closed
JANUARY 20: Tennis Winter 2 Deadline
JANUARY 26: SeniorPlace Cake Pop Decorating
JANUARY 27: Owatonna Park & Rec Boot Hockey Tournament Deadline
JANUARY 30: 2016 Polar Plunge

FEB '16

FEBRUARY 2: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 2 Begins
FEBRUARY 5: Winter Weekend Out-Sledding and a Movie
FEBRUARY 6: Winter Weekend Out-Owatonna Boot Hockey Tournament
FEBRUARY 6: Winter Weekend Out-Bonfire & Ice Skating
FEBRUARY 6: Fat Tire bike Demo at Kaplans
FEBRUARY 7: Winter Weekend Out-Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmer
FEBRUARY 9: SeniorPlace Medication Management Speaker
FEBRUARY 10: SeniorPlace Treasure Island Resort & Casino Trip
FEBRUARY 10: Therapeutic Recreation Valentine Dance
FEBRUARY 11: SeniorPlace MN Gophers Women's Basketball trip
FEBRUARY 11: SeniorPlace Trip- MN Gophers Women's Basketball Game
FEBRUARY 15: Presidents Day: All City Offices Closed
FEBRUARY 17: SeniorPlace Chanhassen Dinner Theater Trip-Sister Act
FEBRUARY 22: Lacrosse Registration Night for parents and players
FEBRUARY 23: Spring Brochure Released
FEBRUARY 24: TherapeuticRecreation Chanhassen Dinner Theater trip
FEBRUARY 26: Registration at SeniorPlace

MAR '16

MARCH 11: Registration Deadline: soccer, little league & fastpitch softball
MARCH 16: Adult Slowpitch Softball Team Entry Fees due

APRIL '16

MARCH-APRIL: Brooktree Golf Course Opens
APRIL 9: Level 1&2 Little League Evaluations
APRIL 11: Soccer begins this week
APRIL 23: Munchkin Market
APRIL 23: Bark & Rec
APRIL 25: Therapeutic Recreation Annual Bowling Tournament
APRIL 25: Lacrosse Begins

TENNIS & FITNESS

*January Special: "New Year's Resolution": Purchase a year membership and receive two free ½ hour personal training sessions with Aaron Halla!
*February Special: "You're Special": One free Tennis & Fitness t-shirt with any yearly membership.

REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 26, 2016

4-6:30pm, SeniorPlace South Entrance **Baseball & Softball uniforms will be available to try on at the registration. Owatonna Lacrosse Association will be there this year as well!

Youth Soccer • Swim Lessons • Bark & Rec
Munchkin Market • Boat & Water Safety
Little League baseball (current grades 2-5)
Fastpitch Softball • Association Baseball and Fastpitch programs • T-ball and Squirt ball programs

RENTALS

*Brooktree Clubhouse rentals are available!
*Pavilions are available to reserve anytime with Fireplaces at Gainey & Mineral Springs Park.
*SeniorPlace has 7 different rooms available for rent, 2 of those rooms include a kitchen for your use! Contact SeniorPlace for rates and availability. 507-444-4280

OUTDOOR PUBLIC SKATING FACILITY

The Warsinski Chalet is a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals. Food concessions are also available! Located at the west end of School Street.
Open: Sunday: 12:00 noon-9:30pm, Saturday, Holiday & School Vacation Days: 11:00am-9:30pm, Monday-Friday: 3:00-9:00pm

NOW HIRING!

Check the City of Owatonna's website for current employment opportunities. Apply online today! <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/owatonna/default.cfm>



OWATONNA PARKS AND RECREATION
WWW.CI.OWATONNA.MN.US/PARKSRECREATION
507-444-4321 EXT. 3

REMINDERS

*Programs and Events in the Spring Brochure (released February 23)
*Park Public Restrooms are closed except for Central Park & the Morehouse Park Chalet
*Cross Country Ski trails are now being groomed
*SeniorPlace Memberships are available!
*Brooktree Memberships are available!
*Tennis & Fitness Memberships are available!
*Therapeutic Recreation memberships are due!
* Fat Tire Bike trails are packed
*Morehouse outdoor skating facility is open

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund helps support programs for all youth in Steele County and Adult Therapeutic Recreation Programs. Forms are available at the Park & Rec Office. Participants must pay 25% of program fees, any late fees, and must show verification of one of the qualifications:

*Current recipients of Free or Reduced Lunch Program
*Current recipients of SSI or Social Security Benefits
*Current recipients of Medical Assistance Program
*Other circumstances (will need to explain)

SCHA: Members of South Country Health Alliance can now receive \$15 off Parks & Recreation youth activities and classes. Therapeutic Recreation activities are also included. Maximum of 3 classes per calendar year. A Scholarship form must be completed and current SCHA membership card must be presented at the time of registration.

OWATONNA'S 1ST ANNUAL WINTER WEEKEND OUT

February 5-7 (Visit the Park & Rec website for more information)
*Friday, February 5, 1-4:30pm-Sledding and Movie at West Hills: FREE Activity! Sledding begins at 1:00, games in SeniorPlace at 2:00, and a movie will begin at 3:00.
*Saturday, February 6, All Day-Boot Hockey Tournament: Morehouse Park outdoor rinks, separate Youth and Adult tournaments will be held. For more information OR to register visit the Park & Rec website.
*Saturday February 6, 1-5 p.m. FREE Fat Bike Demonstration at Kaplans: Straight River Sports is giving you the opportunity to try out the new rage in biking.
*Saturday, February 6, 5:30pm-Bonfire & Ice Skating: The Chalet will be offering ½ price skate rentals, \$10 cross country ski rentals, and food and drink specials throughout the whole day! Enjoy a FREE s'more at the bonfire!
*Sunday, February 7, 1:00-3:00pm-Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmer: FREE Activity! Some equipment and bait will be provided; holes will be drilled.

TRAILS

The Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department maintains and grooms cross country ski trails in the following areas:
*Kaplan's Woods Parkway-from Morehouse Park through Kaplan's Woods and into the Country Club Golf Course (in excess of 8 miles)
*Brooktree Golf Course (2 Miles)
*Fat Tire Bike Trails - 6 miles of trails are packed in Kaplans Woods



SMILE! BEST FEE GUARANTEE

King ORTHODONTICS

KingBraces.com • Faribault 507.332.0022 • Owatonna 507.446.9000



STEWART
Sanitation & Recycling

Local Family Owned and Operated Since 1994

Your Local Choice!

Personal Service You Just Can't Get From A Large Corporation

When you have had it with the Large Corporate Companies, We offer you a Friendly Small town way of doing business. Unlike our World Wide Competitors who rely on a contract to ensure your patronage, we earn it the old fashioned way!

507-451-0976
Or Toll Free 1-888-451-0976 • P.O. Box 321 • Owatonna
email: info@stewartsanitation.com

2 Free Months of Regular Residential Service!
*Call for details



Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

www.expresspros.com
507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002
812 S. Elm, Owatonna, MN 55060

Public Safety

How about kindness as a New Year’s resolution?

During one of our recent cold spells, Rosie and I were on our way home from shopping in Rochester when we saw a minivan in the eastbound lane a few miles west of town stopped on the shoulder, hood up, and no lights on. I looked down at my dash and it indicated the temperature was below zero and it was windy, so we knew the wind-chill was dangerously low. I then saw someone standing on the roadway by the van who I assumed was the owner, with nobody else around.

My first thought was we have to turn around and check on the guy because it’s too cold to be standing out there for too long. We continued west towards Byron and turned around at the first intersection and drove east until we saw the van. We pulled up behind it and saw a young man standing outside the vehicle.

I walked up to him and he explained that he was on his

way to work when his vehicle quit working, he wasn’t able to reach any of his friends by phone because his wasn’t working, and he had been trying to flag down help from someone. He said he couldn’t get anyone to stop. I told him we could give him a ride to where ever he needed to go to get help. Rosie and I gave him a ride into Rochester to his house so he could get help to retrieve his vehicle. He also used our phone to call his employer to let him know he would be late. He had been without heat for over 15 minutes outside and was very cold. He was very polite and appreciative.

The reason I bring this story up is because it was very disappointing to find that I was the first one to stop. To my knowledge, nobody driving by called law enforcement to get help for him either.

My question for you is – would you stop?



SHERIFF
SCOTT ROSE

Let’s add more to the story. Would it matter if it was a young male standing outside trying to flag you down? I’m sure many of you would stop. How about it if was a female, or a senior citizen? I’m sure many more might be willing to stop. How about if it was a minority? African American, Hispanic, Asian, etc.? How about Middle Eastern?

Unfortunately, the national media has done a tremendous job of vilifying minorities, especially as of late. Middle Easterners with all the conflicts with ISIS. Hispanics with the boarder issues, illegal status debates, and some of the recent crimes committed by undocumented immigrants. African Americans with all the hype regarding Black Lives Matter, anti-law enforcement rhetoric, and black on black crime – they’ve been all over the national media this past year. Does that influence how we act? We’d like to say no, but that’s not always the case.

This young man that we stopped to help was African American. I really hope that isn’t the reason why many chose not to stop and help before we did. He was simply a kid with car problems who was cold and looking for help. We stopped because it was the right thing to do – because it’s what

we would have wanted him to do for us. He was polite and appreciative – a very nice kid!

If you see an occupied vehicle broke down on the side of the road and they look like they need assistance, especially during the cold winter months, stop if you feel safe to do so. If you have any concerns for your safety, don’t stop. Your safety and your family’s safety comes first - but note the location and description of the vehicle and call law enforcement to make sure help is on the way.

As we enter into the New Year, especially with a national election year, we are going to get even more inundated with negative national media. Negative and divisive media coverage regarding religious and political groups, regarding minority groups, and regarding cops. While it’s often easier said than done, we must try and not judge someone based on their skin color, religion,

profession, or political preference – judgment so often motivated and fueled by the nation media covering the wrongful actions of a few.

We are so fortunate to live and work here in southeast Minnesota, in an area where we are often insulated from many of the issues plaguing neighborhoods around the country. While it’s important to keep you and your family safe, I challenge everyone to make an honest effort to not let the divisive rhetoric affect how we treat people, especially our neighbors here in Dodge County and southeast Minnesota.

Happy New Year everyone.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose has been serving as Dodge County Sheriff since January 2015. He writes a monthly column.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

No incidents reported.

Owatonna Police

Jan. 9
DWI. At 1:06 a.m., police pulled over a motorist at Cedar Ave. S. and Southview St. SW. He was found to be intoxicated and taken into custody.

Arrest. Officer arrested a motorist in the 200 block of Barney St. SW at 10:58 a.m.

Shoplifting. Police issued a citation for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW at 7:48 p.m.

Vandalism. At 9:16 p.m., police responded to a report of property damage in the 600 block of Woodglen Place NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Civil. Officers assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 10:59 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Jan. 10
Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at Broadway St. W. and Park Square W. at 12:19 a.m.

Drunken Driving. Police made a DWI arrest in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 1:02 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 7:05 p.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Academy St. E. at 9:42 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Jan. 11
Arrest. At 1 a.m., police arrested a motorist in the 200 block of Allan Ave. SW.

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 9:56 a.m.

Death. Officers began a death investigation in the 200 block of Larch Ave. NE at 10:52 a.m.

Jan. 12
Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report at 32nd Ave. NW and Runway Rd. at 12:57 a.m.

Child Protection. Officers took four child protection reports during the day.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of 26th St. NW at 5:54 p.m.

Jan. 13
Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Grove Ave. N. at 10:45 a.m.

Crash. Police responded to a motor vehicle accident at Elm Ave. S. and School St. E. at 2:47 p.m.

Warrant. At 8:40 p.m., officer made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.

Jan. 14
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1400 block of Austin Rd. SE at 12:31 a.m., in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 7:32 a.m. and in the 100 block of 18th St. SE at 4:48 p.m.

Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 100 block of Vine St. E. at 10:13 a.m.

Theft. A citizen reported that his identity had been stolen in the 1000 block of Prairie Lane NE at 4:20 p.m.

Restraining Order. Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of 18th St. SW at 7:59 p.m.

Welfare. At 5:41 p.m., police completed a welfare check in the 400 block of State Ave. NW. They made an arrest at the scene.

Steele County Sheriff
Jan. 8
Crash. Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with property damage at 82nd Ave NW and Crane Creek Rd. at 12:49 a.m.

Jan. 11
Civil. Deputies assisted with a civil matter in the 6100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 12
Burglary. Deputies received information regarding a burglary in the 400 block of 2nd St. SW at 9:34 a.m.

Warrants. Deputies arrested subjects for outstanding warrants at the detention center at 1:01 p.m. and in the 600 block of Eisenhower Dr. NW at 1:51 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 4 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Cody A. Fonner, 20, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in a motor vehicle and gross misdemeanor criminal vehicular operation-bodily harm-alcohol concentration. Fonner was sentenced to \$3,024.68, 24 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Shane R. Grundhoffer, 34, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of Marijuana. He was sentenced to 33 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 4 – 8:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Bobby J. Smitty, 22, Blooming Prairie, no MN license, \$181; Denise D. Thompson, 33, Blooming Prairie, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Anna M. Adams, 40, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Gabriel M. Arce, 21, San Antonio, TX, no MN license, \$181; Hunter R. Bach, 28, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Brett J. Bartlett, 18, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$131; Hser Bel, 20, Maplewood, speeding, \$141; Francine D. Bennett, 33, Austin, speeding, \$131; Brandon D. Berg, 25, Faribault, suspended license, \$281; Kerry C. Bittrich, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Laura A. Buske, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; James R. Campbell, 45, Larkspur, CO, speeding, \$121; Stacy L. Champeau, 24, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Larry A. Coffing, 67, Northfield, seat belt, \$106; Rocio A. Dealba, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Alexander H. Dewitz, 24, Oronoco, speeding, \$121;

Aaron L. Dowdy, 33, Storm Lake, IA, no MN license, \$181; Faith M. Fischer, 35, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Amy J. Forte, 55, Batavia, IL, speeding, \$141; Kara M. Haun, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Dylan R. Hondl, 22, Owatonna, displaying stolen plates, \$381; Karolyna M. Jayson Gomez, 19, Deer Park, TX, speeding, \$121; Anna E. Klemmensen, 29, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Sarah A. Locken, 23, Mound, speeding, \$121; Sandra P. Lundstrom, 47, Nisswa, speeding, \$121; Lien T. Luu, 24, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121; Tiffany D. Macy, 36, Medford, expired registration, \$111; Charles A. Miklich, 54, Owatonna, move over law violation, \$131; Nallely Miranda, 28, Rochester, seat belt, \$106; Derek A. Navarro, 23, Albert Lea, no insurance, \$281; Gilberto T. Paxtian, 21, Amary, WI, no MN license, \$181; Taron Poghosyan, 24, Glendale, CA, speeding, \$141;

Irene E. Reed, 46, Fridley, no insurance, \$281; Cohl J. Schwartz, 20, Owatonna, failure to apply for USDOT number, \$181; Jerald A. Solberg, 59, Burnsville, speeding, \$141; Craig D. Sutlief, 44, Waseca, brakes violation, \$131; Jeffrey S. Svennes, 53, Valley Springs, SD, speeding, \$131; Garegin Torosyan, 24, Glendale, CA, seat belt, \$106; Clifford L. Tyson Jr., 19, Arcadia, WI, speeding and no MN license, \$231; Patty N. Vong-

phirath, 25, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$131; Robert A. Wolkenhauer, 20, Faribault, seat belt, \$106; Tamara J. Wood, 45, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Adam C. Zuehlke, 28, Wells, seat belt, \$106; Eric V. Zuehlke, 28, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$281.

Owatonna Police Department
Kenneth J. Ahrens, 44, Faribault, theft, \$281; Dixie P. Bakken, 42, Racine, speeding, \$141; Diane E. Bedney, 64, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Juan L. Bernal-Padilla, 19, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Natasha L. Chavez, 25, Faribault, text messaging while driving, \$131; Chance A. Christenson, 18, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Joseph M. Davis, 30, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Carolyn J. Delange, 47, Owatonna, DWI, \$606, 27 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panels and 2 years of supervised probation; Roberta D. Domstrand, 45, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Cedric A. English, 43, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Tony L. Espinoza-Alluvi, 36, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Bret M. Fisher, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Alex W. Green, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Ryan M. Hanson, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281;

Cindy A. Hernandez, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Abdifatah A. Issa, 25, Grand Forks, ND, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Rebecca T. Jock, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$201; Brian R. Johnson, 52, Owatonna, harassment restraining order violation, \$412, 147 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, anger management, do not enter victim’s residence and 1 year of supervised probation; Eamon M. Keane, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Katie E. Keck, 28, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Martin J. Klaustermeier, 20, Geneva, seat belt, \$106; Skylar M. Lavenz, 21, Owatonna, improper information on license and no insurance, \$301; Emma I. Leese, 36, Lonsdale, trespassing, \$381, and 1 year of supervised probation; Sandra McCarty, 44, Rochester, speeding, \$141;

Larry D. Mensing, 58, Medford, violation of restraining order, \$131, 253 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, and 4 years of supervised probation; Sammy D. Miranda Hernandez, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Aida M. Moran, 57, Owatonna, no insurance and sus-

pending license, \$481; Christopher L. Neste, 26, Waseca, seat belt, \$106; Linda K. O’Connor, 58, Medford, failure to obey lane marker, \$131;

Ryan O. Olson, 37, Nerstrand, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, \$541; Jesus Ortiz, 28, Owatonna, assault, \$381, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, and 1 year of supervised probation;

David L. Perry, 39, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Lorita D. Placencia, 40, Rochester, revoked license, \$281; Jade L. Posey, 17, Claremont, speeding, \$121; Tavares A. Powell, 36, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Richard R. Rodriguez, 26, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181;

Charity A. Schmidt, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Sabrina R. Schmitz, 20, Owatonna, railroad stop sign, \$121; Helena A. Shaw, 29, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Chad A. Smith, 28, Faribault, fleeing a peace officer, \$131, 12 days in county jail; Caly M. Stockwell, 26, Claremont, no front plate, \$111;

Brandon L. Tate, 27, North Chicago, IL, no MN license, \$181; Travis J. Troska, 36, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Brandon L. Weitzenkamp, 24, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131; Jenny M. Wroblewski, 39, Faribault, DWI, \$406, attend MADD impact panel, and 1 year of supervised probation; Joel L. Zocher, 44, Rosemount, no insurance, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office
Secundino V. Alvarado, 50, Austin, expired tabs and speeding, \$171; Lori A. Blomquist, 45, Bloomington, speeding, \$121; William G. Bultman, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Tamara J. Clemente, 29, Rochester, possession of Paraphernalia and Marijuana, \$181; Hjordi L. Danielson, 32, Austin, speeding, \$221;

Scott C. Deml, 45, Waseca, speeding, \$121; George R. Dettmann, 85, Ellendale, sale of tobacco to child, \$181; Nicole J. Dut, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$131;

Drew R. Ferguson, 23, Faribault, cancelled license and failure to provide signal, \$321; Cynthia M. Finch, 51, Owatonna, sale of tobacco to child, \$181; Michael P. Gillis, 33, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Mark S. Grieger, 59, Eagle Lake, speeding, \$131; Crispin A. Guerrero Amaya, 50, Medford, speeding, \$121;

Kara M. Haun, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Jacob C. Hettlinger, 16, Overland Park, KS, speeding, \$131; Holly M. Houghton, 18, Black River Falls, WI, speeding, \$141; Jamil L. James, 21, Winona, no MN license, \$181; Cesar A. Jaso, 47, Plano, IL, speeding, \$121;

Jodi K. Johannsen, 44, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Alexandra L. Johnson, 20, Owatonna, no license in possession and speeding, \$151; Emily J. Kahnke, 25, Ellendale, speeding, \$131; Lacey J. Koopal, 32, Hartland, speeding, \$121; Gabrielle A. Larson-McCluskey, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Shelley P. Leblanc, 55, Little Falls, speeding, \$121;

Adam M. Little, 32, West Concord, speeding, \$121; Julian Lopez, 19, Medford, no insurance, \$281; Becky A. Lovgren, 34, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Duane G. Lyke, 51, Claremont, no insurance and expired tabs, \$311; Deloris C. Maas, 53, Medford, speeding, \$121; Melissa M. Maloney, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

John T. McGuire, 35, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Mager B. Mills, 65, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Stanley J. Nisbit, 65, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Stacey A. Noble, 27, Naperville, IL, speeding, \$121; Nicholas E. Patterson, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$141;

Marshall D. Pederson, 18, Geneva, sale of tobacco to child, \$181; Krista A. Peterson, 22, Austin, speeding, \$121; Randy S. Piha, 54, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Nancy J. Rivera Ibarra, 25, Albert Lea, speeding, \$221; Jarrod J. Robb, 33, Owatonna, speeding, \$221;

Jeremia M. Roberts, 29, Owa-

PUBLIC SAFETY
Continued on Page 7B

SHERIFF’S TIPLINE

866-878-7964



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

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

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

Alfonzo Thomas – worthless check - \$300 bail
James Thomas – theft – no bail
Carla Thompkins – stalking - \$35,000 bail
Larry Thompson – obstruction - \$3,000 bail
Mario Ticas – assault - \$1,000 bail
Timothy Tillman – assault - \$20,000 bail
Juan Tomas – revoked license - \$500 bail
Robert Tooker – drugs - \$3,000 bail

Richard Tople – DWI – no bail
Enrique Torres – theft - \$300 bail
Julio Touchet Campos – criminal sexual conduct - \$250,000 bail
Jaime Tovar – DWI – no bail
Gustavo Trevino – leave scene of crime - \$750 bail
Santos Trevino – suspended license, no insurance - \$1,000 bail

Dragan Trkulja – traffic - \$1,000 bail
Segio Trujilla – no license, no insurance - \$500 bail
Arnut Tungsununt – drugs - \$10,000 bail
Nyatiem Tut – false name - \$500 bail
Peter Uhlig – DWI - \$3,000 bail
Michael Vaith – forgery – no bail

News/Public Safety

Rick Kittelson retires after 42 years with Blooming Prairie Public Utilities department

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Rick Kittelson recently celebrated his retirement after 42 years with the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities (BPPU) department. Although much has changed over the years, Kittelson said the experience was, overall, very enjoyable.

“Most times have been good,” said Kittelson, recalling his career in Blooming Prairie.

Kittelson began working for BPPU in 1973 and was named manager of the department in 1985. He’s also been involved with the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA), which supplies wholesale power for BPPU. Kittelson served on the SMMPA board and even served as its president for multiple terms.

“His experience and knowledge is going to be greatly missed by the Public Utility Commission,” said City Administrator Mike Jones. Jones also noted that, without Kittelson’s

dedication, the department would not be where it is today.

Kittelson said he’s also enjoyed working with many other people in the Blooming Prairie community. “I’ve always had a good board of commissioners to work with,” he said. The current BPPU Commission includes Amy Doerhoefer, Dennis Heimerman and Mike Ressler.

Kittelson adds that it’s also been a pleasure to work with Administrator Jones and Mayor H. Peterson. Other city departments, said Kittelson, have also worked well with the utilities department.

When he first began his work with BPPU, Kittelson recalls having a deep appreciation for the many people who offered guidance and advice as he navigated the new territory. And, while many things have changed over the past 42 years, Kittelson said most changes happened gradually.

“Things are certainly more automated,” he muses. “When I started, we walked around with an actual book and wrote down

the meter readings.”

Now, workers carry a hand-held computer with push buttons, which does the calculating for them. The computer is fed into a docking station, which is then fed into a computer to compute the bills. At one time, it was pretty much manually calculated.”

This system could also be upgraded to a radio-read format, allowing operators to complete the process with almost no manual calculations.

“It’s just so much more fool-proof now,” said Kittelson. Even when lightening strikes, the lines can now automatically reset themselves.

Over time, Kittelson said that the line work has become more complex. “The line work is definitely more technical and safety-driven than it used to be,” he said. “And there’s many more safety features built into all of the distribution systems than there used to be.”



Kittelson

During his career, Kittelson also said that many dead-end water mains have been eliminated, to help prevent the build-up of bacteria. More equipment has also been acquired for the local department, including three of the plant’s six generators. The department has also worked hard to make the distribution and generation systems more reliable for its customers.

“We built a second tie-line into our city, which also gives us added flexibility,” explains Kittelson.

This joint intercommunication project with Steele Waseca Electric Cooperative allowed the city to connect with a transmission interconnection just north of Blooming Prairie, improving the capability to maintain power during maintenance or inclement weather.

“We’ve also added greatly to the reliability to this corner of Steele-Waseca’s distribution

system,” said Kittelson.

Kittelson also believes that being affiliated with SMMPA has opened doors for Blooming Prairie. It’s also allowed him to view the industry from different perspectives and learn about work in other regions and even other states.

Another major change for the department occurred within the past year. “Another big change is the new office,” said Kittelson. “It’s a more pleasant atmosphere for working.” BPPU moved to its new office in the summer of 2015.

Over the years, the department has also acquired additional parcels of land, which could be utilized for possible future expansion. “Over the years, we’ve bought four parcels of land, which allows us for some future growth if we need expansion, especially if we need expansion of our water storage and treatment facilities,” said Kittelson.

Looking ahead to the future, Kittelson said he knows that necessary infrastructure replacements will be a major project for

the city. “In the future, there will be more and more rebuilding of streets and, along with that, goes the water system,” he said. “Re-doing parts of the system are going to be a big deal for the near future.”

Although Kittelson will continue to represent Blooming Prairie on the SMMPA Board for some time, his successor, Jerry Mausbach, has already assumed his other former duties. Kittelson, however, said that he’s actually eased into a “semi-retirement” over the past several years, as BPPU office staff and Jones took over some of his responsibilities.

Mausbach began working at BPPU on Jan. 4, and Kittelson expressed confidence that he will do well in the position. “I’m sure that he’s learned things from his past work that he can use here,” said Kittelson. “I think he’s excited about our town and living here, so that’s a plus.”

Advanced broadband Internet technology and faster Internet speeds benefit rural communities

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

In December, Frontier Communications Corp. announced that it had expanded its services. The expansion provides improved services to people in rural communities, like Ellendale.

With the upgrades, Frontier now offers advanced broadband technology and faster Internet speeds to businesses and residences in Ellendale.

Liam Morrison, manager of corporate communications for

Frontier, said that the technology would benefit people using the Internet in their homes or businesses. “At Frontier, we are a huge provider of rural broadband, for both residential and business customers,” Morrison said. “We want to make their lives better. We really do care about our customers and try to embody that with our local engagement model.”

Ellendale Mayor Mark Skroch noted that there are several Internet providers that provide Internet to the Ellendale community, including Consolidated Com-

munications and Frontier. Other area Internet providers include Radio Link Internet, Enventis and MidContinent, among others.

“In today’s world, everything is digital and moves fast,” said Skroch. “For sure, it’s just a way of life today.”

Skroch added that he knows many people who use the Internet in their homes, businesses, and even on the go, accessing the Internet with their smartphones.

Morrison adds that people using the Internet in their work-

place can benefit from increased speeds in a number of ways. “Now-a-days having access to the Internet alone is pretty crucial to business,” he said. “Reliable Internet is such a crucial part of that. We see people using more and more devices, and these faster speeds needed for increased bandwidth. We, at Frontier, take this seriously, so they have more reliable Internet access and they can do all these things that are becoming more and more mandatory for conducting business.”

The increased speeds and in-

creased bandwidth, said Morrison, allow businesses to utilize applications and programs like the Cloud, a network of servers that allows users to store files and data in a “cloud” that can be accessed from different devices.

Of course, people also use the Internet in their homes for a variety of purposes. “It could be for something as simple as streaming a video or downloading a song from iTunes,” explained Morrison.

“We’re able to provide content and Internet, making business more efficient. Customers

use a lot of these services and the increased speeds and bandwidth are a great way to conserve financial resources and energy. It really does make things more efficient in our lives.”

Skroch said today, the Internet is a common, everyday thing. “It’s almost something we don’t live without, just like you don’t live without like electricity any more. This certainly will help people with access.”

PUBLIC SAFETY

Continued from Page 6B

tonna, revoked license and speeding, \$481; Delma Rodriguez, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281;

Richard R. Rodriguez, 26, Owatonna, revoked license and speeding, \$331; Ty D. Rysavy, 40, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, no insurance and stop sign, \$381; Joette F. Scholljegerdes, 38, Medford, seat belt, \$106;

Cassandra J. Shakal, 24, Austin, cancelled license; Cully T. Shierts, 19, Ellendale, minor consumption, \$181; Zachary J. Slowinski, 19, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141;

Betsy A. Smith, 38, Blaine, speeding, \$131; Jaimie L. Sorvaag, 27, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Tanner J. Spies, 16, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Todd M. Taylor, 37, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Samantha M. VerHey, 27, Medford, speeding, \$121; David J. Vigstol, 65, Waseca, speeding, \$141;

Steven W. Washena, 57, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Ashley F. Williams, 28, New Richland, speeding, \$141; Steven C. Wimer, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jodie M. Zesbaugh, 52, Eagan, speeding, \$131.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

Jan. 7
Fraud. A Dodge Center woman reported that she had checks stolen in the 500 block of 7th Ave. SE at 10:05 a.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance involving an intoxicated female in the 700 block of Center Ave. S. in

Hayfield at 6:58 p.m.

Jan. 8
Animal. At 10:39 a.m., deputies received a report that two large dogs came onto a property in the 19500 block of 605th St. in Dodge Center and killed all of the chickens.

Crash. Deputies responded to a three-vehicle crash at State Hwy. 56 and County Rd. 4 in Hayfield at 3:49 p.m.

Jan. 9
Disturbance. Deputies responded to a report of an intoxicated male not leaving a residence on 5th St. SW in Dodge Center at 1:03 a.m. They separated the parties for the night.

Crash. At 6:48 a.m., a snowmobile crashed on city property in the 200 block of State Hwy. 56 in Hayfield.

Jan. 10
Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint that a juvenile left without permission in the 20000 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 1:26 p.m.

Disturbance. At 2:21 p.m., a disturbance involving loud yelling occurred in the 200 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center. A juvenile male left the residence with another male chasing him.

Jan. 11
Suspicion. Deputies found a suspicious vehicle with lights on inside on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 1:18 a.m.

Waterline. A Claremont woman called deputies at 11:08 a.m. when the water line burst in her house in the 400 block of Front St. W. They requested a city worker to shut off the water.

Suspicious Activity. Deputies received a report that a man was walking on the highway with a suitcase at State Hwy. 56 and 560th St. in West Concord at 9:41 p.m.

Jan. 12
Trespassing. At 10:18 a.m., a woman reported that her neighbor was using her driveway to park in their front yard in the 400 block of Central Ave. S. in Dodge Center.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 4 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Billy J. Stroud, 45, West Concord, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,155, 76 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health screening, maintain employment and suitable housing, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

James D. Minter, 33, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property and felony theft. Minter was sentenced to 26 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Jan. 4 – 11:

Dodge County Sheriff’s Office

Michael J. Anderst, 60, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Brian A. Gilkison, 41, Shakopee, speeding, \$220; Evelina Guerra, 55, Dodge Center, parking viola-

tion, \$32; Patti A. Keating, 58, Blooming Prairie, parking violation, \$32; Kelly A. Kittleson, 54, Blooming Prairie, parking violation, \$32; Derek J. Thaden, 27, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Timothy R. Tloughan, 19, Byron, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Allison M. Hemker, 28, Mankato, speeding, \$130; Alex A. Schneider, 20, Rochester, giving peace officer false name, \$980, 2 days in county jail and 2 years of probation;

Angela R. Thostenson, 42, Kasson, revoked license, \$100 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Amy L. Aakre, 37, Rochester, speeding, \$220; David J. Bruder, 27, Rochester, window tint violation, \$130; Shelena M. Distad, 38, Byron, no insurance, \$280;

Crystal A. Ebling, 33, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$140; Craig A. Ennen, 54, Okabena, overdimensional load escort – operation without certificate, \$180; Elaina Ennen, 54, Okabena, overdimensional load escort – operation without certificate, \$180;

Jason P. Fitzgerald, 38, Goodhue, tire weight violation, \$180; Carlos D. Frias, 18, Waseca, speeding, \$130; Brian G. Hahn, 46, Sergeant, speeding, \$120; Joann L. Hines, 48, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Pedro M. Lemus, 64, Dodge Center, no MN license, \$180;

Christie E. Peet, 17, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Henry Pena, 41, Kasson, seat belt, \$105; Nathan A. Petersen, 37, Stewartville, speeding, \$130; Teigan I. Petersen, 17,

Lansing, speeding, \$130; Jason S. Peterson, 43, Kasson, speeding, \$120;

Brandon A. Pfeifer, 19, Blooming Prairie, revoked license, \$280; James G. Young, 51, Livonia, MI, speeding, \$140.

West Concord Police Department

Julie A. Stauffer, 43, Minneapolis, speeding, \$120.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police

Chris Anthony Vruno, 28, arrested at 11:32 a.m. Jan. 9, probation violation warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Margie Grubish, 40, arrested at 11:35 p.m. Jan. 9, felony criminal damage to property, held for court.

Gene Phillip Wells Jr., 22, arrested at 12:50 a.m. Jan. 10, warrant arrest, held for court.

Kimberly Sue Britt, 41, arrested at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 10, probation violation, held for court.

Joseph Ronald Maas, 37, arrested at 11p.m. Jan. 10, domestic assault/assault and probation violation, held for court.

Jonelle Suezette Hill, 34, arrested at 8:17 p.m. Jan. 14, order for protection violation, held for court.

Abigail Elizabeth King, 20, arrested at 8:32 p.m. Jan. 14, theft warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Steele County Sheriff

Latjor Biel Gatkuoth, 19, arrested at 12:03 p.m. Jan. 8, assault warrant arrest, \$3,000 bail.

Tracy Lee Herbst, 52, arrested at 3:56 p.m. Jan. 8, probation vio-

lation, held for court.

Chaz Michael Burgdorf, 22, arrested at 2:44 p.m. Jan. 11, probation warrant arrest, held for court.

Nicole Marie Coffee, 33, arrested at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 13, warrant arrest, body only.

Brett Aaron Kuehl, 27, arrested at 9:45 a.m. Jan. 14, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.

Owatonna Fire

Jan. 8
Carbon Monoxide. Fire personnel responded to a carbon monoxide incident in the 1200 block of Grove Ave. S. at 12:36 a.m.

Jan. 9
Crash. At 12:30 p.m., fire rescue responded to a crash with injuries on Interstate 35 southbound.

Jan. 10
Carbon Monoxide. A carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 100 block of 17th St. NE at 7:45 a.m.

Jan. 12
Fire. Fire fighters responded to a passenger vehicle fire in the 200 block of University St. SE at 7:40 a.m.

Jan. 13
Waste Fire. At 9:11 a.m., an outside trash fire occurred in the 600 block of Riverwood Dr. SW.

Jan. 14
Carbon Monoxide. Fire personnel assisted with a carbon monoxide incident in the 900 block of Van Buren Ave. SE at 6:09 p.m.

Medford Board of Education elects 2016 officers

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

The Medford Board of Education organizational meeting began with a shift of leadership in the election of 2016 officers.

Jackie Berg was nominated chair of the board, a position held by William Cronin in 2015. Berg was 2015 vice chair of the board. Gary Wiersma took on the vice chair position for 2015. In 2015, Wiersma acted as treasurer.

Jennifer Jones was nominated to the clerk position, which was previously held by Anne Hemann. Lastly, Allison Janke took on the role of treasurer.

The board made a few adjustments to its membership to the following committees. Committees include employee negotiation, comparable worth, policy, direct advisory council, community education, ECFE and agricultural advisory.

There are typically three board members assigned to each committee. Cronin said that the groups were designed with “a mix of tenure” so a whole committee would not be lost in election block.

Meeting dates were discussed, and the next Board of Education meeting will be held on Feb. 8.

Once the organizational meeting was adjourned, Berg took on her role as chair and called to order the regular meeting.

Students in grades 9-12 will be sipping cappuccinos during lunch, as the custodial/maintenance report stated that they “installed a water line in the kitchen for the new cappuccino and hot chocolate machine.”

This brought up another cafeteria discussion.

“Has there ever been any discussion about microwaves for students and to have access to during lunches?” asked Berg.

Student board member Cierra “CJ” Duchene recalled a friend recently remarking that they wish they could heat up the lunch that they brought.

Rich Dahman said that they will “look in to it.”

Elementary School Principal Mark Ristau said that he and the kindergarten teachers were going to make a visit to Longfellow Elementary School in Rochester.

“They have been using iPads in the classrooms for four years, so we’re going to go over and learn what they’ve been doing with the iPads,” said Ristau. “For myself, I’d like to look closely at what they use for their sign-in procedures. They use iPads and technology. Right now we have notebook and pencils, so I’m really curious to see how that works.”

High School Principal Chris Overbo reported that they are preparing for their “financial readiness night,” an informative event for senior or junior students and their parents. “We’re having a financial aid speaker from Riverland to come and share the ins and outs of the FAFSA form. If you are a recent graduate, you will appreciate assistance,” he said. That informative event is Jan. 25.

Dahman reported that January enrollment was down six students from December, but it is up 34 students from a year ago.

“There has been a downward trend since the start of the year,” said Dahman. “If you look at where students have gone. It’s been kind of a mix.”

He said that the grades seeing decrease in enrollment are throughout all of the grade levels. Tenth-grade, however, has seen no student leaves, and there is a wait list for this class. Dahman said that a few of the upper classmen have left to do school online or attend the Accelerated Learning Center in Owatonna. He also said that some families have moved out of state.

As the meeting moved on, the board was presented two drafts for the 2016/2017 school calendar. One starts before Labor Day and one begins after Labor Day.

“We don’t know if the state is going to allow us to start before Labor Day,” said Dahman. “A year ago, it was just a one year shot. There is discussion about making that more permanent and giving districts more leeway about when they want to start.”

Dahman mentioned that there will be an effort to move up the teacher-parent conferences in October. The hope is to give parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss

grades with students before the end of the first quarter.

Though Medford currently does not offer a Spring Break in the schedule, board members agreed that they would like to at least see a draft with a Spring Break. The difficulty is that the school must stay within 176 school days.

“One of the advantages of a Spring Break is that it gives families that time to go on vacation,” said Dahman. “I know that in districts that have a

Spring Break, oftentimes families schedule their vacation time around work schedules rather than school schedules, so it isn’t a guarantee.”

Board member Anne Hemann wondered whether Spring Break would be incentive to a teacher’s schedule as well. Cronin questioned whether there was quantifiable information that suggests that the break adds to the education.

Dahman said that there is anecdotal evidence in favor of and

against Spring Break.

“In my time on the board, I’ve heard more often than not that parents are happy that we don’t have a spring break,” said Cronin. “I hear that. Unprompted. If it is educationally valuable, I think we have to look at that. We should consider it.”

Dahman reasoned that the calendar committee would draw up another plan for the 2016/2017 school year calendar with a Spring Break.

Beyond the schedule discus-

sion, the board approved changes in graduation requirements. These changes include changing the English elective to a Senior English class and eliminating the required semester of Speech class and replacing it with a semester of English elective. A personal finance course will also be required in place of the Careers 10 class.



NEW RICHLAND CARE CENTER



Our Mission is to provide the highest quality care & service to all residents while enhancing their quality of life.

Our Services

Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

Specialized Services
IV Therapy
Tube Feedings

Wound Care
including Wound vac therapy
Podiatry Service

507-465-3292 • 312 1st St NE, New Richland
Check out our website to learn more www.newrichlandcarecenter.com

The Quotes are Free, the Peace of Mind is Priceless



SECURITY SYSTEMS



TOTAL SECURITY OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Wireless Alarm Security Systems

Starting at \$200

Digitally recorded camera systems with full 2 year replacement warranty.
Lowest monitoring rates in area. Commercial Fire Systems

Locally Owned • 25 Years Experience
507-256-4443 • 507-383-1958



LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER

Sale books starting at \$1

Children’s books • Cookbooks • Best Sellers • Art • History • Crafts



1/2 OFF
Puzzle Sale
Storewide 20% OFF
Jan. 21-23 *Excludes Periodicals*

110 West Park Square • Downtown Owatonna • 507-455-0969

HELP Uncle Jerry Retirement Sale

SPECIAL DEALS
Throughout the Store!



451-5196
114 N. Cedar Ave,
Owatonna

Pizza fans mourn local pizzeria’s closing

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Rose Street Pizzeria, above Blast Softserve Ice Cream Parlor, of Owatonna announced on its Facebook page on Dec. 29 that the pizzeria was closing its doors.

“Rose Street faithful it is with a heavy heart that I have to tell you due to uncontrollable circumstances I have to close the doors. We will no longer be open,” reads the Rose Street Pizzeria Facebook post. “I am very sorry and thank you all for your business over the years.”

While Rose Street Market was one of the nine pizzerias in Owatonna, loyal Rose Street pizzeria fans mourn the loss of their favorite pizza joint.

The post declaring the businesses closure received nearly

200 comments and over 180 shares. The comments were passionate and saddened.

Jennifer Ruiz commented “best pizza in town! I tried to order Sunday but forgot you were closed. Sad to see you go.”

Philip Charlson commented “Nooooo!!!! Best pizza in Owatonna.” Amanda Prestegard “Oh my! So sad, love your food and service.” Kathy Wiersma wrote “Thank you for the many years of great pizza.”

While it is clear that the pizza will be missed, there is no news as to the future of the upstairs diner. When asked about the closing and the future of the location, Rose Street Pizzeria representatives responded “sorry no comment at this time still not sure on the future of Rose Street. But thank you.”

Busy winter for Steele County Chapter of MN Pheasants

MN Pheasants Scholarship

The Steele County Chapter of MN Pheasants has at least \$500 in scholarships available. Applicants must be from Steele County and be pursuing an outdoor oriented field at a secondary school or technical college.

Applications are available at the Career Center or counselor’s offices at all Steele County schools. Application deadline is May 30, 2016. Questions can be referred to Youth and Education VP Kevin Stelter at 507-456-9145.

ther contest results

The chapter thanks to everyone who entered the contest and to Larry’s Liquor for donating a prize and handling the registration.

They had 16 entries with the longest going to Lynn “Buzz” Grass at 25 13/16 inches getting him a MN Pheasants wind shirt. Second place went to Curt Brouthen for a 24 3/4” tail getting him a Larry’s Liquor gift card. Third prize went to Jerry Lewison with a 24” tail getting him a MN Pheasants Sport shirt.

A random drawing for a MN Pheasants hat from all entries was given to Steve Langer.

The Legend Continues... 48th Annual

Indoor Used Car Event

Saturday, January 23rd
Open at 8:00 am
Come Shop In 65° Indoor Comfort
All Day Saturday
FREE Sloppy Joes, Pop & Coffee Saturday

PRE-SALE and WRITE-UP
Thursday, January 21st and Friday, January 22nd 8 am-8 pm
**Get pre-approved and get your your name on the perfect car at the perfect price*



2011 Ford Focus SE
67k miles
\$8,299



2008 Chevrolet Trailblazer LT 4x4
\$8,999



2007 Ford F-150 Lariat Crew Cab 4x4
\$13,999



2002 Chrysler Sebring Convertible Limited
ONLY 24,207 MILES
\$5,999



2014 Chrysler 200 LX and 2014 Dodge Avenger
40,000-50,000 Miles
STARTING AT \$9,999
60 VEHICLES
Priced Under
\$14,999
With 30 Under \$10,000

OVER 65 4x4' AVAILABLE
Starting At
\$1,999

OVER 150 USED VEHICLES
Starting At
\$499



Dave Syverson AUTO CENTER

www.davesyverson.com
All vehicles subject to prior sale from print date
2310 E. Main St., Albert Lea, MN
800-423-6663 | 507-373-1438



DAVE SYVERSON'S PERFORMANCE
RAM DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep

Ebeling receives highest honor from state parks and rec association

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Elks Lodge was packed full of friends and colleagues on Thursday night in celebration of one man, James “Corky” Ebeling. The mood of the room could be summarized in one

tune: “For he’s a jolly good fellow.” On Jan. 14, at the Owatonna Director of Parks, Recreation and Government buildings Ebeling received the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest professional award given by the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association

(MRPA.) Ebeling has been a member of the organization since 1979, and served as a board member from 2004 to 2010 and president in 2009. Ebeling is calling the honor the “pin-nacle” of his career. The award honors lifetime achieve-

ment and dedication. It requires 20 plus years of professional service in the field. He was nominated by Recreation Superintendent and current president

HIGH HONOR
Continued on Page 7C



Conference celebrates fourth year in Owatonna

For the fourth year in a row, Owatonna will host the Co-Occurring Disorders Symposium, a conference on treating substance and mental health disorders “for practitioners, by practitioners”. The event is the result of leadership of the Dual Recovery Program of South Central Human Relations Center and is put together by the Area Substance Use Providers, a group dedicated to co-occurring disorder treatment and education in southern Minnesota. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Owatonna Wednesday evening, Jan. 27, 2016 and conclude at noon on Friday, Jan. 29. The purpose of the conference, now in its fourth year, is to provide support and education to practitioners in the substance use and mental health fields to better understand from fellow practitioners and the need to treat these two conditions together rather than separately. Clinicians in the field will share research and practical experiences to assist participants in better understanding the need and benefit of medication and psychotherapeutic efforts together, rather than the past practice of ineffective sequential treatments. The event will kick off Wednesday evening, Jan. 27, with the panel discussion, “Lessons Learned, Treating Co-Occurring Disorders II,” which is a follow-up on a question and answer format that was well-received at last year’s event. In addition to the conference presentations, exhibitor booths will be present from many of the treatment centers through the state of Minnesota and even one from South Dakota. Further, 10.5 continuing education units have been approved by the following boards; Behavioral Health and Therapy, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, Psychology and Nursing having been notified. This year, the conference has extended approval from the Iowa Board of Certification, as well. The conference has hosted approximately 100 participants and exhibitors in each of the past three years and registration numbers this year suggest a slight increase in that number.

Presentations include:

- “Lessons Learned: Treating Co-Occurring Disorders II” Joseph Wilson, MD, Michael Brunner, PhD, LP, Bryan Johnson, LADC, David Wright, MSW, LICSW, moderated by Steve Lansing, PhD, MSW, LICSW
- “Tri-Occurring Disorders: Addiction, Mental Health and Criminal Thinking” Tim Walsh, MA, LP, DPA
- “Co-Occurring Disorders: Implications When Treating Opiate Dependence with Suboxone/Subutex vs Methadone” James Garber, MD
- “The Horse-Human Partnership in Empowerment: The Effectiveness of Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy with Co-Occurring Disorders” Judy Dawley, MSW, LICSW
- “Problem-Solving Courts and Serving Those with Co-Occurring Disorders” Nicole Grams, MS
- “Substance Use Problems and Mental Health; Braided Rope or Confluence of Rivers” Michael Bruner, PhD, LP
- “Supplementation in Psychopharmacology and Alternatives in Pain Management” Matt Buschjost, Pharm.D.

For more information about the conference, presenters and accommodations, please go to <https://www.schrc.com/2016symposium/>

Steele Talkin’ is a weekly column featuring officials representing various organizations throughout Steele County. David Wright, MSW, LICSW is the Treatment Director of the Dual Recovery Program, South Central Human Relations Center in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Distracted driving accidents are preventable

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Imagine being behind the wheel. You have a chatty passenger to your left, and kids are screaming in the back seat. Your phone is ringing, and you are trying to sneak in some lunch. All the while, it is busy traffic, and pedestrians are crossing the street. These are the kind of scenarios that the distracted driving simulator creates. The simulator is like a video game, but it has a message. These realistic distractions while driving can result in fatal accidents. About 40 individuals from different local businesses came to the Steele County Safety Council’s luncheon on Jan. 13 featuring a distracted driving presentation by Minnesota State Patrol Sergeant Troy Christianson. Those that attended the luncheon had the opportunity to try the distracted driving simulator before and after the presentation. The simulator has a wheel and pedals with a screen that shows the road, traffic, pedestrians and other distractions. Julie Rethemeier of Federated Insurance tried the simulator. She lasted a few minutes of distractions before “crashing.” “It was a little eye opening,” she said. “It seemed harder here, but in reality, these distractions are very serious.” Christianson brings the simulator to high schools when he gives presentations about distracted driving. “The thing is, distracted driving accidents resulting in death or injury is completely preventable,” he told attendees. “It’s time for a change.”



Staff photo by Anna Segner
With guidance from Minnesota State Patrol Sargent Troy Christianson, Julie Rethemeier of Federated Insurance tries out the distracted driving simulator, a game-like system designed to teach high school students about the dangers of distracted driving. Many were able to try the simulator at the Steele County Safety Council meeting on Jan. 13.

DISTRACTED DRIVING
Continued on Page 7C

Transportation will be high priority according to Sparks, Jensen

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A forecasted state budget surplus will allow both chambers of the Minnesota Legislature to set priorities and make sound decisions when the Legislature cranks into session on Tuesday, March 8, in St. Paul. The Times visited with two state senators who serve parts of our readership area, Sen. Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin, and Sen. Vicki Jensen, DFL-Owatonna. Sparks represents District 27 and Jensen serves District 24. Both Sparks and Jensen mentioned transportation as an issue that will be on the front burner during this session. Sparks is chairman of the Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. He also serves on the Capitol Investment Committee; the Environment,

‘This year is a short session, and we are operating under some of the tightest deadlines I have seen during my time in the Senate’

— Sen. Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin

Economic Development and Agriculture Budget Division; Higher Education and Workforce Development Budget Division and Higher Education and Workforce Development. Jensen is vice chair of the

SENATE PREVIEW
Continued on Page 6C

Tax relief will be legislative focus, say local State Representatives



Rep. Peggy Bennett

Rep. Brian Daniels

Rep. Jeanne Poppe

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

With a Minnesota state budget forecast in excess of \$1.9 billion, area state representatives believe tax relief would be a major focus during the next regular legislative session, which begins on Tuesday, March 8, in St. Paul. The Steele County Times recently visited with area state representatives Peggy Bennett, R-Albert Lea; Brian Daniels, R-Faribault; and Jeanne Poppe, DFL-Austin. Bennett is vice chair of the Education Innovation Policy Committee and also serves on the Agriculture Finance and Education Finance committees.

Daniels serves on the following committees: Aging and Long-Term Care Policy; Agriculture Finance; Higher Education Policy and Finance and Legacy Funding Finance. Poppe is DFL lead on the Agriculture Finance Committee and also serves on Agriculture Policy; Capital Investment; Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance and Ways and Means. In addition to a bonding bill, which always comes the second year of the biennium, Bennett believes tax relief, roads and bridges and the CARE Act will be major priorities in the next session of the Minnesota Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW
Continued on Page 6C

HometownLiving Community Calendar



Staff photo by Anna Segner
A snowman on top of a tractor a mile or so south of Geneva waves a warm welcome to all driving to town.

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

BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M. WINE & WOMEN WED: 6-10 P.M. MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M. WINE CLUB: TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. JAN. 12, FEB. 9, MARCH 8, APRIL 12, MAY 3: SEASON FINALE EUCHRE: JAN. 16, FEB. 20, MARCH 12 2 PERSON TEAM STARTS AT 1 P.M. SIGN UP AT THE BAR	CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY APRIL 9TH "30" YEARS OF BUSINESS BEAN BAG LEAGUE: MAY-AUGUST CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE B.O.B RIDE "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 23RD
--	--

ALL DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BAR

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Jan. 19:
2:30 p.m. BP Fire Comm Mtg
2:30 p.m. BP PU Comm Mtg
4:45 p.m. BP Boys N Girls Club Brd
5:30 p.m. BP Ambulance Comm Mtg
6:30 p.m. Beginner Yoga, BP Community Education, BPHS Media Center

Jan. 20:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time
12 p.m. BP Chamber of Commerce

Jan. 25:
6:30 p.m. BP Fire Relief Assoc Mtg

Jan. 26:
BP Card Club & Luncheon
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
6:30 p.m. Beginner Yoga, BP Community Education, BPHS Media Center
7 p.m. BP P&Z Brd Mtg

Jan. 27:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Story time

Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884

• Happy Hour 3 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.

"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIAL:
#1 - MEATBALLS, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY & ROLL
#2 - CHICKEN WILD RICE SOUP

LUNCH SPECIAL (1/21 & 1/22):
PULLED PORK SANDWICH & CHIPS

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Jan. 19:
NRHEG School Board Meeting--Ellendale Media Center 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Jan. 21:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

Jan. 22:
No School for Students/Teacher Workshop, NRHEG

Jan. 25:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl

Jan. 26:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

FIRST NATIONAL BANK
Waseca | Ellendale | Hope | Member FDIC
fnbwaseca.com | 507-684-2691

OWATONNA

Jan. 19:
10 a.m. OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30 p.m. OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

Jan. 20:
4 p.m. Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall

Jan. 21:
Owatonna PS Lincoln PTO Mtg
6:30 p.m. OPL Family Story Time

Jan. 22:
7 p.m. Movie Night, New Beginnings Church, Owatonna

Jan. 23:
6 p.m. Candlelight Event, Rice Lake St Prk, Owa

Jan. 25:
Owatonna PS No School Gr 9-12
12 p.m. Owatonna Noon Rotary Club, Country Club
4 p.m. Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
6:30 p.m. Owatonna PS Schl Brd Mtg

Jan. 26:
4 p.m. OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
6 p.m. Autism Spectrum Disorder Parent Support Group, Associated Church, Owa
6 p.m. Steele Co Commission
7 p.m. Steele Co.: Co Brd Mtg, Administration Center BR

Express
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS
www.expresspros.com
812 S. Elm Ave. • Owatonna • 507-455-3002 • 800-832-3002

MEDFORD

Jan. 19:
6:30 p.m. Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford

Jan. 20:
6 p.m. Medford EDA (odd months only)
7 p.m. Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

Jan. 21:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

Jan. 25:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
7 p.m. Medford City Council, City Hall

J&L Collision
406 1st Ave SE • Medford
507-456-1676
Check us out on Facebook!

SPOT LIGHT

Skating opens at Morehouse Park

Owatonna Parks and Recreation announces that skating is now available at Morehouse Park!

Regular hours are:

- Monday through Friday 3-9:30 p.m.
- Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Sunday from noon to 9:30 p.m.

Cross-country ski and skate rental available as well as food in the Chalet.

For more information, contact Owatonna Parks and Recreation at 507-444-4321.

OTHER COUNTIES

Freeborn
Jan. 19:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
5:30 p.m. Parks and Recreation Board Meeting, Albert Lea
6 p.m. Nonfiction Book Club, ALPL
6 p.m. Rock Gym, Albert Lea

Jan. 20:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

Jan. 21:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time
10:30 a.m. Music & Movement, ALPL
5:30 p.m. AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers
6 p.m. ALPL Night-Time Story time
6 p.m. LEGO Club, APL
6 p.m. Night-time Storytime, ALPL

Jan. 22:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
Alden-Conger PS No School
NO SCHOOL - Staff Development, Albert Lea High School

Jan. 23:
ALPL Closed

Jan. 24:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

Jan. 25:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL
3:45 p.m. ALPL Book Pals (Gr 5 & 6)
7 p.m. AL City Council, Council Chambers

Jan. 26:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL
10:30 a.m. Storytime, ALPL

Jan. 27:
Hot Reads, Cold Nights - Adult Winter Reading Program, ALPL

Mower
Jan. 19:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

Jan. 20:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
6:30 p.m. Adult Hockey, Riverside Arena
Jan. 21:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
1 p.m. Canvas and Chardonnay, Mower County Senior Center
2:30 p.m. Lifelong Learning, Mower County Senior Center
3 p.m. Free Cross Country Ski and Snow Shoe Rental, Jay C Hormel Nature Center
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6:30 p.m. Twilight Tales: Evening Storytime, APL
7 p.m. Read Any Good Books Lately? APL

Jan. 22:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, Lyle
4 p.m. Author Visit - Habibo Haji, APL
4:30 p.m. Chicken Dumpling Soup and Chili Supper and Fudge Sale, Mower County Senior Center

Jan. 23:
10 a.m. Austin ArtWorks Gallery: Feisty Japanese Lady
6 p.m. Public Skate, Packer Arena

Jan. 24:
12 p.m. Austin Wedding Showcase, Hormel Historic Home
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room

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

Blooming Prairie Living

Two advance in District spelling bee

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

An eighth-grader and a fifth-grader will represent the Blooming Prairie School District in the regional spelling bee at Rochester on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Eighth-grader Riauna Bishop took first in the local contest, with fifth-grader Grace Krejci claiming the runner-up spot.

Twenty-four students in grades 5-8 began the contest in the 25th annual local spelling bee, and over 75 words were pronounced before the winner was crowned. Bishop spelled “galleria” correctly after Krejci missed on the word “discern.”

The contest had a four-way tie for third place, when Reese Millam and Katerina Yanes (seventh-graders), and Chase Peterson and Micah Donnelly (eighth-graders) all left the contest on the same word. Some examples of words in the list included foist, zenith, chutney, geonics and diatribe.

The Southeast Minnesota Service Cooperative and the Blooming Prairie Education



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Eighth-grade student Riauna Bishop spells a word during the Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee, held last Wednesday afternoon. Bishop would ultimately take first place after correctly spelling the championship word, “galleria.”

Foundation sponsor the local spelling bee. Beth Krebs served as pronouncer for the contest with Diane Anderson, Jeanette

Hauschildt and Roger Sorenson the judges. Hauschildt was the spelling bee organizer, after Judy Bishop had organized the

contest for the first 24 years. Bishop served as recorder of the event this year.

Both Superintendent Barry Olson and Elementary Principal Chris Staloch welcomed the students and observers to the contest. After the first regional bee on Feb. 9, a Southeast Minnesota contest will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23, again at Rochester. The winners advance to the state spelling bee later in the spring, and the Scripps National Spelling Bee is scheduled for May of this year.

Parents of this year’s winners include Riauna Bishop’s Benji and Nikki Bishop and Grace Krejci’s Maryl and Troy Krejci. Other placers and their parents include Chase Peterson-Paul and Lia Peterson; Katerina Yanes-Noel and Jennifer Yanes; Reese Millam- Jamie and Michele Millam; and Micah Donnelly- Daniel and Mary Donnelly.

Millam won last year’s contest and Bishop is the granddaughter of long-time bee organizer Judy Bishop.

City council reviews fee schedules

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

As the Blooming Prairie City Council looks ahead to the future, it is also reviewing information from the past to stay informed and up-to-date with city happenings.

During its recent council meeting, the council reviewed official appointments and set the official depository and official newspaper for the coming year.

Blooming Prairie City Administrator Mike Jones said that there were no major changes, and that these appointments could be changed at a later date, if the need arises.

Jones also presented a review of the 2016 fee schedules and a review of city revenue from the past three years. Jones noted that Public Utilities fee water and electrical changes were in effect for the year 2016. The Blooming Prairie Public Utilities Commission previously approved these changes.

The base rate for water has increased by \$2 (from \$9 to \$11) and the electrical base rate has also increased by \$2 (from \$10 to \$12). The commercial base rate has also increased by \$2, from \$17 to \$19. Jones stated that the increases were in anticipation of a 6 percent wholesale rate increase by Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMPA) increases.

“This better enables us to absorb that rate increase,” Jones said.

Jones also explained that, last year, the city increased residential storm sewer rates from \$2 to \$4 and the commercial storm sewer rates from \$4 to \$8. This, he said, was to collect extra funds for the completed Sixth Street project.

No action was required for

the fee schedules or city revenue reviews. Jones stated that the reviews are simply a way for councilmembers to stay aware of recent and past occurrences.

In other news, Jones reported that the city’s new push-button LED lighted pedestrian yield sign has been installed and is functional. The project cost \$6,791 in total.

Jones also reported that a portion the city hall roof is still in need of repairs. After investigation, workers discovered that part of the roof has rotted. Jones noted that repairs may be extensive and that councilmembers should expect to see some roof-related expenses in the future.

Scott Limberg, of Limberg Productions and OwatonnaLive.com, was also in attendance during the recent council meeting. He explained to the council that the meetings will now be taped each month and broadcast on OwatonnaLive.com, a website where viewers can access council meeting videos and more for no charge.

“The purpose is just to get information out there,” said Limberg. “OwatonnaLive is a community website and it’s focused on Steele County, so we’re branching out.”

This year, Limberg said that OwatonnaLive would begin taping and sharing Blooming Prairie and Medford council meetings on the site.

The council also set the date for the City of Blooming Prairie’s Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, which will be Monday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m. (just prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting). If a continuation date is needed, the meeting will resume prior to the council’s May 9 meeting.

The council will meet again on Monday, Feb. 8, in council chambers at City Hall.



Submitted photo
Above are the 2016 Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee participants and alternates. From left to right in the front row are Jaydon Brown, Micah Donnelly, Melanie Winzenburg (alternate), Hailey Hensrud, Sierra Larson, Grace Krejci, Isabella Heiber, Larisa Judy and Tyler Archer (alternate). In the second row are Ethan Mazolf (alternate), Brian Jimenez (alternate), Kiya Thompson, Chase Peterson, Lila Carlson (alternate), Riauna Bishop, Tim Loverink, DJ Stender, Abby Hefling, Parker Kubicek and Bradley Simon. In the third row are Sam Pirkl (alternate), Katerina Yanes, Ashleigh Alwes, Anna Kittelson, Teagan Sutter, Zach Weber, Jarrett Larson, Matthew Pryor, Reese Millam and Alexis Ripka.

Blooming Prairie school menus

BPES Breakfast Menu

Jan. 19: Long John, Vegetable Selection, Juice, Milk

Jan. 20: WG Muffin, String Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Jan. 21: French Toast Loaf, Vegetable Selection, Juice, Milk

Jan. 22: UBR Round, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Jan. 25: NO SCHOOL

Jan. 26: Breakfast Pizza, Vegetable Selection, Juice, Milk

Jan. 27: WG Bagel w/Cream Cheese, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

BPES Lunch Menu

Jan. 19: Italian Meatballs on WG Sub Bun, Green Peas,

DCeli Sub on WG Sub Bun, Green Peas, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 20: Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, WG Dinner Roll, Pulled Pork on Flatbread, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 21: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Chicken Caesar Salad, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Broccoli Florets, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 22: Cheeseburger on WG Bun, Roasted Broccoli, Kettle Chips, Turkey Tetrzzini, Roasted Broccoli, Black Beans, Pepper Medley, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 25: NO SCHOOL

Jan. 26: Soft Tacos w/Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Pasta Salad, Chicken Patty on WG

Bun, Pasta Salad, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 27: Hot Dog on WG Bun, Tator Tots, WG Brownie, Turkey BLT Wrap, Tator Tots, WG Brownie, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

BPHS Lunch Menu

Jan. 19: Stromboli w/Marinara Sauce, Green Peas, Baby Spinach, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 20: Pulled Pork Flatbread, French Fries, Green Peas, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 21: Rotini w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Garlic Toast, Corn, Baby Carrots, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

RECIPE CORNER

Hamburger Hot Dish

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 cans cream-style corn
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 8 med. potatoes
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- Salt & Pepper

By Shirley Johnson

Brown ground beef in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add chopped onion and celery. Add salt and pepper, corn and potatoes. Simmer until done.

Sponsored by:
Krejci Ford
14th Presidents Award Winner
Blooming Prairie • 583-2046

Hiring?

Call Julie
TODAY!

To place your ad
507-583-4431
bpjulie@frontier.com

STEELE COUNTY
Times



ICE: A hot topic with chiropractors!

It’s a natural pain reliever. It reduces swelling, and it’s inexpensive! And unlike many drugs, won’t cause liver or kidney damage. Ask us how to use ice for the best results.

Prairie Family & Sports Chiropractic



DAIRYLAND DONKEY BASKETBALL

January 31, 2016

3 p.m. @ Blooming Prairie High School

Game 1: BP Fire vs BP Ambulance Dept

Game 2: BPES vs Class of 2016

Plus **CHAMPIONSHIP** Game

Tickets Prices:

Advance \$6 • Door \$8
Preschool Free

- No Video Cameras -

Dairyland Donkey Ball LLC
www.dairylanddonkeyball.com
1-888-8DONKEY

Tickets

Available at:

NY Life • US Bank • F&M Bank,
Rachel’s Hair • Sportstitch,
The Cutting Edge,
or call 612-360-9939

Sponsored by BP Education Foundation



dairylanddonkeyball.com

Ellendale Living

NRHEG Elementary receives donation for playground equipment



Submitted photo
On Jan. 14, Jodi Adams, of the Maple Island Park Association, presented the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Playground Committee with a check for \$2,500. The money will go towards the purchase of new playground equipment at the Ellendale Elementary site. The PTO and school appreciate the Maple Island Park Association and all others who donated funds, helping them raise \$30,055. Pictured above are Jodi Adams, Nikki Cromwell, Kim Routh, Kari Harpel, Beckie Johnson and Doug Anderson.

Community survey hitting mailboxes soon

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

A community survey will be in the mailboxes of district members in the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) School District as soon as Jan. 15. The survey must be returned to the school district before Feb. 2.

The NRHEG Board of Education made the unanimous decision to do a community-wide survey during a special Jan. 4 meeting in the New Richland school building.

The school board’s goal is to develop a strategic plan. Part of that plan involves having school district members answer the following questions: What is our vision for the future? What are our highest priorities? Where do we need to improve? Where should we focus our resources?

District patrons can either return the survey in the mail or go onto the NRHEG school website and take the survey.

NRHEG Board of Education Chairperson Rick Schultz said the survey is user-friendly and is also condensed in order to get a good response. “That is what I am most excited about is that it covers the areas as well as we can,” he said. “The part we need to do as a board is encourage and get the word out that we take some ownership in our communities to get this survey, look at it seriously, give your accurate answers and turn it back in. Participation is our next big step.”

The survey includes different questions on how the school district is rated for overall aca-

ademic performance compared to neighboring districts, facilities compared to neighboring districts and the importance of staying competitive with neighboring school districts.

In addition, those filling out the survey will be able to tell the school district how well it is doing in specific areas. There are also general questions to elaborate on different issues. A section also involves selecting the five top education-planning priorities. One section discusses facility planning and priorities and includes estimated costs for facility priorities.

Also during the special school board meeting, Schultz was re-elected as board chair. The board members nominated Schultz and Lori Routh as chairs for the upcoming school year. Schultz won by a 4-3 vote. Those who voted no for Schultz were Michele Moxon, JoAnn Maloney and Mark Tollefson.

Moxon will continue as vice chair and Lori Routh will continue as clerk. Maloney will replace Mike Moen as treasurer.

There were three changes on the committees. Maloney replaces Travis Routh on the finance committee, Travis Routh replaces Moxon on the building and grounds committee and Tollefson replaces Maloney on the school activities committee.

The board members did table the current board member compensation to look at a possible increase in compensation for board and special meetings in the 2016 school year. A decision will be made whether or not to raise that compensation at the next board meeting.

Ellendale City Council reviews sump pump ordinance, fire department contracts

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

During the Ellendale City Council’s first meeting of 2016, the council reviewed an updated ordinance that will set the stage for city sump pump operations.

The ordinance covers proper sump pump use and attempts to prevent violations. In the city of Ellendale, citizens are not allowed to pour water from their sump pumps onto the street. A document detailing the newly updated ordinance will soon arrive in Ellendale residents’ mailboxes, explaining that residents have until Oct. 1 to ensure that their sump

pumps are compliant with the ordinance. Any homes in violation with the ordinance will be charged a fee after Oct. 1.

City Mayor Mark Skroch noted that he feels it’s important to make residents aware of the ordinance.

“I think it is a good ordinance, but I also think it’s worth the money to put the new ordinance in with next month’s water bills,” he said. “I’m very comfortable and satisfied to pass this ordinance.”

After brief discussion, the council passed the ordinance and approved a motion to mail the ordinance with the upcoming city water bills. An explanation of recently increased

water rates will also be included in the mailing.

Council also reviewed the city’s contracts with area township fire departments. Mayor Skroch noted that he appreciated the current contract’s simple, direct language, while council member Stephanie Lageson Kibler noted that a more detailed contract would also have its benefits.

“The city’s going to be covered better with a more extensive contract,” she stated.

The council discussed the contract and considered possible changes. After discussion, however, they unanimously approved the same contract from previous years. Council mem-

bers also stated that they would read an example of a more extensive contract and consider implementing a new contract next year.

Council members also noted that they would consult Ellendale Fire Chief Mark Lee and others for their input about the contract.

In other news, the council also approved the 2016 appointments, with no changes at this time. Skroch stated that he appreciates the council member’s willingness to serve on the different committees.

The Ellendale City Council will meet again at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28, at the Ellendale city clerk’s office.

Vibrant Life Assembly of God kicks off 2016 with thought-provoking events

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Vibrant Life Assembly of God Church in Ellendale has several activities scheduled for the coming months, and invite community members of all ages to join in the experiences.

“It’s really busy, but we have a lot of fun,” said the Rev. Patrick Stitt, of all the upcoming events and activities at the church.

A number of these events are geared toward young people in the Ellendale community. Youth pastor Brandon Wade organizes many of these programs, such as “The Depot,” the church’s after-school program. The Depot takes place at The Refuge, the church’s youth center. The Refuge is part of the church, which is located at 702 Third Street in Ellendale.

The Depot is an after-school program for younger students in kindergarten through sixth-grade.

Stitt explains that The Depot was created as a way to fulfill a need. “We a saw a need in the community,” he said.

Between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., said Stitt, many youth are home alone. This time period, he said, is when they are most likely to experiment with alcohol, drugs or sex. By opening the church to youth during this time period, the youth have a

safe place to learn and enjoy time together.

The Depot is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays when school is session. During this time, youth can spend time in the gym, play games or even get a jump-start on their homework. This event is free but, to attend, youth need a parent-signed permission slip.

The Depot was wildly successful, and provided inspiration for a new program called “Spotlight.” Starting on Friday, Jan. 22, Spotlight will also take place at The Refuge from 7 to 11 p.m. Spotlight is a free event scheduled for every Friday evening during the school year. Spotlight is open to youth in grades six through 12. Spotlight offers a place to enjoy games, food and the company of their peers during a time period when youth are most at risk to experiment with risky behaviors. Teens attending Spotlight also need a parent-signed permission slip.

“It’s a really good time,” said Stitt, of Spotlight. “They learn skills like cooking, cleaning and the youth get a ton of gym time. There are a ton of fun events.”

At Vibrant Life, there’s also an upcoming opportunity for all ages to partake in a unique, mid-week experience at the church. On Wednesdays, be-

ginning on Feb. 10, “life groups” will be offered at the church.

Stitt explains that life groups are simply a gathering of people (including groups of men, women, teens and children) who study God’s word and tackle life’s challenges together. Child-care is available for infants and children up to age 6. Life groups meet at different times, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21, Vibrant Life Assembly of God will also host their annual Pine-wood Derby and chili cook-off. Cars can be purchased at the church for the derby, and prizes will be awarded for the fastest car, coolest-looking car and other categories.

The best-tasting chili will also earn recognition at this event.

This year, the church also celebrates its third year of “Eternal Life Choices,” an enlightening seminar for youth in grades six through 12 (ages 12 and up). The excitement begins on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. During the seminar, youth will learn about the choices they make and the effects those choices may have on their futures.

This year’s seminar will focus on relationships, covering topics such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse with insight from abuse counselors.

Youth will also hear from an individual who works in the field of crisis pregnancies and post-abortive care. Other topics include pornography, homosexuality and sexuality as a whole.

“The idea is that young people can discuss the choices they make, and the effects those choices have on the rest of their life and their eternal life,” Stitt said.

A lunch will be provided during the seminar, which concludes at 5:30 p.m. The following day (Sunday, Feb. 7) the teens will attend church service at 10 a.m. and then enjoy a trip to the Mall of America, complete with a five-hour ride pass at Nickelodeon Universe. The group is expected to return home at 9 p.m.

Each week, Vibrant Life also welcomes all to attend Sunday services beginning at 10:30 a.m. Currently, the church is in the midst of a four-week series, exploring God’s greatness as an artist. “He loves beauty, creation and the world is His artwork,” said Stitt.

To learn more about Vibrant Life Assembly of God or any of the events listed above, visit their website at <http://vibrantlifeg.com/> or call 507-684-3421.

NRHEG school menus

NRHEG Breakfast Menu
Jan. 19: Pancake& Sausage Bites
Jan. 20: Muffins
Jan. 21: Cinnamon Roll
Jan. 22: No School
Jan. 25: French Toast Sticks
Jan. 26: Breakfast Pizza
Jan. 27: Mini Pancakes

NRHEG Lunch Menu
Jan. 19: Pizza Sticks w/ Marinara Sauce, Golden Corn, Celery Sticks, Seasoned Noodles, Pineapple
Jan. 20: Sub Sandwich w/ Toppings, Tortilla Chips w/ Salsa, Fresh Veggies, Mandarin Oranges
Jan. 21: Mini Corn Dogs, Soft Pretzel w/Cheese Sauce,

Green Beans, Grape Tomatoes, Pears
Jan. 22: No School
Jan. 25: Shrimp Poppers, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Pineapple
Jan. 26: Chicken Patty on a Bun, Chips, Cooked Carrots, Cucumber Slices, Applesauce
Jan. 27: Turkey Gravy, Biscuits, Peas, Baby Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Peaches, Cottage Cheese

Happy Feet Dance Studio

Register by
Session 1: Jan 24
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and March 7
Cost \$35
Session 2: March 7
March 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, and 18
Cost \$35
Session 3: April 18
April 25, May 2, 9, and 16
Cost \$25

We are looking for boys and girls that want to learn how to dance

Tumbling- Monday 3:45-4:15:
Calling all boys and girls age 3-7 that want to learn tumbling skills. This is an introduction to tumbling students will learn a little routine to show at the end of the session. No experience necessary and wear clothes that are easy to move in.

Beginner Dance- Monday 4:15-4:45:
Calling all boys and girls age 3-7 that love to dance. This is an introduction to dance. Students will learn Ballet, Jazz, and Tap and have a little routine to show at the end of the session. No experience necessary and wear clothes that are easy to move in. Ballet and Tap shoes are needed. Contact Britta Manges if you need shoes 715-977-0226.

To register: Call Britta Manges -715-977-0226 or email@happyfeetdance.net
Students are encouraged to take one or more sessions, students will build their skills with each session.

HAPPY FEET DANCE STUDIO 209 5th Avenue • Ellendale



24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs

We'll treat your home as if it were our own.

THE BOLD LOOK OF **KOHLER**

256•4712
Geneva, MN

Ellendale Municipal Liquor

Now Open Sundays!

THURSDAYS TACOS
5 p.m. till Gone

WEEKLY FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS
10 am - 10 pm M-W ♦ 10 am - 1 am Thur-Sat
11:30 am - 8 pm Sun ♦ Kitchen Open at 11 am Daily

507-684-9422
Ellendale, MN

HAPPY HOUR
Mon-Sat 3-6 pm
All day Sun

www.steeledodgenews.com

All your local news, Fit to click!



STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.
Serving Blooming Prairie and Four-County Area

MedfordLiving

Medford hosts S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G bee

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

A large smile spread on the face of sixth-grader Ava Westbrook after she spelled the final word that won her first place in the 2016 Medford School District Spelling Bee on Jan. 15.

“Plaintiff. P – L – A – I – N – T – I – F – F. Plaintiff,” she pronounced and spelled confidently, with a sigh of relief when verified correct. The 2016 victory for Westbrook made her a two year spelling bee champ, as she gained first place in the 2015 spelling bee as well.

Sixteen students (fifth through eighth grade) stepped in front of the podium to compete in front of their peers in the spelling bee. Many of the organizers admitted that the words are “challenging even to most adults.”

Westbrook did not earn first place without a good old fashioned “spell-off” with Emma Corbin (sixth-grade) that lasted at least four rounds. Prior to the final two, there was a grueling few rounds between Westbrook, Corbin, and third place winner Lainie Rahn (sixth-grade).

While the sixth-grade class was well represented in the final three, other students made it far until they met their match in a challenging word or their nerves got the best of them.

Fifth-grade students that competed were Abby Fitzgerald, Tyler Steffen, Casey Chambers and Josie Homeier.

Sixth-grade included Ava Westbrook (1st place), Emma Corbin (2nd place) and Lainie Rahn (3rd place) and Jeancarol Zuniga.



Medford 2016 District Spelling Bee first place winner Ava Westbrook, second place winner Emma Corbin and third place winner Lainie Rahn accept their trophies following their win.

Staff photo by Anna Segner

Seventh-grade students included Brock Merritt, Ricardo Mendoza, Lizbeth Gutierrez and Garrett Fitzgerald.

Eighth-grade students participating in the spelling bee were Sierra Larson, Cayden Benton, Carson Sobrack and Eric Laska.

Four students from each grade earned their seat at the district spelling competition through competing first against their own class and then against the entire grade. The auditorium was nearly full with students, many younger that were trying out the spelling privately in their notebooks.

The rounds got more difficult as they went on. The competition started with the word “granola” and moved into words like

“hubbub” or “astronaut.” As the seats were getting emptier, the words grew even more difficult, such as “genteel,” “contentious” or “organelle.”

The fifth-grade students, prior to the spelling bee, were admittedly full of nerves. “I’m pacing, so I’m nervous,” said Josie Homeier. “So many butterflies.”

All of the students competing in the spelling bee were given a list of 450 words to study. They were given the list a week before the spelling bee, and the fifth-graders said that they were devoted to studying the list over the past few days.

Abby Fitzgerald had a unique situation. Her brother was in the competition, Garrett Fitzgerald. They laughed that there was sib-

ling rivalry, but it was obvious to the crowd that they were in full support of one another through their nervous glances back and forth to one another.

Both Abby and Garret Fitzgerald said that they learned to be talented spellers through simply reading.

Fourth-grade teacher, and one of the Spelling Bee Coordinators, Cindy Schmidt said that the spelling bee is an educational opportunity to “practice bring up in front of people.”

“This is a confidence builder for the students,” she said. “Some kids don’t get recognition in other areas, like sports, so this is their time to shine.”

Medford Snow Week activities to begin Monday

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Snow week is about to shake up Medford School. On Monday, Jan. 25, students in grade 7-12, will be unrecognizable when they show up to school with crazy hair or hats.

Monday is the first of the daily dress up themes for Medford’s Snow Week. The overarching theme is a spoof on Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland,” as student council named the theme “Medford in Winterland.”

The week begins with the mad hatters of Madness Monday. Tweedle Dees and Tweedle Dums will be found all over the school on Twinning Tuesday. Also on Tuesday will be the epic student dodgeball tournament, and that night there is a home boys basketball game against Blooming Prairie.

Wednesday is wild, for the students will be dressed up in animal prints. Fancy Thursday, the students shall be dressed as if attending the Queen of Hearts’ ball. During the school day on Thursday will be the Brainiac Bowl, and later there is an away wrestling match at the New Richland-Heartland-Ellendale-Geneva School.

Friday is the color war. Each grade has a color, and students are to wear that color and compete against the other grades for who wore more of that color. A pep fest will also be on Friday, which will have games and cheers. At the pep fest, the spirit stick will be passed on to the class with the loudest cheer.

The semi-formal dance will be on Saturday, Jan. 26, for students in grade 9-12 from 8 to 11 p.m.

Student Council President Cierra “CJ” DuChene said that this year is the first year in the past three years that Medford has had a Snow Week court.

This year they are doing royalty a little differently. Each grade, 7-12, will nominate one male and one female for court. Through dressing up, winning competitions and cheering the loudest, a grade can win their nominees to be the official Snow Week King and Queen.

“Student Council thought that the court from each grade was a good way to get each grade involved,” said DuChene. “Everyone gets really into the competitions. You wouldn’t think that students would get excited for the Brainiac bowl, but it gets really competitive.”

Snow week shirts in the color of each grade will be on sale that week during lunch hour. Shirts are \$10 and helps student council pay for events such as the dance.



Interested in supporting our farm page

Call Shauna today!

507-583-4431

bpschauna@frontier.com

STEELE COUNTY Times Place your ad today

Always local, all the time.

Medford school menus

Medford School Breakfast Menu

- Jan. 19:** Cinnamon Roll OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk
- Jan. 20:** Blueberry Loaf OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- Jan. 21:** Cheesy Omelet, Tri Tator OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, Milk
- Jan. 22:** NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 25:** Ham and Cheese Bagel OR Choice of WG Cereal,

Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, Milk

Jan. 26: Mini Pancakes OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, Milk

Jan. 27: Chocolate Chip Loaf OR Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Fresh Fruit, Milk

Medford School Lunch Menu

- Jan. 19:** Stromboli w/Marinara, Green Peas, Turkey BLT Salad, Deli Sub, Black Beans, Radishes, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 20: Chili w/Baked Potato, Steamed Broccoli, Chef Salad, Vegetable Foccacia, Tomato Slices, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 21: Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, WG Dinner Roll, Taco Salad, Deli Sandwich, Baby Carrots, Broccoli Florets, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 22: NO SCHOOL

Jan. 25: Chicken Crunch w/Rice, Chicken Caesar Salad, Turkey BLT Wrap, Kidney

Beans, Cauliflower, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 26: Soft Tacos w/Lettuce, Cheese, Salsa, Potato Ole, Pretzel Bites w/Cheese, Deli Sub, Chopped Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

Jan. 27: BBQ Riblet on Bun, Potato Salad, WG Brownie, Chef Salad, Combo Sliders, Broccoli, Cherry Tomatoes, Celery Sticks, Seasonal Fruit

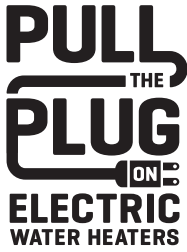
Weekly crossword on Page 3D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

M	M	E	S			D	A	S			S	O	S				
S	A	L	E	S		E	L	K			M	A	G	I			
S	A	B	L	E		F	B	I			A	C	E	D			
	S	A	F	A	R		T	A	N		G	H	E	E			
						O	P	E	N	N	E	S	S				
B	U	E	N	O	S	A	R	I	E	S							
A	F	R	I	C	A	N		A	R	K							
B	A	N	T	U							I	N	A	P	T		
						L	A	B			F	A	M	I	N	E	S
							A	B	O	N	E	T	O	P	I	C	K
			S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E							
S	C	A	B			T	A	I			N	A	A	C	P		
A	L	B	A			T	I	L			A	G	U	E	S		
L	I	E	N			O	R	E			H	A	B	E	R		
K	O	R				R	E	D				S	A	R	I		

INSTALL A PROPANE WATER HEATER AND

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$650 REBATE!



Install a propane water heater in your new home, or change out your electric or fuel oil water heater for a propane system, and **\$650** could be yours! Already have a propane water heater? You may qualify for a **\$200** rebate when you replace it with a new, higher efficiency propane system.

There are other advantages of propane besides the rebate. When you install a new energy-efficient propane water heater, you'll:

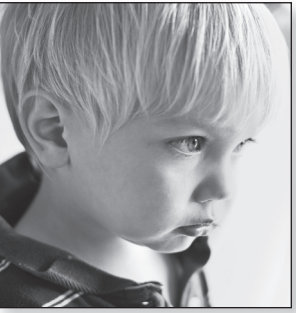
- USE LESS ENERGY
- SAVE MONEY
- REDUCE CO₂ EMISSIONS

START SAVING TODAY.

Contact your local propane dealer for your rebate! Find a local propane dealer at mnpropane.com



GRIEF RELIEF



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

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

Direction with dignity from Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna.



Cory Michaelson



www.michaelsonfuneral.com
507-451-7943

ESTATE SALE - 2nd Release

AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING IN THE LIQUIDATION OF
NEWLY RELEASED ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.

3 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY

- 1) Model # 303 Little Rock \$38,525...**BALANCE OWED \$15,900**
- 2) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...**BALANCE OWED \$16,500**
- 3) Model # 502 Santa Fe \$44,950...**BALANCE OWED \$17,500**

NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED

- Make any design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB
A+ Rating

VIEW at www.loghomedream.com - Click on House Plans
SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.

Owatonna Living

Life, Balanced, Health and Wellness Expo finds success in first year



Staff photo by Laura Berndt
Gracie, Christine and Cameron Stoen, of Mama Stoen's, had fun sharing their gluten-free foods with visitors at the 2016 Life, Balanced, Health and Wellness Expo.

By LAURA BERNDT
News Editor

Although Saturday morning brought frigid temperatures, a number of vendors and visitors still made their way to Owatonna's Trinity Lutheran Church for the 2016 Life, Balanced, Health and Wellness Expo.

Friends Joan Dotson and Jen NicholSEN organized the Expo, and the two agree that they hope the Expo will become an annual event. They estimate that around 26 vendors attended Saturday's Expo, each offering information and products relating to all aspects of health and wellness.

"Health and wellness helps you live your best life," said NicholSEN. "We both incorporate health and wellness into our lives, and we see the benefits of

it." She hopes the Expo will inspire others to take steps toward living healthier lives, as well.

NicholSEN was inspired to begin planning the Expo after attending a similar event. "I went to health and wellness event in Minneapolis and thought it would be a good idea to have one in Owatonna," she said. "We want people to know what options are around our community."

The two friends initially began planning the event as a way to raise funds for Associated Preschool, but others suggested donating the funds to Early Learning Network. After the event's conclusion, organizers reported that the proceeds were "significant" and will greatly benefit the Early Learning Network.

From chiropractors to personal

trainers and nutritional experts to health and fitness bloggers, there were many vendors in attendance for the first Expo. Visitors at the Expo also had the opportunity to enter raffles, featuring an array of prizes.

Ann Paulson, owner of Straight River Sports and Fitness, was just one of the vendors at Saturday's Expo. Paulson said she looked forward to attending the Expo and sharing more information about Straight River Sports and Fitness. The business also offers ski, skate and bike rentals, and a number of initiatives designed to help people enjoy being active.

Paulson had a number of fitness gear and active wear on hand to share with guests at the Expo, including a Pedego electric assist bicycle with a built-in

electrical hub motor. These bicycles are especially helpful for people with physical ailments who struggle to operate a regular bike.

"It's the new big thing in biking," Paulson said. "It's allowing people to bike that may not have been able to previously, or go further and tackle varied terrains."

"We're really, really excited about it," said Paulson. "For us, to make the Owatonna area a more healthy population is our goal."

Dotson and NicholSEN are already planning the 2017 Life, Balanced, Health and Wellness Expo and are looking for interested vendors. To learn more, send an e-mail to lifebalance-expo@gmail.com or contact Jen NicholSEN at 507-456-8040.

LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

Continued from Page 1C

"Minnesota families and individuals helped generate our state's budget surplus and I believe they deserve tax relief and a surplus in their own budgets," Bennett said. "As for roads and bridges, we have a significant need for better transportation infrastructure throughout our state, especially in greater Minnesota."

She said it is her hope that the Legislature can pass a long-term transportation plan next session.

Bennett says she has been working with other legislators on The Caring for the Aging, Retiring, and Elderly (CARE) Act.

The CARE Act is a set of bills that are aimed at building on reforms the Legislature made in the 2015 session to boost nursing home funding and improve care for our aging loved ones. This includes phasing out state taxes on Social Security, as well as legislation to help younger people plan ahead for their long-term care needs. Except for the phasing out of Social Security tax, most of the CARE Act proposals do not involve any budget dollars, but are aimed more at clearing a path for people by tweaking regulations in certain areas, Bennett explained.

Daniels picks roads and bridges as a major issue for the 2016 legislative session. He also believes that the budget surplus should be applied to transportation needs.

Help should also be given to

middle income families by eliminating income taxes on Social Security incomes and retired veterans' incomes, says Daniels.

In looking at the budget surplus, Poppe says there will likely be some money saved, some money spent and some money given back in the form of tax credits or tax reductions.

Poppe said, "It isn't expected that all the money will go to only one of those three options as the potential for a negotiated and timely conclusion to the session will require some give and take. On top of everything, including the short time together, this is an election year for each seat of the Legislature, but not for the Governor. So gearing up for the fall election will be on the minds of many, and that can mean the answer lies in how will this best work to 'our' side's advantage. We can hope for a smooth ride and for a congenial result, but there are likely to be bumps along the way. There will be ways to 'spin' the result in whatever way is most advantageous, so whatever happens will be talked about through the fall and into Election Day!"

Many colleges and universities (including Riverland Community College) are requesting bonding funds, says Poppe.

Flood mitigation proposals usually see some dollars earmarked as money spent can reduce costs later, Poppe points out.

"This year you will likely see

dollars spent to improve water quality throughout the state as the Governor has been clear about this being a strong priority for him. Some other things that might be covered in bonding would be transportation (roads and bridges) and increasing broadband access and scope.

"As bonding dollars are spent on more things which typically have not been a focus of bonding, other aspects of the bill will be reduced. It is a slippery slope to add things into a bonding bill that previously weren't included. There typically are three to four times the requests than money available. So the capital investment bill becomes a much-anticipated final product. When other issues remain on the table, you often see the bonding bill be the last thing to come to a vote in order to make final deals for the votes."

Transportation (beyond bonding) will be a huge topic for discussion, Poppe predicts.

"The State is in dire need of allocating infrastructure dollars to fix and repair roads and bridges. Those who live in the seven-county metropolitan area would like to see expansion of transit and light rail. Every mile of roadway or laying of track costs a significant amount of money so planning into the future of what the needs are, where the growth is likely to be, and where safety is of concern, will make each member of the Legislature looking out for their local dis-

trict's needs."

Poppe says broadband access, availability and affordability will be a topic that will generate much discussion and will weigh into the political agendas for candidates and legislators in the upcoming election. Having the ability to communicate and conduct business no matter where in Minnesota you live or work is economically essential, Poppe says.

Last year the other major bill left undone was the tax bill. "High profile bills like transportation and taxes will certainly be expected to have some negotiated outcome by the conclusion of this year's short session," Poppe envisions. Due to the abbreviated time for the Legislature to be in session, it is likely leadership within the House and Senate are already beginning to consider some potential outcomes they would be willing to accept, Poppe says.

State law designates that approximately one-third of the budget surplus will go to the budget reserve, which leaves about \$1.2 billion left for legislators to deal with. Tax relief will then be put on the table, predicts Bennett.

Bennett says "one of the top priorities for the budget surplus is tax relief - easing the tax burden on Minnesotans. We have quite a number of tax relief items in the tax bill that passed out of the House last session, but unfortunately that bill never

made it out of conference committee - removing income tax on military pensions, phasing out tax on social security, a provision to help farmers with their extreme property tax burden, tax relief for families with kids in school, and more. I would very much like to see these get passed into law."

Bennett also would like to use some of the surplus as part of a long-term transportation plan to fix roads and bridges.

Bennett and Daniels are not totally supportive of a special session. Bennett says it is important to reserve special sessions for situations such as extreme natural disasters or other acts of nature like the avian flu.

"The public deserves to have the opportunity to give input on potential legislation, and that opportunity is typically not there in special sessions where just a few state leaders decided what issues will be on the agenda," Bennett said.

"Unless a situation must be addressed immediately, legislation should go through the normal process where it's vetted by the public and in committees. This makes for better lawmaking all around."

Poppe said there might not be a need for a special session but there definitely are people hurting who can be helped if there is one.

Poppe continues, "One concern is when we get together on March 8, how quickly can bills be negotiated and passed that will resolve the issues. I suspect the Governor would like to deal with some of these matters ahead of our regular session in order to have greater control over the results and to fix some problems without getting them wrapped into larger negotiations."

SENATE PREVIEW

Continued from Page 1C

Commerce Committee and services on E-12 Budget Division; Education; Transportation and Public Safety Budget Division and Transportation and Public Safety.

Addressing the budget and passing a bonding bill we be the main focus of the next legislative session, says Sen. Sparks. "This year is a short session, and we are operating under some of the tightest deadlines I have seen during my time in the Senate," Sparks explained.

Sparks is serving his fourth term.

At a minimum, there will be discussion of an \$820 million bonding bill focusing on asset preservation, says Jensen. Projects will include sewer and water systems, roads, bridges, railroad crossings and maintaining existing buildings.

Jensen said she expects some bonding for projects that have begun and set up in stages to continue including the St. Cloud state prison and the St. Peter security hospital.

Jensen said she would push for a cash bill for transportation infrastructure along with the bonding bill. "Because Corridors of Commerce appropriations can only be used for construction bonding and cannot be used for right of way purchasing, environmental impact statements, soil testing and other things for construction preparation like moving of utilities, we must have the cash appropriation to continue work on Highway 14," Jensen related.

Jensen is carrying a bill to fund the Corridors of Commerce program, which is where progress on Highway 14 has been



Sen. Dan Sparks



Sen. Vicki Jensen

funded. "There are no other funds dedicated for Highway 14 in the future because it is not listed on the 20-year plan for the Minnesota Department of Transportation," Jensen said.

Sparks said he does not believe there will be a lot of policy work completed that has not been previously discussed or can find consensus quickly.

In discussing the budget surplus, Sparks said it "will be important for us to be responsible and forward thinking, as we have been in recent years."

"Sound decisions have helped stabilize our budget and gotten us away from the deficits of the past. Of course, we have also been helped by a strong economy, so maintaining a healthy reserve will help guard against future downturns. I think the biggest expenditures will be seen in the tax bill, providing financial relief for individuals and businesses."

Jensen is carrying a bill to provide funds in the Greater Minnesota Public Infrastructure Grant Program, which provides assistance for cities to build their local infrastructure. "This year I will be concentrating on the use of these funds for flood control as well as business expansion

purposes," Jensen explained.

Jensen says she does not support use of general fund surplus dollars that are not constitutionally dedicated and distributed as a comprehensive transportation strategy. "Anything we create statutorily for use of transportation funding can always be changed by the Legislature," she said.

"This will create an atmosphere where transportation funding will be negotiated every year for votes, just as the bonding bill is used today. This will not provide a sustainable strategy to combat increased costs in materials and maintenance of current infrastructure, which we are critically behind right now. There is no guarantee the funds will be distributed to rural areas of the state without constitutional distribution."

Use caution and think long term with changes that impact the general funds in the state, Jensen stated. She supports replenishing the state disaster fund to ensure a special session does not need to be called for an environmental disaster.

Jensen would like to see some money dedicated to career and technical training in our high schools and after-school programs. "The state should play a role and invest in the development in broadband services in rural Minnesota," she insists.

"With the changes to nursing homes last year we need to also look at the group homes that are fully funded by the state and at least provide compensation for

the increase in the minimum wage," Jensen added.

Tax Reforms also have an impact to the general fund balance, Jensen said. She said she would like to see a reduction in the state property tax levy and a change to the school district referendum levy impact to landowners. Property tax reform to lower property taxes will also be a top priority for the 2016 session, Jensen believes.

Both Sparks and Jensen supported the process to be used to justify whether a special session should be called. Working groups were organized to study whether a special session needed to be called.

The senators agree that there may be some urgency to deal with the Iron Range economic issues but both offered caution in determining resolutions in a timely manner for Real ID and racial disparity issues.



See how I make it simple to help secure your family's financial future

Auto | Home | Life | Business | College | Retirement

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**

342 W. Bridge St., Owatonna

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. Company providers of Farm Bureau of Farm Bureau Financial Services L005-MI, BC (8-15)

NEW YEAR NEW YOU!

JOIN FOR ONLY \$1!

24-Hour Aerobics • Personal Training Tanning
Treadmills • Elliptical Training • Exercise Cycles
Circuit Training • Free Weights & Racks
Selectorized Strength Training • 24-Hour Security
Wellness Programs • Private Restrooms & Showers
Health Plan Discounts • Convenient Front-Lot Parking
Anywhere Club Access • Towel Service *and so much more*

*With a new membership. One per contract.
Not valid with any other offers, expires 1/31/16.*

507-451-0144
1010 Hoffman Dr NW, Owatonna
www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/84



FREE CORDLESS

Jan. 1st through Feb. 29th a \$100 value per blind
**must be presented at time of sale*

Cordless Lift Shades lift and lower with ease, using just your fingertips. Cordless is considered the safest choice if you have small children or pets in your home.

Honeycomb Shades cellular construction insulates homes against the elements to help reduce heating and cooling bills, and their superior sound absorption will make surroundings quieter and more comfortable.

**Budget Blinds**

TOLL FREE 1-877-373-8535
Free Consultation/Free Installation
sales @coolwindowshades.com



enlightened style
The Smart Choice for Your Windows
on Honeycomb



Owatonna Living

HIGH HONOR

Continued from Page 1C

of MRPA Mary Jo Knudson for his “leadership and dedication to the Parks and Recreation department.”

“I nominated him because, well, it was a no brainer. It is very well deserved,” said Knudson. “Anyone in Park and Recreation Department would say that he is the mainstay of the department.”

The Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award calls for a minimum four years of college education, but Ebeling shattered that rule with his nearly 40 years of experience. Ebeling is the first individual to receive the award without a college education.

He was first hired on in the Park and Recreation Department in Sept. 1977 as a laborer. Ebel-

ing was hired by Leo Rudolph, who also received the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award in 1993.

“You see, Leo Rudolph took a chance and hired me at a very young age and immediately instilled in me the importance of being connected and involved in your local community and your profession,” Ebeling told the crowd gathered for MRPA annual meeting and award ceremony. “I owe and thank Leo so much.”

In 1980, he moved up into a management position because he coached a softball team. “Coaching kind of related to managing people and that was my wheelhouse—managing people, motivating people, and working with people,” he said.

Ebeling’s new position at that time was parks director, a brand new position to Parks and Recreation at that time.

Ebeling was parks director through Nov. 2012, when Jeff McCay retired to Director of Parks, Recreation and Government buildings. “This position was a goal of mine since I became parks director,” he said.

“That’s how I got to move up the ladder, which was difficult because I don’t have a college education, and most of these positions call for that,” he said in summary of his career.

Since he has been in the park and recreation department for nearly four decades, he finds it difficult to choose his top accomplishments.

He is proud to have worked with Rudolph and McKay to build a proper shop system for Parks and Recreation that is now combined with the Street Department.

“When I was hired, we had a little four-stall garage that we operated out of. Inside there, we had our lunch table, welding table, our mechanic’s shop, our wood working and everything in there with no hot water or bathroom,” he recalled about the conditions of the Parks and Recreation Department shop back in 1977. “The infrastructure of the parks system, building it from almost nothing to where it is today, was a huge task over time.”

Another accomplishment that Ebeling acknowledged was the expansion of the park system itself. He thanks “our forefathers for securing that land 160 plus years ago.”

“As time moved on, people secured land for a trail system, so that is a real highlight,” he said. “At one time we were the only city that owned the land on both sides of the river from one end of the city limits to the other and in that exists today.”

Expansion of the trail system is a project Ebeling is continuing to work on today.

The biggest accomplishment for Ebeling was selecting the parks and recreation team. “Being here this long, I can say that I’ve been involved in the hiring of every single employee that works here today,” he said proudly. “They’re a great team, work great together. They’re all dedicated. I’m just so proud of who they are.”

In the acceptance of his award, Corky mentioned three men that deeply influenced his career: his boss in Parks and Recreation, the late Leo Rudolph, elemen-



Submitted photo
Upon accepting Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association on Jan. 14, James “Corky” Ebeling thanked the many individuals that have shaped his life and career.

tary school principal and Steele County Free Fair secretary, the late Elmer Reseland, and retired Rochester Parks Division Director Dave McDonald.

Ebeling is grateful to Leo for all that he taught him as a boss and mentor. “He was a master of park and recreation,” he laughed.

“Elmer had a sign in his office that said ‘Our Motto: It’s got to be 50 percent fun!’ I have always tried to live by those words,” Ebeling said in his acceptance speech. “That always stuck and still hangs there today.”

“Elmer and Corky had a lot of fun together working and accomplished a lot for the fair,” said Alice Reseland. “Corky is very dedicated and hard working. He is an asset to this community as a whole, not just to park and rec.”

Ebeling’s mentor, Dave McDonald, was also present at the social. He was emotionally moved upon speaking about Ebeling. Through their connection

in Southern Minnesota Parks and Recreation Association, the two connected.

“I have a great deal of admiration for what Corky has done,” said McDonald. “Most people in this profession have advanced degrees. Corky started out at the bottom as a laborer and worked his way to the top.”

“He’s a five star guy,” commented McDonald. “It’s been a pleasure to call him my friend.”

The Elks Lodge was full of individuals that have been touched by Ebeling or his work in one way or another. He said that it was an honor not only to receive the award but to have so much support from the community.

“The award: It’s the pinnacle of my career,” he said. “Being recognized by your colleagues and peers, there is no greater honor than to receive that.”



Staff photo by Anna Segner
Alice Reseland and James “Corky” Ebeling smile together at the social following Ebeling’s acceptance of the Clifton E. French Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association on Jan. 14.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Continued from Page 1C

He said that in 2014, there were 1,500 accidents that resulted from distracted driving accidents in Southern Minnesota. Five hundred were fatal crashes. His presentation revealed that the most dangerous days to drive are Fridays and Mondays, likely due to distracted weekend travelers, Christianson speculated. The safest day to drive is Tuesday.

Some of the most dangerous distractions are eating or drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, looking for the items on the floor, reading (including

maps), using a GPS, watching videos and adjusting the radio/CD player.

What is the number one cause of distraction? Cell phones.

“The average text message takes about 5 seconds to compose, which is enough time to travel the entire length of a football field,” said Christianson. “That’s a lot of area to not be paying attention.”

He said that texting while driving doubles the risk of rear-end collisions, because the distraction slows a driver’s reaction time by 18 percent.

“Cell phone gadgets are probably not going away, so we hope that some other technology can combat this,” said Christianson. He gave the example of technology that only plays the radio if all are wearing their seatbelts.

When it comes to cell phone use in the car, it is illegal in Minnesota to text and drive. It is legal for adults over 18 to talk on

their cell phones.

When a driver is caught texting while driving, the ticket cost is \$155. The second offense and following is \$375.

“A lot of people think that they are good at multi-tasking, but research has proven that the mind can only focus on one task well,” said Christianson.

The USA Educational Foun-

dation provides some top ways to avoid distracted driving, including the following: plan ahead, know your route, don’t eat, drink or smoke in the vehicle, keep volume at a reasonable level and let calls go to voicemail.

There were many parents present in the audience that were curious about how they can help

educate their children about distracted driving.

“Parents need to take a role. The best thing parents can do is not do it themselves,” said Christianson. “With such fast paced lives, kids think everything is so crucial to respond at that second. We need to enforce that it isn’t worth dying over.”

On Sale Now!

SISTER ACT

A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY

“Heavenly unbridled joy!”

—Huffington Post

Regina Marie Williams

“Breathlessly cheerful!”

—Newsday

Chanhassen DINNER THEATRES

952-934-1525
800-362-3515

ChanhassenDT.com

CRAZY DAYS
in January! (Formerly the Armory Sale)

Thurs. Jan 21
7 AM - 8 PM

Fri. Jan 22
9 AM - 5:30 PM

Sat. January 23
9 AM - 4 PM

Held at these Owatonna Stores:

ALL REMAINING
SALE SHOES & BOOTS
WOMENS • MENS • KIDS

Now \$20 & Up!

Owatonna SHOE
121 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna

25% - 50% OFF Storewide*
Jewelry – Watches – Gifts

**Some exceptions may apply*

Kottke Jewelers
115 N. Cedar Ave, Owatonna

50-75% Off
Clearance Sale

Kristi's
Boutique 301 Cedar Ave N | Owatonna

3 DAY MATTRESS
SAVE up to 60%

1 SIDED QUEEN SET \$278 **2 SIDED QUEEN SET \$378**

143 West Broadway • 507-214-3036
DOWNTOWN OWATONNA • Across from Pizza Ranch

Court Sports... and more

Huge Savings!

1414 S. Oak
Owatonna, MN
507-451-0567

LITTLE PROFESSOR
BOOK CENTER

Sale books starting at \$1
Children's Books • Cookbooks
Best Sellers • Art • History • Crafts

1/2 OFF Puzzle Sale • Storewide 20% OFF
(Excludes Periodicals)
110 West Park Square • Downtown Owatonna • 507-455-0969

Think Warm! Tulip Bunches \$9.99
Final Winter Clearance Sale!

CEDAR FLORAL
507-451-7673
314 N Cedar Ave, Owatonna

HELP Uncle Jerry Retirement Sale

Special Deals Throughout the Store!

Tone MUSIC
Since 1990
451-5196
114 N Cedar Ave
Owatonna

Save 50% or more
on select items
Completely Kids & Maternity

302 N. Cedar, Owatonna
M-F 10-6, Sat. 9-5 • 507-444-4100

Located in St. Clair's for Crazy Days!
Lighthouse
Natural Health Center
Chair Massages • Norwex®
Nutritional Therapy
Nutritional Supplements

A Light of Hope For Health And Healing
507-363-1711
www.lighthousenaturalhealthcenter.com

50% OFF
Hundreds of Seasonal Items
Party Plus Dollar Deals

116 N. Cedar • 507-455-9677
DOWNTOWN OWATONNA

CENTRAL PARK
Framing & Finds

Prices starting at \$100

110 W. Broadway, Owatonna
507-451-3460

Tri M Graphics
We Think Beyond Ink.
625 East Main St. • Owatonna
CLOSE OUT SPECIALS ON:
PAPER, ENVELOPES & STAMPS!



Senior Focus

Health & Fitness
Retirement
Money/Investment
Activities & Hobbies

When is the right time to leave your ‘home?’

Few people like to admit their age is affecting them. However, as we age, certain abilities become compromised, and it may no longer be practical for aging men and women to remain in their homes, or at least live there alone.

Comfortable living alone may be a signal to an older adult that he or she still has independence. Taking away a license or suggesting a move may cause feelings of animosity. But at some point in time, friends or family members of an aging man or woman might need to broach the topic of moving to an assisted living facility. Such a discussion can be difficult, but having some evidence that a change is necessary may make the news easier to process. Sometimes the older adult may have already made the decision that a move is necessary, which will make the process even easier.

Moving should never be a knee-jerk reaction unless there is a sudden medical emergency that necessitates fast action. Under normal circumstances, moving should be a gradual process that begins even before a parent, grandparent or other relative really needs to change residences. Here are some steps to keep in mind.

Make sure to develop a strong relationship with your loved one. This relationship should be consistent and keep you in frequent contact so you can best assess his or her living situation.

Talk things over with other siblings or relatives to see



Although some seniors dread the conversation about leaving home and moving to a retirement community, there are many advantages, including improved safety, transportation and the chance to make new friends.

if others feel the same way you do. Perhaps they have a different point of view.

If there are problems at home, make your case by pointing them out. Show the elder adult how day-to-day life has grown more difficult and how certain burdens may be lifted by changing living situations.

Indicate that access to health care and a safe environment are some of the key benefits of moving to a senior community. Point out other benefits, such as companionship with similarly aged people, activities, transportation, and the presence of a maintenance staff to ensure nothing falls into disrepair.

Do your research and have the names and amenities of different residences available to discuss. Request brochures from senior communities and offer to make trips to view the

homes together with your senior relative.

If the idea of a “home” is not what your loved one has in mind, discuss the options of moving in with a relative and if this would be a more comfortable situation.

You may need a mediator or help with finding the right fit for a loved one. Consider hiring a geriatric care manager to help you organize your thoughts and priorities regarding a senior living transition. These individuals provide services that include helping families locate appropriate housing and care services for their loved ones.

Not every senior needs to leave home, but the topic should be broached if assistance with day-to-day activities is needed.

How to build and maintain strong bones at any age

Osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to become weakened and brittle over time, affects millions of people across the globe. The International Osteoporosis Foundation says an osteoporosis-related fracture occurs roughly once every 3 seconds, accounting for more than 8.9 million fractures a year.

Younger individuals typically heal from fractures more quickly than older adults, who often discover that fractures greatly impede their mobility and quality of life.

Bone health is important at any age, but it is particularly crucial as a person gets older. Without a strong framework of bones, the body collapses on itself and rates of fracture increase. Fortunately, there are several ways to keep and maintain strong bones.

Bones are largely made up of

a protein called collagen, which is bound together by calcium and other trace minerals. Vitamin D and calcium work in concert, with vitamin D helping the body to absorb calcium so it can find its way into bones. Experts advise getting the right ratio of calcium, protein and vitamin D to safeguard against osteoporosis. The Institute of Medicine suggests that adults get between 600 and 800 international units (IUs) of vitamin D every day, and between 1,000 and 1,300 milligrams of calcium daily. Dairy products, such as low-and nonfat milk, yogurt and cheese, are high in calcium. Dark green vegetables and almonds contain calcium in smaller amounts. Obtaining calcium and vitamin D through natural sources is always preferable, but doctors may

suggest supplementation if foods are not providing what a person needs to meet the minimum recommended levels.

Exercise is another important component of building strong bones. The National Osteoporosis Foundation says 30 minutes of exercise each day can help. Higher-intensity exercises should be mixed with lower-intensity workouts for the best results. Weight-bearing exercises, such as hiking, dancing and stair-climbing, can build between 1 and 3 percent of bone. An exercise regimen also should include lifting weights or using resistance bands.

Activities that promote good posture and flexibility can help improve balance and alignment of the body. Perform stretches smoothly and slowly after exercising to maintain your range of motion.

Quitting smoking also can promote strong bones. Smoking has been linked to poor skeletal health in both men and women, and the longer one smokes, the greater one’s risk for fracture.



The most innovative leader of senior housing and services, empowering individuals to live richer and fuller lives.

507-446-8334 • www.countrysideseniorliving.org • 650 El Dorado Street SE, Owatonna



Our Values
Service: We intensely focus on serving our customers and delivering what they want with excellence.
Innovation: We celebrate creativity and ingenuity, anticipate change, and understand that responsible risk is essential to delivering cutting-edge products and services.

Spirituality: We honor our faith-based heritage by creating welcoming, inclusive communities that nurture and support the spiritual needs of the people we serve.
Wellness: We believe that physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, and vocational growth is essential to wellness.

Stop in and visit our way of Living. We look forward to meeting you.

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY

Contact Kelly Maas 507-461-9277 or kellymaas@ecumen.org

A catered living community that you'll be proud to call home. Catered living provides independent living and assisted living.

507-446-5855 • www.brooksowatonna.org • 2480 St Paul Rd, Owatonna

What we offer
Spacious Apartments: Each residence features a full kitchen, including a range, refrigerator, living room, bedroom, private bath with a shower unit, ample closet space and a 24-hour response system.
Social, Leisure and Spiritual Choices: Enjoy our grand fireplace room for taking classes,

watching a musical recital and participating in other enriching activities.
Safe, Worry Free Living: Tired of shoveling and keeping up your yard? Don't worry. We provide all maintenance, landscaping and snow removal.
Healthcare professionals are on duty 24 hours per day to assist you with any healthcare needs.



GLENN’S MOTORCOACH TOURS, INC			
ROCHESTER, MN			
Departing from: Owatonna & Austin			
CALL TODAY FOR A DETAILED BROCHURE!			
1-800-795-8516 or 507-288-1329			
DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	MARCH 5-18, 2016	\$2149	
SPRING MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 7 DAY TOUR!	APRIL 11 -17, 2016	\$999	
MYRTLE BEACH & CHARLESTON, SC	APRIL 23 - MAY 1, 2016	\$1349	
NEW ORLEANS & LAFAYETTE, LA	MAY 6 -16, 2016	\$1699	
HOLLAND, MI TULIP FESTIVAL	MAY 13 - 15, 2016	\$459	
BRANSON, MO	MAY 19- 22, 2016	\$599	
THE FAMOUS ILLUSIONIST - RICK THOMAS, THE BEST OF THE 50'S, THE MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET, DIXIE STAMPEDE DINNER SHOW			
DOOR COUNTY, WI	MAY 20-22, 2016	\$419	
NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO, ONT	JUNE 6-11, 2016	\$899	
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	JUNE 10-12, 2016	\$459	
NASCAR - MICHIGAN SPEEDWAY	SPRINT CUP AND NATIONWIDE RACES	JUNE 10-13, 2016	\$569
TRAINS IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES	JUNE 22- JULY 1, 2016	\$1519	
NW CIRCLE & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	JULY 7 - 22, 2016	\$2349	
CALGARY STAMPEDE & CANADIAN ROCKIES	JULY 9 - 17, 2016	\$1559	
GRANDPARENTS, GRANDKIDS & FAMILIES TO KANSAS CITY	JULY 14-17, 2016	ADULTS \$449 KIDS \$299	
ALASKA - LAND & CRUISE - COMPLETE PKG W/AIR	JULY 27 - AUG 7, 2016	STARTING AT	\$5199
CHICAGO, IL GANGSTER TOUR	AUGUST 12 -14, 2016	\$469	
CODY, WY & YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK	AUGUST 14-20, 2016	\$1029	
SUMMER TIME ON THE MISSISSIPPI	AUGUST 17-19, 2016	\$479	
NEW YORK CITY	AUGUST 27- SEPT 3, 2016	\$1519	
FALL MYSTERY TOUR - ALL NEW 4 DAY TOUR!!!	SEPTEMBER 7 -10, 2016	\$599	
MACKINAC ISLAND, MI	SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2016	\$459	
WATERTOWN, NY & 1000 ISLANDS - BRAND NEW TOUR!!!	SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2016	\$1049	
NEW ENGLAND FALL COLOR TOUR	SEPTEMBER 24 - OCT 5, 2016	\$1749	
BALLOON FIESTA IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM	OCTOBER 4-11, 2016	\$1299	
WASHINGTON DC & GETTYSBURG	OCTOBER 8-14, 2016	\$1119	
AUTUMN IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS	OCTOBER 18-23, 2016	\$899	

ALL PRICES BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT ON SOME TOURS

All of our Tours are Fully Escorted in Deluxe Motorcoaches & Luggage Handling is included.

For More Information or to Book A Tour, Call Today!

Check us out on the Web - www.glennsmotorcoachtours.com
Email: glenn@glennsmotorcoachtours.com
“Traveling With The Professionals”



Birchwood Cottages

1805 Austin Road • Owatonna, MN • www.birchwoodcottagesmn.com

507-413-6800

Birchwood Cottages is committed to respecting the path of life and all that the aging process may bring.

We believe that those with memory loss cope best in a home that specializes in memory care

Our specialty is

Memory Loss • Dementia • Alzheimer’s

People ~ Purpose ~ Passion

Our residents are encouraged to engage in:

- Reminiscing
- Sensory Stimulation
- Favorite games
- Story-telling
- Music
- Pet Therapy
- and much more



10% OFF

Any Purchase

with this coupon

Visit us at www.kernelrestaurant.com

Open daily 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Affordable Family Dining
Daily Specials • Freshly Baked Pies
Home Cooked Food

KERNEL Restaurant

Expires 1-31-16
Not valid with any other offers.

451-2585
1011 Hoffman Drive, Owatonna

Thinking of downsizing and moving in the spring?
Come in for a tour - we have 1 unit available!





VILLAGE COOPERATIVE

- Maintenance-Free Living
- Affordability
- Sense of Community
- Heated Garage & Car Wash



Call Norma for more information | 507-433-1310 | 2301 10th Street NW, Austin, MN



YOUR AGRI
CONNECTION
**FARM
LIVINGPLUS**

www.steeledodgenews.com

Farmland retention helpful for initiative foundation

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

The hope is that at least one farm or a portion of a farm near each of the 24 communities that the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation serves will be part of a newly-developed farmland retention program.

“That would be just a dream and we would be more than delighted to help manage all of that on behalf of these community funds,” said Tim Penny, president/chief executive officer of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

Within the last year, the foundation has taken an idea from the Southwest Initiative Foundation and started its own version of the program.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s ‘Preserving Our Heritage’ program provides a means of giving that preserves farmland. SMIF retains the gifted land as an asset, allowing it to continue to be farmed.

“Agriculture is the heart of our economy in southern Minnesota,” Penny said, adding that statewide, agriculture in all of its forms is probably 20 percent of the state economy.

“Family agriculture is part of our culture, our history and many younger people that would like to engage in farming are finding it increasingly difficult,” Penny said. “I think a program like that assures that these farms will continue to be on the rental market is one way to facilitate young people entering and remaining in the farming sector.”

Southwest Initiative Foundation launched a farmland retention program called “Keep it Growing.” The program’s goal is to offer retiring farmers and landowners an option to preserve the property as farmland while converting it to an asset that benefits the community.



Tim Penny, president/chief executive officer of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

According to a recent opinion piece by Penny, so far, seven farms have been bequeathed to SWIF, who in turn will continue to manage the land and re-invest the rental income into southwest Minnesota.

While no charitable donations have been made to the SMIF at this time, Penny said the program is a win-win situation for the foundation. “I say this because it is a way to take the wealth that is caught up in our land and turn it to a charitable donation,” he said. “There are many families that would like to

do that. Very often if you donate land to a charitable donation or a university, they will sell the land and who knows who buys that land.”

Penny added that the unique aspect in donating the land is that there is an assurance that the land will be rented not sold because of the way the program is designed.

“For the donor it is a charitable donation, but it is also a way of assuring their farm continues to stay in production,” Penny said. “When possible, it will continue to be rented by somebody they may have already have a renting relationship with.”

For the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and its 24 community funds it helps manage, it provides an annual flow of rental income that can either go into the endowment of that local foundation or into its operating budget. “There will be dollars coming in the door that can do work and good projects in that community,” Penny said. “Various communities have various needs. This would be a constant flow of revenue that could fund those activities.”

Penny said that there will probably be a significant number of farms in our region that are going to move out of family ownership. “(It is) largely because the next generation isn’t prepared to step in and take over the farm operation,” Penny said. “That population for farms that have no heirs or no heirs that are prepared to be farmers, this gives them another option to look at.”

Conferences dedicated to crop production

Registration is open for two important conferences dedicated to soil fertility for crop production and environmental stewardship. These events were co-organized by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center (MAWRC) with a common planning committee to bring the latest advancements in nutrient management presented by University of Minnesota and other university researchers, fertilizer industry experts, and state agency officials.

The first event, the 8th Annual Nutrient Management Conference will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Jackpot Junction Hotel, near Morton, Minnesota. This conference will cover topics ranging from nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium to lime and soil pH and from how crops take up nutrients to concerns with nutrients in the environment. More information and registration can be accessed at <http://www.mawrc.org/events.html>.

The second event, the 2nd Annual Nitrogen: Minnesota’s Grand Challenge and Compelling Opportunity Conference will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at the Rochester Events Center in Rochester, Minnesota. The conference is focused entirely on nitrogen management for crop production and environmental quality. Topics will range from nitrogen sources and climate trends to accounting for nitrogen credits and in-season nitrogen management. More information and registration can be accessed at <http://z.umn.edu/Nconference>.

These events will provide very useful information regarding profitable management of nutrients for crop production and environmental protection. Farmers, crop advisors and other nutrient management professionals are encourage to attend. Both events will provide opportunity for Certified Crop Advisors to earn Continuing Education Units.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center, and University of Minnesota Extension sponsor these conferences, along with numerous agricultural businesses and organizations. For a full list of sponsors visit <http://www.mawrc.org/events.html>. Thanks to the support of our sponsors, registration for each event is only \$20, which can be paid on-line at the time or registration or at the door. You can register at www.mawrc.org/events.html. To register by phone, or for more information, call Dr. George Rehm at 507-263-9127, or Dr. Fabián Fernández at 612-625-7460.



Part Time Work



The National Association of State Department of Agriculture is seeking someone to collect agricultural data from farmers in Dodge County and adjoining counties. Prefer someone with farm background and knowledge of agriculture. If interested, please contact Odean Johnson/Supervisor New Richland, MN. Call 507-382-7505 between 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.



Get the right combination for a better health plan

Whether you’re looking for an individual health plan or a plan for your company, you have the right combination with your local Farm Bureau agent and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Expert service and outstanding health plans.



Darrell Ingvaldson, LUTCF
Brownsdale
507-567-2296

Authorized independent agent of Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of Minnesota, a nonprofit independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm

We can also help you with:

- Aggregate Products
- Waterway Cleaning
- All Excavation Projects
- Hauling
- Septic

LOKEN

Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!
507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568

Excavation & Drainage, Inc. 3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net

SunOpta™
Grains and Foods Group

Hope • Ellendale • Blooming Prairie



*Serving South Central Minnesota
with petroleum & agronomy
products and services.*

Toll Free: 800-270-2339
www.centralvalleycoop.com

DID YOU KNOW?

When grain prices increase (corn, soybeans and wheat), do food prices increase?

Not always. Grain markets are traded each weekday and can fluctuate greatly. Consumers will not see daily food price fluctuations based on these markets. Food price increases depend on many factors (such as fuel costs), beyond grain commodity prices. Additionally, during a drought year like 2012 when many ranchers and farmers were evaluating feed costs for farm animals – typically corn or soybeans, depending on the species – as well as grasses and forages affected by drought conditions – many looked to reduce or liquidate their herd size or reduce their poultry production. Costs to raise farm animals are high and may not be economically viable when feed costs rise. With this liquidation of farm animals, the surplus of meat may actually lower the price in stores initially. While this may be temporary until that surplus has leveled out, consumers may actually pay less for meat for a given period of time. Following this price reduction, prices may increase due to low supplies.

Some farm animal producers, like cattle ranchers, may look to alternate feed sources by locally recycling by-products like beets, potatoes, citrus and other local feedstuffs that may help them survive times of high grain feed and forage prices.



Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Jason P. Fast and Alonna R. Fast, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Advors Mortgage, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on April 11, 2012 as Document Number A000383998 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$155,406.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 28, 2010 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 3, 2010 as Document Number A000371493 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$180,014.35 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12, Kubiatiowicz Addition, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 355 NE 15TH STREET, OWATONNA, MN 55060 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Advors Mortgage, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-224-0112 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100199600012386757 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 1, 2016 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 1, 2016. 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: December 31, 2015

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

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Curt N. Trisko, Esq.* Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (15-2010-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9

Foreclosure

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 8, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$76,500.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph L. Erler, Married and Jeremy J. Erler and Brittany L. Erler, Husband and Wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rochester Mortgage Company TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100021278104656389 SERVICER: U.S. Bank National Association LENDER: Rochester Mortgage Company DATE AND PLACE OFFILING: Steele County Minnesota, Recorder , on December 12, 2006, as Document No. A000346321. ASSIGNED TO: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Dated: July 14, 2015 , and recorded July 15, 2015 by Document No. A000403064 .LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Ten (10), in Block One (1), in Pettit's Addition to Town(now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 144 E Rose Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY I.D.: 17-104-0110 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: Seventy-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Seven and 44/100 (\$73,897.44) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM on January 29, 2016 PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn.Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59p.m. on July 30, 2016, or the next business day if July 30, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: December 15, 2015 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Canadian Pacific Plaza, 120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2050 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 15MN00585-1 THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. A-4553824

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 15, 2005 MORTGAGOR: Curtis M. Christianson and Patricia Y. Christianson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded June 24, 2005 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000333009. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Merchants Bank, National Association. Dated June 15, 2005 Recorded June 24, 2005, as Document No. A000333010.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION

NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Merchants Bank, N.A. MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 114 3rd Street Northeast, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 14.101.0109 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 1, in Feeney's Addition to the Village of Blooming Prairie, Steele County, Minnesota COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$100,000.00 AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$86,114.03

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 23, 2016, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES,

SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 21, 2015

Merchants Bank, National Association Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, PLL.P. Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee 4500 Park Glen Road #300 Minneapolis, MN 55416 (952) 925-6888 94-15-009995 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

12/29, 1/5, 1/12 1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9

Foreclosure

15-101130

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 5, 2006 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$68,600.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Steven T. Gilman and Becky E. Hohenstein, both single MORTGAGEE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Aames Funding Corporation DBA Aames Home Loan SERVICER: New Penn Financial, LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 10, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000341133 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.; thereafter assigned to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP. Thereafter assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 105 North, Range 19 West, described as: Commencing at a point on the South line of 5th

Street of Village of Blooming Prairie, 475.6 feet West of the point of intersection of West line of Oak Street with South line of 5th Street, thence due West along the South line of 5th Street, 60 feet, due South 170 feet, due East 60 feet, due North 170 feet to point of beginning. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2391st Street SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-025-2022 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$72,750.08 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 16, 2016, 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 16, 2016, or the next business day if August 16, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: December 23, 2015

The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-SD4 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/29, 1/5, 1/12 1/19, 1/26, 2/2

STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, the Steele County Board of Adjustment will hold a Public Hearing on the following variance application: Jim and Marilyn Severson have requested to construct a 16 ft. x 12.5 feet storage building 3 feet from the side property line instead of the 10 feet as required by ordinance. The property is described as Block 1, Lot 21, Burnes Shore Acres Subdivision #2. The property address is 71 S. Beaver Lake Road. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or contact the planning and zoning office to be heard on this matter.

STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Dale Oolman Steele County Zoning Director 630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890 Owatonna, MN 55060 507-444-7482

1/19

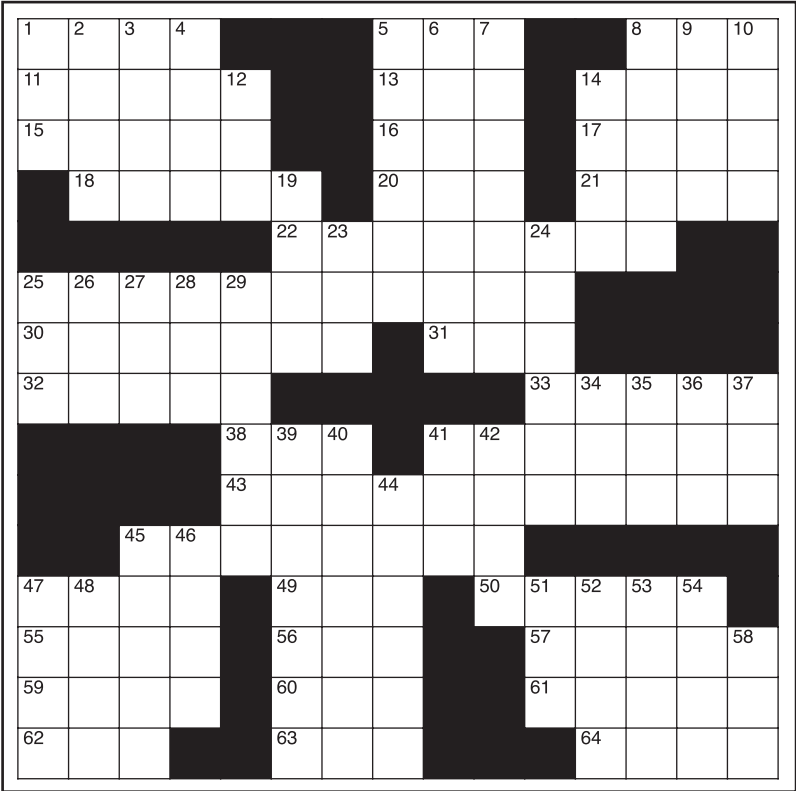
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page 5C

CLUES ACROSS

- Women (French)
- Hyrax
- Distress signal
- Trade
- Large northern deer
- The 3 Wise Men
- Marten of N Asian forests
- Hoover's agency
- Received an A
- 2nd Islamic month
- Light brown
- Clarified butter used in Indian cookery
- Frankness
- Argentina's capital
- Citizen of Kenya or Zimbabwe
- Noah's boat
- Family of languages in So. Africa
- Inappropriate

- Scientific workplace
- Hungriness
- Say to talk about an annoying topic
- Sing and play for somebody
- Strike buster
- A citizen of Thailand
- Civil Rights group
- Honest Company's Jessica
- '__ death do us part
- Malaria
- Claim against another's property
- Mined metal-bearing mineral
- Dashery
- Capacity unit
- Primary color
- Indian dress



CLUES DOWN

- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- Netherlands river
- Italian island
- One's own being
- More adroit
- Balkan country
- Psychologist B.F.
- Investment group Goldman __
- Double curve
- The plane of a figure

- Ocean
- Public presses
- Civil Rights activist Parks
- Cooking container
- Arctic native
- Founder of Babism
- Bashkortostan capital
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle
- Louse egg

- Abaout sight
- ___/Tuck: TV drama
- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Expression of disappointment
- One who assists
- Antilles island
- Served food
- Egyptian Sun god

- Performed successfully
- Cavalry-sword
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Jonas __, cured polio
- The Muse of history
- Express pleasure
- Turkish leader titles
- Castro country
- Nobleman
- __ Lanka

GIVE YOUR FINANCIAL PLAN THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES.

Contact us for a complimentary consultation or second opinion – with no obligation.

Specializing in:
Mutual Funds • Unit Investment Trusts
Fixed & Variable Annuities • Stocks
Bonds • Life Insurance • Long-Term
Care Insurance • IRAs



Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor

507-434-3334 400 Fourth Ave. NE • Austin, MN 55912

Registered Representative of INVEST Financial Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. INVEST and its affiliated insurance agencies offer securities, advisory services and certain insurance products and are not affiliated with Accentra Investment Services. Products offered are: • Not FDIC insured • Not Credit Union Guaranteed • May lose value.

Legals

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No.: 74-PR-16-44

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

In Re: Estate of
Mary Margaret Martin,
Decedent.

It is Ordered and Notice is
given that on February 2, 2016
at 10:45 a.m. , a hearing will be
held in this Court at 111 East
Main, Owatonna , Minnesota, on
a petition for the formal probate
of an instrument purporting to
be the decedent's Will dated
November 20, 2015 , and for the
appointment of Michelle A. Starr
, whose address is 8671 Big
Woods Lane, Eden Prairie, MN
55347 as personal representative
of the decedent's estate in an
unsupervised administration.
Any objections to the petition
must be raised at the hearing or
filed with the Court prior to the
hearing. If the petition is proper and
no objections are filed or raised,
the personal representative will be
appointed with the full power to
administer the decedent's estate,
including the power to collect all
assets; pay all legal debts, claims,
taxes, and expenses; sell real
and personal property; and do all
necessary acts for the decedent's
estate.
Notice is further given that,
subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801,
all creditors having claims against
the decedent's estate are required
to present the claims to the
personal representative or to the
Court within four (4) months after
the date of this notice or the claims
will be barred.

Dated
2016.01.07

BY THE COURT

/s/ Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
/s/ Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

SMITH, TOLLEFSON,
RAHRICK & CASS
Mark J. Rahricks
(Mn# 252402)
108 W Park Sq., Ste A
P.O. Box 271,
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540
Facsimile: (507) 451-1846
e-mail: mark@
owatonnaalaw.com

1/12, 1/19

Foreclosure

15-102238

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that
default has occurred in the conditions
of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE:
February 6, 2004
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
OF MORTGAGE: \$252,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Paul A. Beiser
and Virginia Beiser, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic
Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 10013751000066342
LENDER OR BROKER AND
MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR
STATED ON THE MORTGAGE:
Lakeland Mortgage Corporation
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:
Filed February 25, 2004,
Steele County Recorder, as
Document Number A 319624
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:
Assigned to: MetLife Home Loans,
a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.;
thereafter assigned to JPMorgan
Chase Bank, National Association.
Thereafter assigned to Federal
National Mortgage Association.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY:
Lot 1, Block 3, Oakridge
Bluffs Third Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 555 Oakland
Path SE, Medford, MN 55049
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 16-114-0301
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY
IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE
DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$217,369.50
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 11, 2016, 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 11,
2016, or the next business day
if September 11, 2016 falls on a
Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Postponement

15-101570

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:
December 21, 2006
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT
OF MORTGAGE: \$116,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Joseph L. Erler
and Barbara R. Erler, Husband and
Wife; Jeremy J. Erler and Brittany
L. Erler, Husband and Wife and
Jeff T. Evans, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic
Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100021278104668400
LENDER OR BROKER AND
MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR
STATED ON THE MORTGAGE:
Rochester Mortgage Company
SERVICER: JPMorgan
Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:
Filed December 22, 2006, Steele
County Recorder, as Document
Number A000346604, thereafter
re-recorded March 28, 2007 as
document number A000348663
to add additional mortgages
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:
Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association; Dated: July 27,
2015 filed: August 3, 2015, recorded
as document number A000403434
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY:
Lot 9 and the East 6 feet of Lot 8
in Block 23 of the Original Town
(now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota;
Excepting the South 55 feet to
the above described premises.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 404 Elm
Ave S, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 17-100-2310
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY
IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE
DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$107,927.01
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:
January 12, 2016, 10:00am

Dated: November 17, 2015

JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

The above referenced sale scheduled
for January 12, 2016, at 10:00 AM,
has been postponed to February
12, 2016, at 10:00 AM , and will be
held at Law Enforcement Center,
204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna,
MN 55060, said County and State.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated
under Minnesota Statute 580.30
or the property is redeemed
under Minnesota Statute 580.23
the property must be vacated by
August 12, 2016. If this date falls
on a Saturday, Sunday or legal
holiday, the date to vacate will be
the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: January 8, 2016.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National
Association
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
12550 West Frontage Road,
Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101570
Attorney for Assignee
of Mortgagee

1/19

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In RE: Estate of
JENS A. ANDERSEN
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 2nd day
of February, 2016, at 10:45 o'clock
A.M., a hearing will be held in the
above named Court at Owatonna,
Minnesota, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be the
will of the above named decedent,
dated August 15, 2013, and for the
appointment of Paul Andersen,
whose address is 2401 NW Park
Meadows Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023
and Troy Andersen whose address
is 222 2nd Street NW, Blooming
Prairie, MN 55917 as personal
representatives of the estate of
the above named decedent in
unsupervised administration, and
that any objections thereto must be
filed with the Court. That if proper,
and no objections are filed, said
personal representatives will be
appointed to administer the estate,
to collect all assets, pay all legal
debts, claims, taxes and expenses,
and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the
estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representatives
shall file a final account for the
allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereunto
entitled as ordered by the Court,
and close the estate.
Notice is further given that
ALL CREDITORS having claims
against said estate are required to
present the same to said personal
representative or to the Clerk of the
Court within four months after the
date of this notice or said claims

Dated: January 7, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("FNMA")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2,
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-32

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS TO ALL
INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CREDITORS:

In

Legal

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Doreen R. Kruger, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$112,433.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 16, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 22, 2009 and memorialized upon Certificate of Title No. 12857 as Document Number T000064998 in the Office of the County Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$85,975.98 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Fifteen (15) in Block Two (2) in Luedtke Addition to City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota REGISTERED PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 704 CHERRY ST, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1949 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-150-0215 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None 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 15, 2016 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 15, 2016.

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 13, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-0322-FC03)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Foreclosure

15-102160

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 31, 2013

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$84,850.62 MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald C. Wesely, Unmarried MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 4, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000389530 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 24, Original Town (now City) of Owatonna PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 South Oak, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2410 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$75,841.76 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 15, 2016, 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 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Postponement

15-101819

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 21, 2008 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$159,101.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Lee Mullerleile and Christy Mullerleile, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100249120000143128 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Marketplace Home Mortgage, LLC SERVICER: CitiMortgage, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 25, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000356812 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: CitiMortgage, Inc. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 8, Block 6, Re-Plat of Highland Park Addition to the City of Owatonna, together with the North Half of the vacated alley lying directly South of said Lot.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 627 E Academy St, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-136-0608 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$159,226.97 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: January 12, 2016, 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 July 12, 2016, or the next business day if July 12, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 20, 2015

CitiMortgage, Inc.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for January 12, 2016, at 10:00 am, has been postponed to February 9, 2016, at 10:00 am, and will be held at Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060, said County and State. Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by August 9, 2016. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: January 14, 2016.

CitiMortgage, Inc.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
12550 West Frontage Road, Ste. 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
15-101819
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

Foreclosure

15-102033

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: December 20, 2002 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$132,421.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Eric R. Erickson and Jodi L. Erickson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 23, 2002, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T 51679, As modified of record by Document recorded on September 10, 2014 as Document Number T000071806 in the office of the Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Radel's Country Club Addition REGISTERED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 324 Meadow Lane SW, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-317-0109COT#15898 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,408.23 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 15, 2016, 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 15, 2016, or the next business day if September 15, 2016 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 14, 2016

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

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

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: MORTGAGOR(S): Jolene M. Dahl, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,525.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 5, 2012 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on July 10, 2012 as Document Number A000385613 in

Campaign sees record high donations

By ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

Steele County Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign of the holiday season set record highs. Social Services Director Gina Shepherd reported that the campaign raised \$102,000, a record high for the Steele County Salvation Army.

the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$77,946.79 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block 29, South Park Addition to the City of Ellendale, except the North 20 feet of Lot 6, Steele County, Minnesota STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 JANSEN PLACE S, ELLENDALE, MN 56026 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-105-2906 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None 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 15, 2016 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 15, 2016.

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 15, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-2210-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

1/19, 1/26, 2/2
2/9, 2/16, 2/23

Shepherd said that in 2014, the Red Kettle campaign raised about \$70,000, and 2013 gathered \$81,000.

Many will remember that prior to Dec. 22, the numbers of the campaign season were so low that shepherd and staff lamented the programming that would be impacted.

The Red Kettle campaign begins on Nov. 21 and ends on Dec. 24, but donations to the organization through the New Year are added to the kettle campaign's total.

Before Dec. 22, the numbers had the staff frowning. The Black Friday donations to the red kettle campaign only amounted to about a third of funds raised in 2014.

Something changed. On Dec. 22, a representative from the Charles and Norma Buxton Foundation walked through the doors of the thrift shop. They thanked Shepherd and Salvation Army staff for their work and handed them a letter and check for \$25,000.

The letter from the Charles and Norma Buxton Foundation states "hopefully, this final gift will help give a 'jump start' for the year ahead."

Shepherd said that after that, donations started flooding in to their office. Between Dec. 22 and Jan. 1, they received about \$50,000 from check and kettle donations.

"It is incredible," said Shepherd. "I always like to say that the Lord supplies."

The Salvation exceeded their 2015 kettle campaign goal of \$81,000 by \$21,000. "Amazing, just amazing," said Shepherd shortly after revealing that fact.

"When people knew that we were struggling, the community came through," she said "We call it Salvation Army, but it is really the people's army."

The red kettle campaign funds Salvation Army's charitable action and programs for the year.

Last year alone, Salvation Army helped 699 families in Steele County through the Crisis fund, money raised from the Red Kettle campaign. The fund helps families with basic necessities, such as warmth, shelter, hunger and clothing.

Salvation Army's fall backpack program provided 850 kids in Steele County with brand new backpacks full of school supplies.

Another activity in the fall was the Shop with a Cop program. Twenty-two children were granted money from Salvation Army to spend shopping for school clothes with the shopping advice from local law enforcement. The program is designed to build relationships between local youth and law enforcement.

At the earlier stages of the 2015 Red Kettle campaign, the staff thought they might have to cut programming, now they are in the planning stages of adding programs, potentially for the senior population of the community.

Shepherd was awestruck about the campaigns quick turnaround. She reasons that perhaps that this year was extra slow in the beginning due to the lack of snow until days before Christmas.

Shepherd said that her and the staff are elated and are excited to help more people in 2016.

STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That on Monday, February 1st, 2016 starting at 7:30 pm., the Steele County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Commissioner's Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN, to receive comments on the following permit application.
Lemond Solar Center LLC has requested to construct a 5000 KW solar farm on property located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 7, Owatonna Township and the SE ¼ of the SE 1/4, Section 12 of Meriden Township on property owned by Allan Terpstra.
All persons interested are invited to attend said hearings and be heard on these matters.

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

1/19

Classified

Dodge County
Independent
Dodge County
ADvantage
Steele County Times

3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$30
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER



FOR SALE



REAL ESTATE



AUTO

**REACH OVER 17,000 IN
OVER 12 COMMUNITIES**

To place an ad: Call: 507-583-4431, E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net, Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

EMPLOYMENT

Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord. PT PM positions available. Must be 18, have current MN driv. lic. & pass background check. \$11-\$11.25. Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview St. West Concord. "EOE" 2-5

Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord, FT and PT PM positions available. Must be 18, have current MN driv lic & pass background check. \$11.00-\$11.25. Full benefits package for FT positions. Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview Street, West Concord. "EOE" 3-6c

Looking for weekend milking. Contact 507-634-4308 4-5c,6p

Immediate opening for Part-time dishwashers. Looking for dependable working persons dishwashing weekend and evening shifts available. Flexible schedule, advancement opportunities, quarterly cash bonuses for students. For interview, stop in or call Scott 635-2331 Hubbell House Mantorville 4-5c

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Mobile Home lot and mobile homes for rent at Southside Mobile Home Park in Hayfield. No Pets. Call JMC for details. 507-536-0000. 43tfc

1 BR Senior Apt available in Hayfield. Rent based on income. Heat, water/sewer, trash paid. Elevator, community room, laundry on site. (62+ or handicapped/disabled) Equal Housing Opportunity. 507-477-2316 or 507-634-4188. 1tfc

Prime office spaces for rent on Main Street, Kasson. High traffic location. Call 634-4307 for more information. 37tfc

Dodge Center, 2 story, 3 bedroom home. Full basement, bath and a half. Kitchen and bath recently remodeled. Double attached garage, large yard. Non smokers. \$950 dep. & \$950 rent. (507)374-6392 or (507)374-6747 47tfc

3 BR house for rent in Kasson. Rent based on 30% of your income. Attached garage and washer/dryer hook-ups. Must meet household criteria – minimum household size of 5 members. Go online to www.semmchra.org to complete an application or call Janeen at (651) 565-2638, ext. 203 for more information. Equal Housing Opportunity. 4-5c,6nc

Main Street store for lease, 2-3000 sq.ft. Contact Pat 319-6762. 1tfc.

2016 New Year's Rent Sale. Sign a 1 year lease and get 1 month FREE rent. In Hayfield, an 1880's renovated hotel with spacious rooms, hardwood floors, microwaves and an ambience that is quiet small town living. We have the 1,2 or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Utilities included in rent. Call 507-796-0152 or 507-884-9706 or 701-330-9706 for sale details. 2tfc

RENT or buy, office/shop building, Kasson. Call 251-1628. 5tfc

Farmland for rent. 150 +/- tillable acres for rent Hwy 218, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917. Send bid by 01-30-16. 4,5c



MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



EMPLOYMENT

RAILROAD VEGETATION CONTROL:
Full-time traveling opportunity, 60-80 hours/week, \$12-\$15/hour starting, meal allowance, paid lodging & benefit package. RAW, Inc. in Cooperstown, ND 888/700-0292 www.rawapplicators.com info@rawapplicators.com

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

CDL A DRIVERS
\$7,500 sign-on-bonus. Medical benefits on day 1 & \$65k+ in your first year!!! Guaranteed pay. Profit sharing. 401K with company match & more! Email resume: mnhr@mcclaneco.com or call Hollie now! 507/664-3038

NOW HIRING

Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

CONTRACT SALESPERSON
selling aerial photography of farms on commission basis. \$4,225.00 first month guarantee. \$1,500-\$3,000 weekly proven earnings. Travel required. More info msphotosd.com or 877/882-3566

EVENTS

HOME SHOWS – HEALTH SHOWS
Have a product or service you want to showcase to consumers? Exhibit in a MediaMAX Expo – 11 shows in 2016. www.ExpoGuys.com or 952/238-1700

FARMS & LAND

LOOKING TO INVEST
in farmland or sell farmland and rent back? I work with farmers/investors. Lindsey Brown, Pifer's Auction & Realty 701/371-5538 - lbrown@pifers.com www.pifers.com

LAND FOR SALE

YELLOWSTONE AND MISSOURI
river properties offered for sale. Easily accessible. A nature enthusiast's heaven on Earth. Visit www.montanalandauctions.com to view details. Contact Jason Dunham 406/366-5588

MISCELLANEOUS

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!
Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096

MISCELLANEOUS

XARELTO USERS
Have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you may be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, call InjuryFone today! 800/591-7054

GOT KNEE PAIN?

Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

DISH NETWORK

Get more for less! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706

YOUR AD HERE!

One phone call & only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! 1-800-279-2979

Dodge Center, 2 bedroom apt. Stove, fridge, water, and garbage pickup furnished. No pets, non-smokers. \$550 dep. and \$550 rent. 507-374-6392 or 507-374-6747. 4tfc

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbonless forms, computer stationary. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfc

TUTORING. Learning can be fun! All grades - most subjects. Linda L. Greene 507-374-2363. 38tfc

CEDARS
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
30 YEARS IN AUSTIN

**\$1,000
Sign-on
Bonus!**

**Now Hiring: CNA's, RCA's
Sign-On Bonus with Incentive Pay**

Apply in Person or Online:

700 First Dr. NW, Austin
www.cedarsofaustin.com



**KRUEGER
TRUCKING**

CDL driver over the road dryer van. Driver benefits included. Paid holidays, vacation pay, and 401K health plan.

**Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
1-800-634-3317**

5-7c

**Full-time
Customer Service
Representative Position
PINE ISLAND BANK**

Pine Island Bank is currently seeking a full-time Customer Service Representative to join our team. Job responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, cash handling and performing customer transactions with accuracy. Requirements for this position are as follows: 1 to 2 years banking experience preferred, satisfactory credit history, previous cash handling experience, attention to detail, excellent customer service skills, and ability to multitask. Applicants need to have a positive and professional attitude. Must be willing to work rotating Saturdays.

Please address your resume to
barndt@pineislandbank.com
or drop off in person by **January 24, 2016.**

Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities,
protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.



Pine Island Bank

Expanded services for a growing community



4-5c



**DODGE COUNTY
911 Dispatcher**

Dodge County is accepting applications for the position of PT 911 Dispatcher. We will also be establishing a list for future PT and FT openings. Duties include the operation of the public safety answering point. Ability to handle multiple calls and the radio at the same time. Shifts vary including nights, weekends, and holidays. Visit our website at

www.co.dodge.mn.us

for application forms or contact Employee Relations at the Dodge County Courthouse at (507) 635-6239. Application deadline: 01/26/16 at 4pm. EOE

Woodward Repair LLC
AMERICAN/FOREIGN
1004 West Main St. • Kasson



WANTED: FULL TIME
MECHANIC WITH KNOWLEDGE OF
AMERICAN AND FOREIGN VEHICLES.
HEALTH AND DENTAL BENEFITS.

Call 507-634-4741

**WHEN A NURSING HOME IS NOT
FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE...**

Wellington adult care has trained staff who work 24 hrs. a day to provide you with services such as prepared meals, medication management, personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special diets are not a problem. We also arrange transportation to and from medical appointments accompanied by staff or family. We supply laundry services, and housekeeping. Our home is wheelchair accessible. We have a 1 to 5 staff to client ratio. All rooms are private. We serve a variety of clients over the age of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.

For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134

20tfc

Part-Time Work



The National Association of State Department of Agriculture is seeking someone to collect agricultural data from farmers in Dodge County and adjoining counties. Prefer someone with farm background and knowledge of agriculture.

If interested, please contact Odean Johnson/Supervisor New Richland, MN.
Call 507-382-7505 between 6 p.m.-9 p.m.



**DRIVERS-
Class A
Hiring Event**



**NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER
AT McLane!**

Starting Salary in the \$65k's!!

- Guaranteed Pay with Starting Salary in the \$65ks First Year!
- Medical Benefits Day 1!
- 401K W/Company Match
- Paid Vacations and Holidays
- Regional Routes with More Home Time

Visit our Job Fair:

Jan. 20, 21, and 22nd
from 7am - 5pm

McLane Company, Inc.
1111 W 5th Street
Northfield, MN

Eligible CDL A Applicants:
21 Years of Age / HS Diploma
50,000 Safe Driving Miles

Call Hollie at McLane Northfield Today!
(507) 664-3038 • Email resume: mnhr@mcclaneco.com



**DODGE COUNTY
Deputy Sheriff**

Dodge County is accepting applications for the position of Deputy Sheriff. Applications will be used to fill current PT openings. Must possess an active MN Peace Officer License or be eligible to be licensed at the time of employment. Visit our website at

www.co.dodge.mn.us

for application forms or contact Employee Relations at the Dodge County Courthouse at (507) 635-6239. Application deadline: 2/5/16 at 4 p.m.

EOE



Adaptability is important in the workplace

Employee turnover, downsizing, an economy in flux, and many other factors contribute to the ever-changing face of business. While men and women might once have hoped to grow old with a company, today's workers are more inclined to switch jobs several times before they retire. Companies routinely evolve to serve their customers, a learning process that will include some trial and error. Companies should be willing to try new strategies as they adapt to ever-changing markets. Workers who are flexible and able to adapt to adjustments in the workplace are among the most desirable employees. What defines adaptability varies depending on the profession, but taking the time to learn how to accommodate the needs of bosses and other workers can be a great way for men and women to ensure their long-term success.

Recognize the likelihood of change. Professional environments are fluid, and employees who resist change may find their employers deem them expendable. Employees must recognize that change is part of the business world and must go with the flow to maintain their good standing with employers. Look for benefits. A willingness to be flexible can benefit employees just as much as it benefits employers. Employees may find that

a flexible schedule or the ability to telecommute presents new opportunities that can make life easier. Keep lines of communication open. Many men and women like working for companies that are willing to try new things. Keep lines of communication with supervisors open to ensure

your ideas are heard, and encourage subordinates to offer their ideas at every turn. Don't equate flexibility with being a pushover. Flexibility should not go so far that an employee feels taken advantage of. As companies change, the process is best if it involves give and take on the part of employees and their employers.

CDL/OTR DRIVER WANTED
Driver benefits included, Paid Holidays, Vacation Pay, Health Insurance, 401K
KRUEGER
TRUCKING
AUSTIN, MN • 800-634-3317

CEDARS
SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
30 YEARS IN AUSTIN
\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus!
Now Hiring: CNA's, RCA's
Sign-On Bonus with Incentive Pay
Apply in Person or Online:
700 First Dr. NW, Austin
www.cedarsofaustin.com

Jobs in Owatonna & Faribault
JOB FAIRS!
January 27 & 28 | 9 AM-4 PM
Owatonna office | 146 West Broadway
507-444-9088
www.Doherty.jobs

Doherty
STAFFING SOLUTIONS
EOE | Drug Free Employer

BUESING
CLASS A CDL DRIVER
BULK TRANSPORT INC.
• Paid pneumatic training.
• Take assigned truck home with you.
• Average \$1,000-\$1,200 a week.
• Home weekly. • Medical, dental, life ins. available.
• 401K (Company contribution.) • Well-maintained equipment. • Holiday bonuses.
1-800-242-2402, ext. 122
Send resume to kevin@buesingbulk.com

TRACTOR/TRAILER MECHANICS WANTED
Full Time 1st and 2nd shifts \$16-\$24 HR/DOQ, DL and Tools Preferred, Will Train the right person. Benefits include: Med. Ins., Pd Time Off, Uniforms, and Simple IRA
Superior Material Handling
Call or Fax Jim • 507-214-2196 • Fax: 507-214-2197

DRIVERS NEEDED
Irlbeck Grain
We are accepting applications for full/part-time drivers pulling 53' dry vans. Providing service to our customers in the Midwest and being home on weekends. All drivers must be CDL class A certified and have a minimum of 2 years verifiable driving experience. Drivers must possess customer service skills as well as a safe dependable background.
Irlbeck Grain offers great pay with incentives, a sign-on bonus, paid vacation, and holidays; with the opportunity for 401K.
Please call 800-237-8503, email irlbeckgrain@hotmail.com or visit our office at 72670 State Hwy. 16, Grand Meadow, MN

Office Assistant
The Steele County Times has an immediate opening for a part-time office assistant/bookkeeper. The candidate must be proficient in QuickBooks and other computer programs, including Microsoft Word. This person will be responsible for operating the office and must be focused on customer service.
Send letter of interest and resume to Alan Van Ormer, Managing Editor, Steele County Times, P.O. 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

\$7,500 SIGN-ON BONUS
OTR TRUCK DRIVERS
KECK ENTERPRISES, INC OF OWATONNA
is looking to hire several **OTR reefer truck drivers**. Class A driving experience is a must. We are currently offering a **\$7,500 Sign-on Bonus**. Earn up to 47 cents/mile on all dispatched miles. **Vacation Days & Holiday Pay**. Driving schedule is open to your needs, just let us know.
ASK FOR DOUG
507-463-2679

Hiring?
Call Julie **TODAY!**
To place your ad
507-583-4431
bpjulie@frontier.com
STEELE COUNTY Times

L.A.D.C. Counselor
Full-time and Part-Time
South Central Human Relations Center

South Central Human Relations Center seeks One Full-Time and One Part-Time Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor for employment at our Dual Recovery Program in Owatonna; competitive benefit package offered. Join an innovative program offering treatment for adults with mental health and substance abuse problems. South Central Human Relations Center is a comprehensive multidisciplinary community mental health center that has provided a full continuum of care for over 50 years. Visit our website at www.schrc.com for more information and details on applying. EEO/AA
507-451-2630
SOUTH CENTRAL HUMAN RELATIONS CENTER
Providing Direction for Life's Problems Since 1964

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Higher wages at Koda!
The MN Legislature approved additional funds for 2016!
Apply Now!
OPEN POSITIONS
Resident Assistants
Stop by to visit with Susan Doty, Housing Manager or Sharon Bexell, Director of Nursing at Park Place Senior Living or give us a call: Susan – phone 446-3130 or email susan.doty@bhshealth.org or Sharon – 446-3152 or email sharon.bexell@bhshealth.org

Park Place
A KODA LIVING COMMUNITY
125 Park Street East, Owatonna 507-451-0808

Koda
LIVING COMMUNITY
2255 30th St NW, Owatonna, 507-444-4200

Open Resident Assistant shifts at Park Place:
2 – 10 p.m. and 4:30 – 7 p.m.
Training Provided. No experience required, just a love for the elderly and talent in caring for people!

Open positions at Koda Living Community:
Day Cook, and Certified Nursing Assistants
New AFSCME union wage scale is effective January 1st...call 444-4202 to see what you could earn.

Excellent Benefits Include: Health Insurance – 75% of premium paid by employer plus annual \$1,200 employer contribution to Health Saving Account! Also, Dental, FSA, Life, Disability and 401K retirement plan with employer contribution match.
Park Place and Koda are members of Steele County Communities for a Lifetime. We offer excellent career advancement opportunities starting with Home Health Aide / Resident Assistant to Certified Nursing Assistant to Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse. Full tuition scholarships for all of these career advancement opportunities is available to hard working and committed employees.
Employment applications are available on our website listed below. For other employment opportunities available at Koda Living Community call Howie Huntsman, Human Resources Manager at 507-444-4202. Call Today!

www.kodaliving.org | Equal Opportunity Employer

JOIN A FORTUNE 1000 COMPANY OFFERING OUTSTANDING HVAC CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
It is the policy of Daikin Applied to provide equal employment opportunity (EEO) to all persons regardless of race, creed, color, religion, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, marital status, membership or activity in a local commission, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

NOW HIRING
Assembly
Sheet Metal Fabrication (CNC preferred)
Maintenance Technicians
Brazers
Material Stock Handlers
MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
H.S. Diploma or GED required.

APPLY IN PERSON
Between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday or online at www.daikinapplied.com
Faribault
Daikin Applied Faribault
300 24th Street
Faribault, MN 55021
Owatonna
Daikin Applied Owatonna
1001 21st Ave NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

‘Sister Act’ is theatre at its best

For 47 years actors and actresses have been entertaining at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, located in Chanhassen, a community just west of the Twin Cities.

Minnesotans are quite fortunate to have had this commodity available for cultural ingestion. We are truly blessed in Minnesota to have the best of the best when it comes to the arts.

Whether it is Chanhassen, the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, a local community theatre group or a group of volunteer artisans in Blooming Prairie or the Blooming Prairie High School Drama Department, we have many opportunities to share our love for acting.

Blooming Prairie High School actors put on their best sides for Peter Pan this past fall and there have been many other memorable productions at the school over the years. Current Times sports reporter LeMar Nelson played a couple of powerful characters in the productions of “Harvey” and “Annie.” He played Elwood P. Dowd and Daddy Warbucks, respectively.

My wife Judy and I and friends Dawn and Dwayne trekked to Chanhassen recently to see “Sister Act,” labeled a divine musical comedy.

“Sister Act” tells the hilarious

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

story of Deloris Van Cartier, a wannabe diva whose life takes a surprising turn when she witnesses a crime and the cops hide her away in the last place anyone would expect – a convent!

Set around the Christmas holidays, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices as she also rediscovers her own in a sparkling tribute to the universal power of friendship.

The Chanhassen production continues through February and will then be followed by Walt Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast, which opens on March 4.

The acting talent in “Sister Act” was phenomenal with Regina Marie Williams play-

ing the lead, Deloris Van Cartier. Her good looks, strong acting voice and powerful singing voice captured the love of the audience.

Williams is an Ivey Award recipient, a Helen Hayes Nominee and a McKnight Theatre artist.

The rest of the cast members carry the show with no noticeable glitches.

The transformation of a group of off-key musical nuns into a melodic choral group is fun to watch.

One of the more dynamic performances comes toward the end of the performance when Sister Mary

Robert, played by Britta Ollmann, sings “The Life I Never Led.” Some of the Twin Cities play reviewers praised Ollmann for her performance and said she almost upstaged Williams.

Star Tribune critic Graydon Royce commended Williams for her performance and called out Britta Ollmann a strong second. Ollmann played the shy and confused sister who found her voice with Deloris’ encouragement.

Here’s what Royce said about Ollmann: “I reviewed Ollmann as a kid in 1999

and have watched her over the years. To see her now as this great adult artist who captured the audience was a little overwhelming. I have a hunch, though, that I was not the only one verklempt after she sang “The Life I Never Led.” Ollmann’s earnest innocence and voice make Mary Robert the sweet heart of this show.”

As we listened to Sister Mary Robert, aka Britta Ollmann, I thought, “I know this person.” It turns out that Britta is a native of Forest Lake where we lived for more than 25 years. Judy and I know her father Charlie

well. He is also a musician. He owns a very successful music store business in Forest Lake.

Britta actually got her start in acting at age 8 in several Children’s Theatre productions. Her performance in “Sister Act” was her debut at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. She has starred in many local productions and holds a BFA from New York University and an MA in teaching from Hamline University.

I strongly recommend taking in “Sister Act” and any other production Chanhassen promotes.

Since 1968, Chanhassen

actors have entertained nearly 12 million guests. More than 3 million people have attended with a group, more than 99,000 were students in groups and 46,800 buses have parked in the Chanhassen lots.

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre has hosted 1,845 weddings, 1,485 banquets and business meetings.

Follow the arts and be uplifted. Chanhassen is less than two hours away, a distance worth traveling to see some unbelievable acting talents.

Education brief

Minnesota students named to NDSU dean’s list

Area Minnesota students were among the 3,782 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2015 dean’s list.

Former Owatonna students on the dean’s list are Bryton W. Jorgensen, university studies, Austin J. Schultz, mechanical engineering and Timothy W. Starman, French.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least nine

class credits to qualify for the spring list.

Local students named to MSU Moorhead dean’s list

The following students have been named to the Minnesota State University Moorhead dean’s list in recognition of academic achievement fall semester 2015. Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average and carry 12 graded credits to qualify for the honor.

Making the dean’s list from

Owatonna were Jacob Busse, construction management and pre-engineering, Raven Hanson, English and Madison Lyken, graphic design.

MSU Moorhead is a comprehensive university offering 74 majors with 70 emphases and options, 11 pre-professional studies programs, 12 graduate degrees, 28 certificate programs, 31 areas of teacher licensure preparation, plus online and off-site programs in the Twin Cities.

MSUM is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Panic spurred Trom to join cancer group

By ALAN VAN ORMER
Managing Editor

It was a traumatizing experience in 2008 that could be the reason Connie Trom decided to become part of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

“In 2008, a dear friend passed away from breast cancer and left three beautiful daughters behind,” Trom said. “My husband and I felt an awful sense of panic set in. We were terrified that those three lovely young women were headed for the same fate. We wanted to do anything we could to make sure they didn’t and realized that continued



research was the best way we could support that.”

Most residents are aware of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and that its mission is to fund cancer research. “Other than contributing occasionally, my exposure was just

like most folks...a local non-profit doing good things,” said Trom, who is a member of the group’s board of directors.

Trom added that because the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is made up entirely of volunteers and there are no administrative costs, we felt it was the best use of our contribution dollars. “When cancer struck my own family a couple of years later, the support that the local Blooming Prairie Cancer Group provided just reinforced my belief that we can make a difference - both to cancer victims and their families and to helping fund research,” she said.

Sponsored by

KREJCI



TAX PREP GUIDE 2015

Contribute to retirement accounts

If you haven’t already funded your retirement account for 2015, do so by April 18, 2016. That’s the deadline for contributions to a traditional IRA, deductible or not, and to a Roth IRA.

However, if you have a Keogh or SEP and you get a filing extension to October 17, 2016, you can wait until then to put 2015 contributions into those accounts. To start tax-free compounding as quickly as possible, however, don’t dawdle in making contributions.

Making a deductible contribution will help you lower your tax bill this year. Plus, your

contributions will compound tax-deferred. It’s hard to find a better deal. If you put away \$5,000 a year for 20 years in an investment with an average annual 8 percent return, your \$100,000 in contributions will grow to \$247,000. The same investment in a taxable account would grow to only about \$194,000 if you’re in the 25 percent federal tax bracket (and even less if you live in a state with a state income tax to bite into your return).

To qualify for the full annual IRA deduction in 2015, you must either: 1) not be eligible to participate in a company retirement plan, or 2) if you are eligible, you must have adjusted gross income of \$61,000 or less for singles, or

\$98,000 or less for married couples filing jointly. If you are not eligible for a company plan but your spouse is, your traditional IRA contribution is fully-deductible as long as your combined gross income does not exceed \$183,000.

For 2015, the maximum IRA contribution you can make is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are age 50 or older by the end of the year). For self-employed persons, the maximum annual addition to SEPs and Keoghs for 2015 is \$53,000.

Although choosing to contribute to a Roth IRA instead of a traditional IRA will not cut your 2015 tax bill—Roth contributions are not deductible—it could be the better choice because all withdrawals from a Roth can be tax-free in

retirement. Withdrawals from a traditional IRA are fully taxable in retirement. To contribute the full \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are age 50 or older by the end of 2015) to a Roth IRA, you must earn \$116,000 or less a year if you are single or \$183,000 if you’re married and file a joint return.

The amount you save for making a contribution will vary. If you are in the 25 percent tax bracket and make a deductible IRA contribution of \$5,500, you will save \$1,375 in taxes the first year. Over time, future contributions will save you thousands, depending on your contribution, income tax bracket, and the number of years you keep the money invested.

WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE

LISA ACKERMAN
Certified Tax Prepaer/Accounting Services

1122 South Oak, Owatonna MN
507-451-3399 | wats@gofast.am

Tax Preparation & Accounting Services

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

Ellen Stebbins
Accountant - EA, RAP, ABA

Phone: 507-583-6601
507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

FAST INCOME TAX, INC.

Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR-ROUND

- COMPUTERIZED TAX FOR FEDERAL & ALL STATES
- INDIVIDUAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, PARTNERSHIP, PAYROLLS & PAYROLL TAX
- CORPORATE & FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTING SERVICE

We offer electronic tax filing (federal & state)

204 SW 12th Street, Austin

Locally Owned & Operated - Erik C. Newhouse, CPA - Quickbooks Pro Advisor

507-437-8511

IT’S REFUND SEASON

To celebrate, we’re giving \$1000 to 1,000 people daily. The sooner you enter, the more chances you have to win.

Walk in or call 800-HRBLOCK to make your tax preparation appointment today.

318 N CEDAR AVE
OWATONNA, MN 55060
507-451-1491

H&R BLOCK
hrblock.com/grand

LIMITED TIME OFFER. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. For official Rules and Alternate Method of Entry, visit hrblock.com/grand. Open to legal U.S. residents (50 states + DC & PR) age 18+ Entry period: 1/16-2/15/16. One entry per taxpayer with paid federal tax return. Daily drawings 1/16/16-2/15/16 + final drawing on 2/19/16. 1000 winners per drawing. 32,000 winners total. Total ARV: \$32,000. Void where prohibited. OBTP#B13696 2015 HRB Tax Group, INC