

Woman of Achievement



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Cheri Krejci was honored as the 2017 Woman of Achievement. Her speech was brief, but true to character as she demonstrated her deep humility.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

From among five nominees, Owatonna Business Women awarded Cheri Krejci the honor of the 2017 Women of achievement at their annual fundraiser.

Krejci, from Blooming Prairie, is well known for her efforts in the fight against cancer. As an active member of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, Krejci has been tireless in her efforts to raise funds for a cure. She also champions education as a founding board member of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation.

When not doing community service, she can be found at Krejci Ford, where she has been the officer manager for over 30 years. Her work includes managing payroll, accounting, and inventory control. She’s won the customer satisfaction award 15 times.

When receiving the award, Krejci was clearly moved. In lieu of any big speech, she simply said, “I’m more honored than I can say.”

Such humility is not unusual, according to Katie Glazer, President of Owatonna Business Women. It’s her privilege to call the five nominees for the award to tell them they’re being honored. More often than not, she’s met with confusion. “you must mean someone else,” the nominees will re-

spond.

Krejci’s fellow four nominees were no less impressive than herself. Each showed a dedication to her community and a special field to which she had dedicated her efforts.

Linda Hoffman is the manager of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute and Penny George Institute for Health and Healing in Owatonna. She is also a member of AUWW, a big sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and serves on the board for the county food shelf. She had the distinction of being nominated for the award by the entirety of her staff.

Kellyanna Moore is a physician and surgeon at Mayo Clinic in Owatonna, where she also serves as vice-chair for the Family Medicine Department. “You truly care about the health and well-being of your patients,” Glazer said when speaking to the reason for Moore’s nomination.

In her spare time, Moore has hosted exchange students and supported Young Life, as well as Junior Achievement. She is also an enthusiast for photography.

Amy LaDue is the Director of Teaching and Learning for Owatonna Public Schools. She is currently working on her PhD for Education

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Drug Court graduates celebrate sobriety

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was a banner day on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 for two graduates of the Steele-Waseca Drug Court.

“Without the Drug Court, I would be sitting behind bars,” said Dave Sauter, of Owatonna, the 15th graduate of the Steele-Waseca Drug Court which is just under three years old.

“It hasn’t been easy but I did it,” said Kelly Hamburg, of Owatonna, the 16th graduate of the drug Court.

The two, dressed in judges robes, stood before Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Buetel as he congratulated the pair on their accomplishments. The two Drug Court graduates have logged 1614 days of sobriety, 783 for Sauter and 831 for Hamburg.

The graduation ceremonies were witnessed by a packed Steele County board room at the Steele County Administrative Center in Owatonna.

Sauter said he had “40 years of prison time over my head” for charges of first degree sales of meth, second degree sales of meth and fifth degree possession.

Hamburg was sent to the Drug Court after she received her third DWI in November of 2014. This was a violation of her probation and “the end of the road for me,” she said.

Her third DWI came when

COURT
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Project Manager selected for courthouse

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At last week’s county board meeting, the commissioners moved to select local company Rocon Inc. as the project manager for the renovations for the courthouse after its recent damage due to a burst pipe in the attic.

County administrator Laura Elvebak put out a notice two weeks ago that the county was seeking a project manager. She received four proposals.

Two local companies AJ Lysne and Rocon submitted, as well as Contegritty Group, Inc. out of Little Falls and Zenk, Read, Trygstad & Associates, Inc. out of Albert Lea.

Commissioner Gnemi said he was “comfortable with someone more local.”

“I like the idea of having a local contractor,” Commissioner Abbe agreed. Both Rocon and AJ Lysne’s proposals were comparable in cost. Rocon, however, could start by March 6.

“They’re both fine,” said Gnemi citing his previous experience with both.

“Availability is the big thing,” said Commissioner Brady advocating for Rocon’s early start date.

Abbe moved to approve Rocon’s proposal as project manager at \$185 per hour for a start date of March 6. It unanimously passed.

Feedlot proposal stirs a stink near Ellendale

BY RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A proposed feedlot that would house nearly 50,000 turkeys in western Steele County is drawing a stink with at least one neighbor who would be in the direct path of potential smells from the operation.

Jim Lageson lives on a 15-acre farm site just west of Ellendale. Though he did not grow up there, he is the fifth generation of his family to live on the farm. “It’s like a dream. As a child, I thought it would be cool to live there,” he said.

But Lageson is beginning to have second thoughts.

Less than a mile from his place, a hog feedlot has been operating for nearly a decade. Members of the Holland family, owners

of the hog operation, are now seeking approval from Steele County officials to build four turkey barns in close proximity to their hog feedlot. A second operation would house two barns of 23,000 turkeys near the Berlin Cemetery north of Ellendale. A zoning meeting was set to tackle the issue Monday night in Owatonna.

Lageson plans to fight the proposal. “My concern is that it is such a concentration of waste and manure,” he said. “I feel like my property is being used as a dumping ground.”

About 10 years ago Lageson moved from the Twin Cities to live on the Ellendale property. In 2008, a hog feedlot was built west of his place. At the time

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Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Jim Lageson and his dog enjoy country living on their 15-acre farm west of Ellendale. Lageson is concerned about a proposed feedlot of nearly 50,000 turkeys that could be built near his farm in Berlin Township located on the western edge of Steele County.

The ill-fated crash that continues to burn



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

The Ford Expedition that was brought into Larson’s Towing was the culprit that started the fire in one of Larson’s outbuildings. The fire spread quickly and destroyed two outbuildings and two vehicles.

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Though Minnesotans are being swaddled in the warm blankets of spring birth this week, it’s hard not to remember that snowstorm just a few weeks back. It was dubbed as the central-swatch blizzard of 2017.

A storm where Minneapolis flew under the radar with a few flakes and central Iowa simply watered their crops. Anything in between was a mess.

The blizzard blew into Minnesota on Thursday, Feb. 23. By Saturday the sun had returned but the ice and snow remained a problem. Roads were impassible, towns and people were stranded and plows were working feverishly to come to the rescue.

There was a major crash that occurred on the southbound lanes of I-35 just outside of Ellendale. It caused the entire stretch of road to be closed from

Owatonna to Highway 90 just west of Ausin. All available towing companies were called to the scene.

One of those towing companies was Larson’s Towing out of Ellendale. Roger Larson towed two vehicles that day. One was a Ford Expedition, the passenger was in the process of moving and the vehicle had all his household belongings packed to the rafters.

Brake lights flashed in front of him, he applied his breaks to avoid the car in front of him, but the semi tractor-trailer behind him went into a hard slide and crashed into the vehicle, leaving a massive hole in the back of the SUV and dislodging the drive train.

The other vehicle towed by Larson that day was a 2017 Chevy Tahoe. It too had been disabled as the vehicle careened into

FIRE
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Opinion

Our view

It's madness

It came in like a lion. Hopefully the lamb will appear soon and stay until the end. For many people here in America, March Madness is equated with the celebration of a long winter season coming to an end.

That celebration is basketball. Many think that Brent Musburger, former Chicago Daily News sports writer coined that phrase in 1982 as a broadcaster for CBS. It actually was published in 1939 by Henry V. Porter, an official for the Illinois High School Association as he said, “A little March madness may compliment and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel.”

Here in the Midwest, it is the celebration of shedding long coats, hats and gloves and actually playing basketball in the backyards and driveways that had been too long under water. Frozen water.

Ah spring. The sun comes and warms the snow and ice, pats it on the behind and sends it flowing on down the road. The road to the final four.

We just want to recognize and throw a shout-out to all the kids, coaches, parents and fans who have followed and supported student athletics during the brutal Minnesota winters. It is a time when most people are hibernating and taking cover under down comforters of a dark and cold season.

Here are the people that brave the harsh. They spend one of the longest sports seasons of the year in the midst of brutal elements, rise and fall with each snow day that cancels an event that they had worked so hard to prepare for. They rise early long before the sun comes up to grab some gym time which is at a premium.

Parents having to GPS the venues in driving snowstorms, find a great parking spot just a half-a-mile away from the gym. Then they push on through the blustering gale of snow and sleet to get into the building only to find out that they are playing at a different gym.

Student athletes in rural Minnesota march to a different drummer. They sacrifice something when it comes to study time, whether it is leisure time, family time or sleep time. Then there are the other clubs they might be interested or perhaps extra activities such as band, newspaper or yearbook.

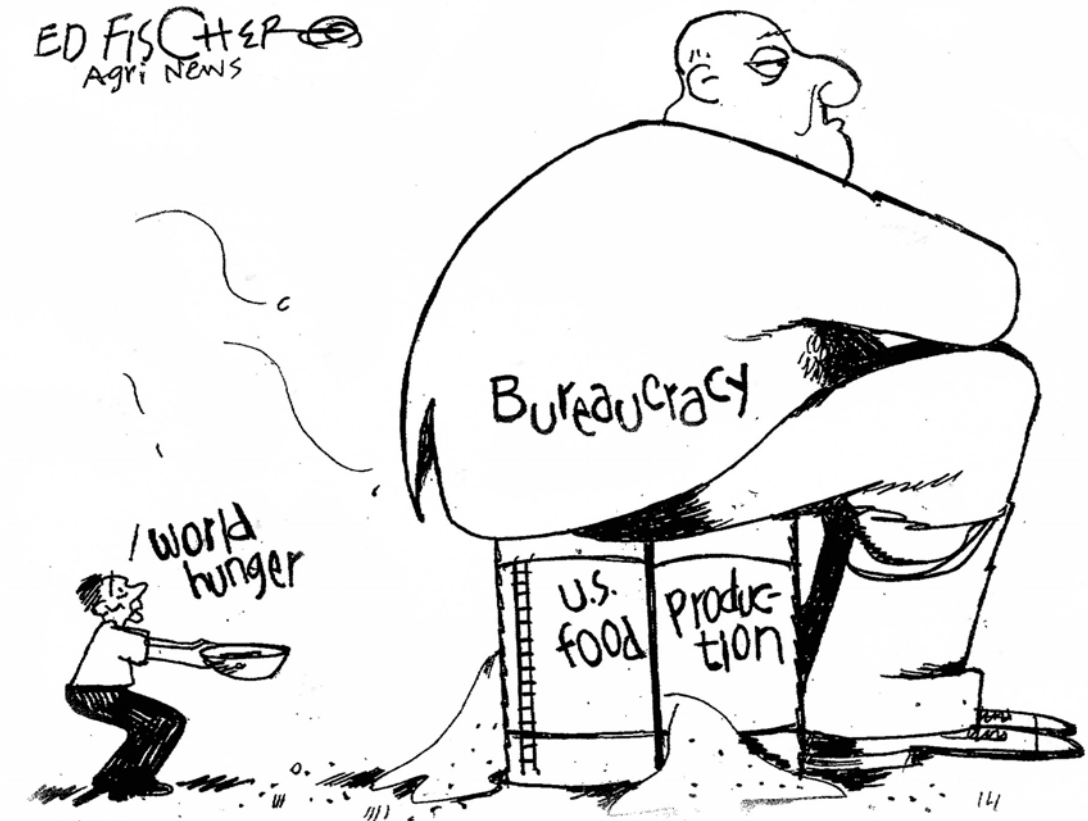
There is a lot of weight put upon the shoulders and people that encounter this unique brand of student would do well not to add more weight, but afford them some help. Coaches also during this time of year, or any for that matter deserve some praise.

Sure, they get paid for their time, but when you figure out how time consuming the job is, and that a dedicated coach will always go above and beyond, you realize that they are not doing it for the money, but for these incredible kids.

The next time there is an awards ceremony, clap a little longer. When the thank-you card passes over your desk, do more than just sign your name. At the end of the season, come together as a part of the team and bless that coach with something lasting. Something other than a \$10 gift certificate to McDonalds.

The greatest tribute is sports is a coach getting to hang on to something long after the lights go out in the gym and the crowds are gone and the noise fades. A Michigan team once donated all the shoelaces out of their shoes. One of the mothers braided them all together to spell out “coach” and then mounted and framed it. As if that wasn’t tear-jerking enough, the kids recited a poem at the awards banquet for this coach. The shoelaces... so he would always have a part of them with him.

Extraordinary coaches and extraordinary student athletes with the backbone of extraordinary parents.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

And now the rest of the story.

As our staff prepared the annual spring farm tab, which is one of our largest publications of the year and comes out this week to rural residents, I came across something that intrigued me from the late radio broadcaster Paul Harvey, who famously coined the phrase, “and now the rest of the story,” during his broadcasts.

Harvey gave a speech at the 1978 Future Farmers of America convention and it was first published in his syndicated column in 1986. It was given as an extension of the Genesis creation narrative referring to God’s actions on the eighth day of creation. He described the characteristics of a farmer in each phrase and ended them with the recurring “So God Made a Farmer.”

The speech was even used in a commercial by Ram trucks during Super Bowl XLVII , featuring photographs of rural America set to the narration of a portion of Harvey’s speech.

I’d like to share with you some excerpts from Harvey’s speech.

So God made a farmer

“On the eighth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, ‘I need a caretaker.’ So God made a Farmer.”

“God said, ‘I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, milk the cows, work all day in the field, milk cows again, eat supper then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the school board.’ So God made a Farmer.”

“I need somebody with arms strong enough to wrestle a calf and yet gentle enough to deliver his own grandchild; somebody to call hogs, tame cantankerous machinery, come home hungry, have to await lunch until his wife’s done feeding the ladies, then tell the ladies to be sure and come back real soon, and mean it. So God made a Farmer.”

“God said, ‘I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave bales, yet gentle enough to wean lambs and pigs and tend to pink combed pullets; who will stop his mower for an hour to splint the broken leg of a meadowlark... Somebody who would bale a family together with the soft, strong bonds of sharing; who would laugh and then sigh, and reply with smiling eyes when his son says he wants to spend

his life doing what dad does. So God made a Farmer.”

The essence of this speech underscores the importance of agriculture. Farmers are vital to our country. Agriculture is the backbone to the nation. The benefits are significant, including providing livelihood to people, helping in economic development , contributing towards the national income and perhaps most importantly, offering food security for all of us.

With spring right around the corner, it’s a great time to look forward with optimism for our farm friends. Farmers are important because they work hard on their farms and they grow plenty of crops for us.

I grew up on a farm and recognize the sacrifices my father made to help our country. He dedicated more than 50 years of his life to working the land and raising pure-bred hogs. I am proud of my farm heritage and the values I learned on the farm, which have stayed with me throughout my entire life. I admire all those who have committed their lives to agriculture.

It’s time to go in hot pursuit of recognizing God’s eighth day creation. So now you have the rest of the story as Paul Harvey would say.

Letter to the Editor

Are you ashamed of what you are taking out of the county?

Dear Editor,
I read in last week’s Steele County Times that some county employees were upset that their salaries were published. That was only their base pay. What they really cost taxpayers is base plus benefits equals total cost.

I’ll give you an example of what I am talking about. Laura Elvebak, county administrator, gets \$9,966.67 per month base pay. With benefits of \$2,983.02, she costs taxpayers \$12,949.69 per month, or \$155,396.28 per year. Her benefits per year add up to \$35,796.24. These people make more in benefits than some people make working all year. You can add a good

\$30,000 and more to their base pay and then you get the true cost.

It’s no wonder we have to bond for roads, bridges, buildings and equipment. Nearly all the taxes collected go to just to paying employees.

The list of county employees published by the Times was far short of a complete listing of all county employees. You did see only about half of the county employees. I don’t believe that the social workers and welfare department were on that list. The total number I believe is close to 500 employees.

If publishing the list upset some of you, are you ashamed of what you are taking out of

Steele County?

Marlene Nelson
Owatonna

**Editor’s Note: The social workers questioned by Ms. Nelson are actually employees of the Minnesota Department of Human Services and are on the state payroll, and not the county’s. District court employees, including local judges, are another example of state employees, though they work in the county courthouse. The salaries of state employees can be accessed online at www.twincities.com/minnesota-public-employee-salaries.*

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Guest Column

Real ID legislation approved in Minnesota House

By JOHN PETERSBURG

The Minnesota House has approved legislation that would allow Minnesotans to obtain Real-ID compliant identification, which is necessary in order to allow travelers to board an airplane beginning in 2018.

Feeling it was an invasion of privacy, Minnesota legislators approved a law in 2008 barring Minnesota's Department of Public Safety from even discussing Real-ID compliance with Homeland Security. That ban was removed last year, and the

COLUMN

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2017
2 State Awards

2016
6 National Awards
8 State Awards

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
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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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Second Front

Ellendale Muni on the market



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Muni manager Tami Hallum and bartender Missy Drewlow stand outside the Ellendale Muni. The Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store has officially been placed on the market. The rumors that it i closing have been exaggerated. The hope is that new owners will keep it alive and well and back to the greatness it once was.

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

“The Muni is on the market,” said Ellendale council member, Stephanie Kibler.

A long-standing Ellendale business is officially for sale, and residents are hoping that it doesn’t mean a closing of the doors, but simply a change in ownership.

Ellendale Mayor, Russ Goette said, “The store is Offered by Coldwell Banker. The plans are to remain open until which time the ownership transfers. We are offering the sale because we feel it is in the best interest of the city.”

The Ellendale Municipal Li- quor Store or “the Muni” as it is affectionately called by locals is a bar, liquor store and eatery, offer- ing off-sale and on-sale liquor as

well as a lunch and dinner menu with a wide variety of burgers, sandwiches and appetizers.

“Our hope is that it can be as great as it was in times gone by,” said Kibler. “I think it’s a very good asking price considering it is a restaurant and liquor store. In addition, the city might also con- sider a package with the adjacent vacant lot.”

For \$295,000 you can be the owner of not only an up and coming establishment, but with the adjacent property, there is the possibility for expansion, a beer garden or outside patio area. The possibilities are endless.

“We are wanting to get the word out to the public that just because we are on the market, doesn’t mean we are closing our doors,” said Muni bar manager Tami Hallum. “We have so many ideas that we are developing and

we would like to think that we will still be here whether the City of Ellendale owns it, or there are new owners.”

The bar has undergone many changes in its storied past. From being one of the worst perform- ing municipal liquor stores in 2011, it has steadily improved with changes such as the addi- tion of serving food, and selling liquor on Sundays.

In the wake of Ellendale fac- ing a steep financial hill ahead in recent light of the upcom- ing MN-dot project, getting the Muni off the city books may be a very smart business idea.

Hallum, who is also a full-time travel agent with Certified Travel in Albert Lea has many years of experience in business manage- ment and sales and although any renovation and restoration proj- ect has bumps in the road, she

has not lost that enthusiasm for making the Muni great again.

Some of Hallum’s ideas are establishing a regular wine tast- ing event as well as getting the community on board with food and drink specials for Minnesota sporting events.

Although born and raised in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, she has amassed quite an impressive resume. “I used to manage three local radio stations in Albert Lea, Spring Valley and Austin. It took a lot of hours and hard work.” Hallum said. “ In mar- keting, you have to learn about the whole entity of the business. You have to learn what makes the business function.” She has implemented plans to achieve these goals, and with her at the helm, this makes the Muni an even more attractive purchase.

Firefighter finds fire at home

FIRE: from page 1A



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Roger and Joyce Larson from Larson’s Towing shown in front of one the buildings that was destroyed by a car fi e last Tuesday. Joyce was home at the time of the blaze, while Roger who is also an Ellendale fi efighter was out on a tow when he got the all-call dispatching multiple fi e departments to his residence.

had been disabled as the vehicle careened into the cables and guard rail on the side of the highway.

The road was finally opened around 2 p.m. Saturday and all that remained of the carnage were towed vehicles, people in the hospital and uncomfortable memories. It was over.

Part two of this saga continues Tuesday, Feb. 28, at a little after 9 a.m., back in Ellendale. Larson, who is a firefighter in Ellendale was out on a tow and was heading back to his shop where his pager went off. “My pager

went off,” Larson said. “And to my surprise the dispatcher said that there was a fire at Larson Towing and it came in as an ‘all-call.’ When I got to the I-35 overpass, I could see huge billows of smoke on the horizon.” Which must have left a sickness in the stomach knowing the fire is at your residence, you see the smoke and can’t get home fast enough to find out how bad it is.

“By the time I got home,” Larson said, “the site the shed where those vehicles from that I-35 crash were parked was fully engulfed in flames.”

Larson’s wife, Joyce, who was home when the fire broke out said that a Minnesota State Patrol trooper had arrived to get information on the vehicles that had been towed the previous Saturday. “He came to the door and asked me for the keys,” said Larson. “He wanted to go out and turn the key so that he could get into the computer for vehicle information.

“The next thing I know, he comes running into the house asking me to call the fire department and told me not to go near the windows in case



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Ford Expedition was burned beyond recognition and the year of the car could not be determined. Previous damage occurred to the vehicle only days before in a multiple-car pileup on I-35. The back of the Expedition was severely damaged as a semi rear ended it, rendering it inoperable.

gas tanks would blow and I could be hurt by flying glass.”

Evidently, the trooper turned the key on to gain the vehicle information and returned to his cruiser to make some notes. He looked up and noticed flames coming from the vehicle. At that point he left his car and went into the home to alert anyone in the house as to safety concerns.

Within minutes, other Minnesota State Patrol cars arrived on scene followed by Larson who had been just a few miles from home when the all-call went out.

“I went to the shed and opened the door where the Tahoe was parked,” Larson said. “I thought that perhaps I could at least get that vehicle out, but by the time I got the tractor to pull it out, the flames had pretty much engulfed the structure.”

At that point, all this firefighter could do was stand back and wait for the Calvary. The first firetruck that arrived was Ellendale’s new pumper- truck. The city had recently purchased the used firetruck and this initial baptism by fire was for one of Ellendale’s own

firefighting personnel.

The ill-fated crash continued to devastate, days after the initial pileup on the interstate. There were no injuries in the fire or in the fighting, thereof. Overall the fire destroyed two outbuildings and two vehicles.

There has been much excitement in the past year with derailments, car accidents, scams and this most recent event. Larson agreed that disaster has put Ellendale on the map of late, but for all the wrong reasons.

Thoughts from a coach and a fan and a dad

LITTLE THOUGHTS
ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK
DELAP

I coached my first basketball game Dec. 13, 1975. We lost. I have that competitive personality that, if you beat me, I will do everything in my power not to let it happen again. Does it happen again? Absolutely. It’s a quirky thing we all live in, called life.

It doesn’t stop the competitive nature. That drives us to learn and to improve and to bend as a willow instead of breaking as an oak. It’s funny about basketball. You can win a game with a buzzer beater in the last second and can be dubbed the greatest coach of all time. You lose that game in the same manner and everything goes under

the microscope. I’ve been in both situations, and although I love the exhilaration from the win, I learn more from the loss. Failure to achieve a goal brings focus. Or, it should.

This year I was content to “stay retired” from coaching and to enjoy my last son’s final high school season. I was honored by the coaching staff at Blooming Prairie to come along for the ride, to be a part of practices and to be able to watch the end of Seth’s high school basketball career from a closer perspective.

Nate Piller, Andrew Hardecopf and Brian Nelson were the coaching staff that I not only entrusted with my son’s last games, but with his final development. At the beginning of the season, I knew just a little bit about the coaches and was a little bit apprehensive, knowing that they were only in their sophomore seasons at the helm.

Although each coach had already amassed a few years of coaching under their belts, I wondered how they would do this year. The crucial year for me.

I have worked with many

coaches and programs in my life – from John Wooden to Jim Valvano, from elementary to professional, from community level to international. At 5-Star and with the Scottish national teams, we are called in to educate not only the players, but coaches.

Some coaches know it all. Those are the ones who are not coachable. The coaches with potential and what we call “sponges of the sport” are coaches we labeled “on the grow.” Their programs improved with each season of experience.

At 8:18 last Thursday night, the 2016-17 Blossoms basketball season flat-lined. All too soon, it was over. I’m a realist. I know that every coach in Minnesota loses their last game with the exception of four. I know that as a coach, you never stomach it well.

I witnessed firsthand, the character of our coaching staff this year and they are not only “coaches on the grow,” but coaches who have a heart for our kids. The team that was on the floor at the end of the season was very different from the team that took the floor for the first time back in

November.

As coaches grow, the team grows. In all areas. Technique, teamwork, determination, character and responsibility. As a part of their team, I’ve personally grown this year. I’ve seen the planning sessions so detailed and mapped out by Pillar – giving direction to his generals and to his team. Only another coach can look at a program and know just how time was invested. These coaches invested their lives and on a level that I’ve not seen in a lot of coaches.

They didn’t coach for themselves, but gave themselves away. To their fellow coaches, their team and to this community. As I saw the tears in Nathan Piller’s eyes last night after the game, the questions were all answered that I had at the beginning of the year. This man is the genuine article.

I predict that before it’s all said and done, this staff will one day experience what I have only experienced three times in my lifetime. A final win on the last game of the year.

But in the meantime, you must know that success is



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Blooming Prairie boys varsity basketball team finished it’s season last Thursday in the first round of the playoffs at Fairbault Bethlehem Academy. The game was a nail-biter down to the wire and the game was much closer than the 56-45 final score indicated.

not based on how many wins or losses are in the standings, but how your team can stand in the midst of the growth. It was an honor to serve with my brethren of coaches this year.

It was a joy to be associated with players that didn’t know how to give up and who, no matter what the score, walked to the bus with their heads up, knowing what

they accomplished. It was overwhelming to watch my last son laces down for the last time in high school.

Coaches, I am proud of you. Players, I salute you. Fans, I thank you. Seth... I adore you. All my love and support in the coming months. Those few months from now when you will lace em up on a college floor.

Community split on Feedlot proposal

FEEDLOT: from page 1A

there was public opposition to the permit, but it was granted. On hot, humid summer days the smell becomes “unbearable,” Lageson said. Since moving to the farm, he has purchased central air conditioning in part because of the stench created by the feedlots. Five years ago the Lagesons found out their well was contaminated by non-human

E.coli bacteria. They haven’t drunk well water since and now purchase bottled water. He said a pollution control expert has testified in the past that the well contamination “could have been as a result of the feedlot operation.” The family is also unable to hang dry laundry outside because the smell saturates the clothing. They have also been forced to replace their septic

system. “I feel like I’m on this island and there is nothing I can do,” Lageson said, noting that thousands of gallons of liquid manure is spread all around his place. “I feel like we’re so helpless and I feel like we have suffered enough,” he added. If another feedlot is constructed near his place, Lageson is worried about even more serious environmental

effects. “There is potential for a lot of damage with air pollution and ground water contamination,” he said. “We left the city to get away from pollution.” Added Lageson’s wife, Nancy: “It’s not anti-ag, not anti-farm and not anti-animal, but why just outside of town?” Over the years the Lagesons have poured significant money into preserving the buildings on

their farm. “This is more than a piece of property to us. It’s our heritage,” he said. “We’re not city slickers that bought a small place,” he added. Lageson said he enjoys country living, but not with all the problems created by feedlots. Ever since he was a kid, he dreamed of living on the farm. “I wanted to carry on the family tradition of living here,” he said.

“The quality of life has changed out here,” he said. “These are industrial, manure factories. They’re not farms. It’s disappointing—first the hog barns and now the turkey barns.” Lageson said he doesn’t want to “be this ogre living in the area,” but he is prepared to protect the quality of living his family has enjoyed for generations.

Cheri Krejci honored as 2017 Women of Achievement

ACHIEVEMENT: from 1A

Policy and Leadership. She has been an inspiration to working mothers by not only working for better education for children, but also raising a family of her own along the way. Kim Schaufenbuel is the Executive Director for the United Way of Steele County, as well as the Program Director of Steele County Safe and Drug Free Co-

alition. The arts have seen considerable patronage from Schaufenbuel. She’s worked with the Little Theater of Owatonna, Merlin Players, The Owatonna Art Center, The Paradise Center for the Arts, and The Owatonna Community Chorus. According to Glaser, Schaufenbuel is “paving the way for the women who come

after [her].” After being nominated, all of these women had to submit 10 to 16 pages explaining their impact on their community. Once being selected for the final five, each woman sat for a 30 minute interview with three out of town judges. The three women judges then selected the Woman of Achievement.

In addition to these women, three young careerists were also recognized. Ryan Gillespie, Kate Harthan, Janie Rolloff are still early in their careers, but they’re already impressing those who see them at work. The youngest women honored were the recipients of the Graduating Senior Scholarship. Ashley Gilbertson and Britta Ganter

are expected to do great things as they attend the University of Wisconsin-Stout and Northeastern University respectively. Vikki Ebenhoh and Michelle Miller were also awarded scholarships to continue their education. Finally, author Mary Mickelson was honored as the 2017 Pioneer Woman for not just her writing but her extensive com-

munity service as well. Leaving that evening, you felt a glow after seeing so many wonderful women recognized for the irreplaceable work they have done for their communities. Kristin Haberman, the chair of the event, said it best when she said, “You just feel good when you leave.”

Real ID legislation approved by house

COLUMN: from page 2A

bill approved by the House begins the compliance process. Because of Homeland Security’s direction that it wants to have the ability to verify a person’s identity in order to keep us better protected, we’ve had to go through a few hurdles to approve a compatible driver’s license. But we also know there are

people that are very concerned about their private data. This is why our bill provides a two-tier driver’s license system. Minnesotans can choose between a Real ID-compliant license that ensures they can easily board an airplane or enter federal facilities, as well as a second option for those who

wish to opt-out of the federally mandated Real ID requirements. In other words, if you choose to keep the license you have and not obtain one that is Real ID authorized, you can. However, you will need to have a passport or some other form of identification for getting on airplanes or going onto military bases.

Without meaningful steps that put Minnesota on a path to compliance, the federal government can and will prevent Minnesotans who do not have a Real ID-compliant identification from getting on airplanes in 2018. Last year, our state’s request for an extension was again denied because we have not

taken the appropriate steps to become compliant. Until we do, the deadline of 2018 will prevent Minnesotans from boarding commercial airplanes unless they have a passport. I think this bill will address everyone’s concerns about flying and their concerns about privacy. I think it was a great op-

portunity for us to comply and allow people to move about the country as they wish.

John Petersburg is in his third term as a state representative for District 24A, which includes portions of Steele and Waseca counties.

Two graduate from Steele-Waseca Drug Court

DRUG: from page 2A

she was stopped by authorities who watched her drop off her 10-year-old son Avery at school. The March 1 graduation was the highlight of the actual Steele-Waseca Drug Court session. Earlier in a courtroom setting, Judge Bueltel counseled 23 participants in the program. He questioned each participant as to their progress in the program. Judge Bueltel scolded one participant, saying she was not honest with the court with her wreckless

and careless behavior. “You are in Phase 4 of the program and we want you strong leaving the program,” Bueltel told the participant. Candidates for the program cannot have a disqualifying crime of violence. They must reside in Steele or Waseca counties and their addiction must be a contributor to their criminal behavior, explained Drug Court coordinator Nicole Grams. The Drug Court requires court attendance ranging from weekly

to monthly, contingent on each phase. Recovery hours include treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of cognitive skills programs that help change thinking, which in turn changes behaviors and recovery events ranging from nine hours weekly to three hours weekly. Sauter was in the program for 577 days, attended 46 court hearings, logged more than 391 recovery hours and took more than 166

compliance tests. Kelly started in the program on Dec. 22, 2014 and logged 801 days in the program. She was facing six months in jail. Kelly attended 58 court hearings, logged more than 562 recovery hours and took 2343 compliance tests. Before he was enrolled in the program, Sauter was “on the run from the cops and hiding in the open” for two years. He was homeless and said he even ate out of garbage cans.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Kelly Hamborg and Dave Sauter enjoy some happy moments at their graduation from the Steele-Waseca Drug Court during ceremonies on March 1 at the Steele County Administrative Building in Owatonna.

Sauter credited Drug Court for turning him straight. He complimented Judge Bueltel for being an honest and fair judge. “He knows what people need to get back on track,” Sauter told The Times. The Steele-Waseca Drug Court “got me going in the right direction,” said Kelly as she thanked the Drug Court and her family for supporting her. “There are no words that can express how proud I am of Kelly,” said her mother, fighting back her emotions. Sauter’s father Jim, of Blooming Prairie, said he “lost” his son

for three years, got him back and then lost him again. “Because of his addiction, I thought he was going to be lost for the rest of my life but now, I got him back,” Jim said with heartfelt emotion. Sauter’s fiancée Lindsey thanked the Drug Court and said she was proud of Dave who she will marry on June 24. Sauter’s employer Bob Ayers of Foamcraft, Inc., said Sauter has become an invaluable employee. “You’ve earned it buddy,” Ayers said in directing congratulations to Sauter for his graduation.

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The ABCs of picking a Medicare supplemental policy

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can you provide any advice on choosing a Medicare supplemental policy to help cover things outside of Medicare? I'll be 65 in a few months and could use some assistance.
Looking for Help

Dear Looking,
 If you plan to enroll in original Medicare, getting a supplemental policy (also known as Medigap insurance) too is a smart idea because it will help pay for things that aren't covered by Medicare like copayments, co-insurance and deductibles. Here are some tips to help you choose an appropriate plan.

Medigap Plans
 In all but three states (Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Medigap plans, which are sold by private health insurers, come in 10 standardized

benefit packages labeled with the letters A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, M and N.

Plan F is the most popular policy followed by plan C because they provide comprehensive coverage. Plans K and L are high-deductible policies that have lower premiums but impose higher out-of-pocket costs. Plan F also offers a high-deductible version in some states. And a popular middle ground policy that attracts many healthy beneficiaries is plan N.

For more information on the different types of plans and the coverage they provide, including Medigap options in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, see Medicare's "Choosing a Medigap Policy" guide at Medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/02110-medicare-medigap.pdf, or call 1-800-MEDICARE and ask them to mail you a copy.

How to Choose
 To pick a Medigap policy that works best for you, consider your health, family medical history and your budget. The differences among plans can be small and rather confusing.

To help you choose, visit Medicare.gov, and click on "Supplements & Other Insurance" at the top of the page, then on "Find a Medigap policy" and type in your ZIP code. This will give you a list of the plans available in your area, their price ranges and the names, and contact information of companies that sell them. But it's up to you to contact the carriers directly to get there specific pricing information.

You can also compare Medigap prices on most state insurance department websites (see NAIC.org/state_web_map.htm for links), or you can order a

personalized report from Weiss Ratings for \$99 at WeissMedigap.com.

Since all Medigap policies with the same letter must cover the exact same benefits (it's required by law), you should shop for the cheapest policy.

You'll get the best price if you sign up within six months after enrolling in Medicare Part B. During this open-enrollment period, an insurer cannot refuse to sell you a policy or charge you more because of your health.

You also need to be aware of the pricing methods, which will affect your costs. Medigap policies are usually sold as either: "community-rated" where everyone in an area is charged the same premium regardless of age; "issue-age-rated" that is based on your age when you buy the policy, but will only increase due to inflation, not age; and



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"attained-age-rated," that starts premiums low but increases as you age. Community-rate and issue-age-rated policies are the best options because they will save you money in the long run.

You can buy the plan directly from an insurance company, or you can work with a reputable local insurance broker.

Drug Coverage
 You also need to know that Medigap policies do not cover prescription drugs, so if you don't have drug coverage, you need to consider buying a separate Medicare Part D drug plan too. See Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare plans. Also note that Medigap plans do not cover vision, dental care, hearing aids or long-term care either.

Alternative Option
 Instead of getting original Medicare, plus a Medigap policy and a separate Part D drug plan, you could sign up for a Medicare Advantage plan that provides all-in-one coverage. These plans, which are sold by insurance companies, are generally available through HMOs and PPOs. To find and compare Advantage plans visit Medicare.gov/find-a-plan.

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, March 13th, 2007
 The days in March are slipping away' the beginning of April and the upcoming vote on the bond questions for the Blooming Prairie School District approach fast. With the vote on the two questions now within a month, it is up to voters to become informed and knowledgeable about the imminent voting choices.

Opportunities for gaining this knowledge will be easily available within the next few weeks. The school board will be hosting informational sessions at the High School on Tuesday, March 20th, Thursday, March 22nd, and Monday, March 26th.

Starting at 6 PM, the sessions will consist of a tour of the present facilities with superintendent Olson and school board members followed by an informational meeting at 6:30.

Blooming is by far not alone in requesting funds for renovation to their public schools.

Kasson-Mantorville school district is having their own bond votes in April and Junes, and Triton is using alternative bonding to pay for an indoor air quality improvements that

are paid for without a vote from those in the school district.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, March 11th , 1997
 Designing and implementing a tracked nutrient cart won Larry Stebbins a spot in the special "Wizard with Steel" Feb. issue of Progressive Farmer magazine.

Precision farming is a popular technique that depends on GPS's for nearly unlimited observations about crop fields. With yield-mapping software, you can identify places that are underproductive and then soil-test them to help and identify the problem.

Stebbins says he is concentrating on the mechanical end of precision farming in working out the delivery of nutrients to crops.

The tracked nutrient cart he developed is constructed from salvage tracks, axles and bar steel. It serves as a versatile platform from which he can vary the application rate of his nutrients.

The cart holds 725 gallons of liquid nitrogen, 1,600 gallons of supplemental potash, two 325-gallon tanks of phos-

phorus, and a 200 gallon tank of starter fertilizer. Using visual aids in the field, Stebbins manually adjusts the nutrient mix for particular spots in the field. Hydraulic pumps apply the rate he wants.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, March 10th, 1967
 A short in the background cable knocked out the street lightning in the business district, adjacent side strets, and along Highway 218 last Wednesday night, March 2nd, and as yet full service has not been restored.

According to informarion received from the Municipal Light Plant Tuesday, the service on main street is not expected to be repaired soon as the short in the underground cable and due to frost in the ground it cannot be found and repaired at this time.

If it were not so late in the season, overhead wiring would have been installed to restore full service, The Times was informed.

At the present time, the "white-way" from the First National Bank to Lunds Blacksmith Shop is functioning and the lighting along 218, howev-

er, a "black-out" still exists on the north side of the business district and on some adjacent side streets.

The Blooming Prairie Co-op Creamery was notified recently by the Headquarters Fifth United States Army, Chicago, Illinois, that it had been sanitarly approved to supply churned butter and manufactured dry milk to the armed forces.

The local creamery underwent a sanitary inspection recently by the Department of the Army and they can now supply these supplies to armed forces.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, March 12th, 1942
 The Red Cross emergency sewing room here reports good progress in production of wearing apparel by the corps of volunteer workers now meeting three days each week in the community building.

To date 38 men's pajamas, 23 hospital shirts, 19 girl's dresses, 6 bed jackets, 5 layettes and 2 children's pajams, have been completed or nearly completed.

The work in this division is under the direction of Mrs.

Golberg and Mrs. Ole Olsen.

Mrs. Henry Volhart is I charge of the knitting work, but production along this line is still awaiting official instructions from headquarters.

The local sewing room ladies report that they are still in need of various colored yarns for afghan squares. Anyone having something to contribute should get in touch with the chairman of this operation.

It will be bicycles for prizes this year.

It will be bicycles- not automobiles- this year for prizes at

the Steele County Free Fair on August 18th-23rd.

Parking for autos on the fairgrounds this year will be 25 cents per car. The gate will remain free as usual. Grandstand admissions was set at 75 cents for afternoons and evenings and 50 cents for bleachers both afternoon and evening.

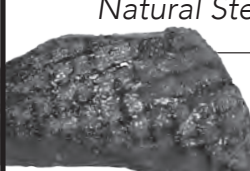
Dr Betlach, new member of the board, was appointed head of the parking committee.

The board also voted to hold horse racing Friday and Saturday afternoons.



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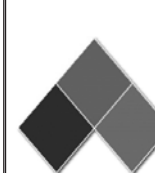


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Obituaries

Marlys O. Spinler, 83 of Austin

Marlys O. Spinler, 83 of Austin, died Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, at St. Mark's Living in Austin.

Marlys was born Oct. 25, 1933, in Blooming Prairie, to Palmer and Ora (Hanson) Johnson. She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1951. Marlys married Richard E. Spinler June 6, 1951. She was a secretary for 28 years for H&S Carburetor.

Marlys was a very good cook and homemaker. In her spare time, she enjoyed needlework, flower garden-

ing and traveling. She was an active member of St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

She was preceded in death by her son Craig Spinler, parents Palmer and Ora Johnson, sister Beverly Swenson and four brothers Darrell, David, Marvin and Gayle Johnson.

Marlys is survived by her husband, Richard Spinler, Austin; daughters and sons-in-law: Kerry and Ray Kennemer, Dumas, Texas, and Kara Spinler and her husband Scott Malo, Rochester; daughter-in-law: Sue Spinler,

Austin; five grandchildren: Carisa (Casy) Blackwell, Julie (Mark) Elston, Matthew Spinler Malo, Michael Spinler Malo and Kyle Spinler; five great grandchildren: Brittny (Andy) Payne, Emily Blackwell, Tyler Blackwell, Haley Elston and Sara Elston; great great grandchildren: Emma Payne and Austyn Payne; sister Hjordes Ebling, Red Wing; nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 4, at Clasen-Jordan Mortuary. The Reverend Mark Nietham-



mer officiated. Interment was held at Oakwood Cemetery.

Shirley R. Winter, 68 of Ellendale

Shirley R. Winter, age 68 of Ellendale, died Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017, at her home. Shirley Ruth Volkmann was born July 12, 1948, in Waseca, the daughter of Jacob and Clara (Roeker) Volkmann. She grew up on a farm in Elysian, Minnesota and graduated from Waterville High School in 1967.

On Aug. 3, 1968, Shirley and Douglas Winter were united in marriage in Elysian. This union was blessed with 3 sons. After Doug's tour of duty in 1970, the couple moved to Faribault. Then for five years the family lived in Warsaw before moving back to Faribault in 1978 until 2008.

After Faribault, they moved

to Blooming Prairie, and had spent the past two years in Ellendale. Shirley belonged to Trinity Lutheran Church in Faribault and First Lutheran Church in Ellendale. She enjoyed being outside, and especially liked flowers and gardening.

She provided day care, enjoyed sewing, and was a country music fan. Her favorites were Kenny Rogers and Hank Williams Sr. Shirley was a goodhearted person, always willing to help. She liked to make people laugh. She treasured her family and their time together. They will miss her dearly.

Shirley is survived by her

husband Doug of Ellendale; two sons Robert Winter of Waseca and Joseph Winter Sr. of Faribault; 3 grandchildren Klarissa and Dallas Winter of Ellendale, and Joe Winter Jr. of Princeton, Minnesota; great-grandson Carter Winter of Princeton; 2 brothers Ray Volkmann and Herb (Edna) Volkmann, both of Waterville. She was preceded in death by her parents, a child at birth, her son Danny Winter in 2016, her sister Arlene and her brother Victor.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Interment will be at a later date. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin



is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Magdalen A. Wencil, 89 of Blooming Prairie

Magdalen A. Wencil, age 89 of Blooming Prairie, died Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Magdalen Anne was born Feb. 5, 1928, in Clinton Falls Township, Steele County, to Walter and Mathilda (Schleret) Fisher.

She graduated with the class of 1946 from Owatonna High School, and went on later to earn her Licensed Practical Nurses degree. Mag was united in marriage to Raymond Wencil June 23, 1949, at St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna, and made their home in Blooming Prairie.

She was a longtime member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie and its Winona Council of Catholic Women. Mag was also active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post #878, and the Blooming Prairie Senior Citizens Center.

She is survived by her daughter Karen (Daniel) Stanley of Prior Lake, Minnesota; five sons Donald Wencil of Hopkins, Steven Wencil of Blooming Prairie, James (Laurie) Wencil of Forest City, Iowa, Brian (Christine) Wencil of Blooming Prairie.

Also, David Wencil of Mankato; seven grandchildren Michael (Sarah Lay) Wencil, Gregory (Heather) Wencil, Katie (Hernán Llerena) Wencil, Samuel (Katie) Wencil, Douglas Wencil, Travis (Emma) Stanley, and Kristin Stanley; great-grandson Bennett Wencil; many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond Wencil Jan.

15, 1976; son Daniel Wencil; sister Dorothy Zinda; parents Walter and Mathilda Fisher.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2017, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Father Thomas Niehaus officiating.

Visitation will be held Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home, and will continue Thursday morning for one hour before Mass at church. Memorials in Magdalen's memory may be directed to the Prairie Manor Care Center, or St. Columbanus Catholic Church. Interment will be in the St. Columbanus Church Cemetery.

Services pre-arranged and performed by Worlein Blooming



Prairie Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Roger D. Amundson, 76 of Blooming Prairie

Roger D. Amundson, age 76 died Friday evening, March 3, 2017, at his home in Blooming Prairie, with family and care giver at his side. He was born June 19, 1940, in Austin, the son of Sydney J. and Evelyn A. (Borchert) Amundson.

He attended school in Blooming Prairie, graduating from Blooming Prairie High School in 1958. Roger farmed in Newry Township until moving into Blooming Prairie 2005.

In addition to his farming, Roger was a businessman and entrepreneur and owned and operated Valley Golf Course in Mondovi, Wisconsin. He loved to go 4-wheeling, boating, golfing and driving his John Deere tractors.

Survivors include his children, Lori Amundson of Rockford, Brad Amundson of Maple Grove, Doug (Tara) Amundson of Rochester, and Lois (Brian) Nelson of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota; many loving grandchildren and great-grandchild; sisters and brothers, and Marian (Charles) Lehman of Medical Lake, Washington, Geraldine (Robert) Festul of Belle Vista, Arkansas, Marvin (Norma) Amundson of Owatonna and Gordon (Char-

lotte Snow) Amundson of Austin; a special care giver, Sadie Steele; many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, with Rev. Richard Hegal, officiating. Interment will follow the service at Blooming Prairie Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the church. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: 7th Allyson Skillestad Marissa Wacek Brendan McCabe Shirley Hinzmann David Miller	Jean Farr Heidi Schnefer
8th Noah Jonathan Nelson Cody Pashusta Jean Lee Clint Becker	11th Harlan Hansen Jon Carlson Neila Nelson Marion Mast
9th Jeremy Wangen Nicki Bishop Kylie Forystek Kim Eaker Lang Adrian Noble	12th Riauna Bishop Denise Thompson
10th Elizabeth Noble Brenda Yentsch Ryan Glynn	13th Kelli Williamson Shelby Jean Kasperek Andrea Farr Lonnie Lembke Kelly Peterson Evie Emanuel
Anniversaries:	

Milestones is sponsored by:

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Tuesday - Ham	Thursday - Your Choice
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SEMCAC senior menu

Mar. 8 Ham & 3 Bean Soup w/crackers Chicken Salad Sandwich Peach/Cottage Cheese Apple Crisp	Broccoli Cake Mar. 10 Potato Crusted Pollock Alt: Hamburger Pattie Wild Rice Pilaf Italian Blend Vegetables Romaine Salad Carrot Cake	Hot Dish Pickled Beets Carrot Coin Salad Homemade Dinner Roll Mixed Fruit Cup Mar. 14 Meatloaf Baked Potatoes Green Beans/ mushrooms Ice Cream
Mar. 9 Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy Cranberry Sauce	Mar. 13 Beef/Rice/Cabb	

Madelon Collette's 90th birthday!

An open house celebrating Madelon Collette's 90th birthday will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, March 18, 2017 at the Mower County Senior Center, 400 3rd Ave. NE, Austin, Minnesota.**

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Weapons Offense. On Feb. 27 at 11:48 a.m., deputies responded to a weapons offense in the 71800 block of 120th Ave. in Blooming Prairie.

Keeping the Peace

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

The Steele County Exchange Club honored deputy Aaron Guzman of the Steele County Sheriff’s Department as their Peace Officer of the Year Sheriff Lon Thiele, who nominated him for the award, introduced him to the club saying he was “someone who represents Steele County well.”

Guzman, who’s been working in law enforcement for twelve years, said, “I got into the law enforcement business to serve and protect.”

He works for the department training other officers and helping them adjust to changes in law enforcement over time. Guzman says it’s his job to access trends in law enforcement both locally and

nationally and train officers accordingly.

There were a 133 officers killed in the line of duty in the United States in 2016, a high since 2011. Guzman works to make sure the Steele County officers don’t number among them.

There are always ricks, he says, but “our oath is to protect you guys.”

His duty is protect the officers, so they can make it home to their families every day. “I don’t want to see any of our guys end up on a memorial,” he said.

His training has led officers to be more effective in the aid they provide to citizens. Last spring, he taught a tactical medical course on how to treat hemorrhaging by applying a tourniquet. One of the officers who took his course responded

to a call where a drunk man had punched a window in downtown Owatonna. He wandered into Central park leaving a trail of blood in his wake. When the officer found him, he applied a tourniquet to his arm to stop the heavy bleeding and saved the man’s life.

It’s incidents like this that illustrate how effective Guzman’s training courses are. New developments in law enforcement keep the need for training constant. Since he started on the job, Guzman says the technology used by law enforcement has greatly expanded, particularly in recording events with film and audio

Psychology has also become more significant in law enforcement training. Recent studies have dived into what happens when individuals per-

form under stresses. Guzman says its important to understand, so the techniques they train officers in will be steps a person could reasonably be expected to perform in situations of duress.

Speaking of duress, Guzman thanked the club for the honor, but joked he was a little sore over having to get up so early. Guzman works the night shift and his wife, an ER nurse, also keeps odd hours. The exchange club’s 7 a.m. start he said was a little difficult, but he was happy to be there and appreciated them honoring not just him, but all law enforcement by their continual recognition of people who work to protect Steele County.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Deputy Aaron Guzman of the Steele County Sheriff s department stands next to Exchange Club President Bruce Kubicek. Guzman has been recognized as the 2017 peace officer of th year for his work training fellow officer

CRIME BRIEF

Man faces several felonies after police chase

A police chase that began in Owatonna ended with a man being arrested and charged with multiple felonies.

Michael Hambrick has been charged with four felonies, including robbery, first-degree burglary, fleeing police and theft of a motor vehicle.

The charges stem from an incident that began Thursday afternoon in the 300 block of Glendale Place. Police went to a residence to mediate a disturbance. A short time later they went back for a robbery complaint.

According to police, Hambrick allegedly took a woman’s purse containing a large sum of money, punched her and fled in a vehicle. Officers pursued



Michael Hambrick

the vehicle, but terminated the chase near Medford a short time later because of public safety concerns and the fact that police knew the offender.

Police in Faribault located the car abandoned. Witnesses directed officers to an apartment building where Hambrick was hiding in a stairwell.

a subject for criminal sexual conduct in the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S. at 3:51 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at 26th St. NE and Cedar Ave. N. at 6:16 p.m.

Feb. 27

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:22 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Warrant. Officers made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 9:27 a.m.

Criminal Sex. At 3:28 p.m., police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct on Grove Ave. N.

Shoplifting. Police arrested a juvenile for a shoplifting incident in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 4:03 p.m.

Swat. At 6:22 p.m., officers responded to a Swat call out in the 300 block of Grove Ave. N. They took a subject into custody.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Thomas Ave. SW at 9:02 p.m.

Feb. 28

Thefts. Police took theft reports in the 100 block of Oak Ave. N. at 7:49 a.m. and in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 8:38 a.m.

Burglary. Police responded to a burglary in the 200 block of Rice St. E. at 9:12 a.m.

Truancy. At 10:03 a.m., officers

responded to a truancy incident in the 300 block of School St. E.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Vine St. E. at 10:49 a.m. and in the 600 block of Mound St. SW at 4:57 p.m.

Suspicion. Officers responded to suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:50 p.m.

March 1

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 7:48 a.m.

Warrants. Police made warrant arrests in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 8:19 a.m. and in the 100 block of Pearl St. W. at 7:38 p.m.

Assault. Police responded to an assault in the 1000 block of 22nd St. NE at 11:28 a.m.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 300 block of School St. E. at 11:45 a.m.

Domestic. At 2:51 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Beech Ave. NE. They took a subject into custody.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:04 p.m.

Suspicion. Police responded to suspicious activity at School St. E. and Cedar Ave. S. at 5:26 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Search Warrant. Officer assisted with executing a search warrant in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 9:15 p.m.

Theft. Police arrested a juvenile for the theft of a motor vehicle in the 1200 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 11:35 p.m.

March 2

Arrest. At 11:24 a.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Cedar Ave. N. and Rose St. W.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 26th St. NE and Kenyon Dr. NE at 1:48 p.m.

Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 5:28 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Feb. 20 – 24:

MN State Patrol Rochester

Antonio C. Aguirre, 35, Albert Lea, no license, \$181; Jessica J. Allen, 34, Dodge Center, speeding, \$131; Erica R. Anderson, 24, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Delfino A. Becerra, 30, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121;

Heather L. Brack, 33, West St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Nicole L. Crosbie, 40, Coon Rapids, speeding, \$131; Dallas R. Dammen, 72, Marshall, speeding, \$121; Oscar P. Delossantos, 21, Albert Lea, suspended license, \$281;

Tyler D. Demars, 22, Medford, speeding, \$141; Maggie J. Eschrich, 19, Savage, speeding, \$281; Joshua M. Lair, 39, Glenville, seat belt, \$106; Adriana Lazaro, 32, Albert Lea, suspended license, \$281; Cindy Lor, 21, St. Paul, speeding and no child passenger restraint system, \$271;

Grace C. Madison, 28, Brooklyn Park, suspended license and no insurance, \$481; Kyle D. McAvoy, 24, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Margaret J. Merry, 66, Spring Valley, speeding, \$141; Joseph J. Meyer, 37, Owatonna, speeding, \$221;

Ramya Mysore Venkatesha, 32, Owatonna, registration violation, \$111; Leslie A. Neer, 27, Minnesota Lake, speeding, \$141; Thy H. Nguyen, 40, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$141; Seth M. Prehn, 23, Austin, seat belt, \$106; Hildeberto S. Rivera, 43, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$141; Auvae D. Shcole Grant, 27, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$121;

Mason R. Squires, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Chad C. Stannard, 44, Mantorville, speeding, \$131; Darla J. Wondra, 48, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department

Seth W. Andrews, 25, DWI, \$481, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 224 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Michael R. Brainer, 24, Owatonna, stop sign and suspended license, \$331;

Carina R. Cuevas, 32, Pharr, TX, violation of restraining order, stay of adjudication, \$81 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Shannon M. Fedder, 31, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$131;

Jessica L. Gonzalez, 26, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Anthony B. Graham, 32, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Kelsie M. Green, 22, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Nicholas J. Heinz, 18, Lonsdale, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Frank E. Henry, 30, Paynesville, disorderly

conduct, \$81, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim and 6 months of supervised probation; Eric W. Johnson, 38, Spring Valley, revoked license, \$281;

Abdulkadir M. Khalif, 32, Faribault, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Jesse G. Klecker, 33, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, \$181, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Katie L. Kolterman, 36, Morristown, suspended license, \$281; Tori S. Lane, 38, Owatonna, no child passenger restraint system, \$131; Brandon J. Neitzel, 33, Owatonna, stop sign and no insurance, \$331; Nicole A. Nelson, 20, Ellendale, failure to yield, \$131;

Ricardo B. Padilla Buentello, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Justin S. Prondzinski, 34, Kenyon, offering a forged check, \$1,117.87 and 1 year in county jail; James D. Sackett, 55, Rochester, careless driving, \$181; Venus S. Smith, 37, Mankato, suspended license, \$281; Matthew N. Walter, 39, Owatonna, registration violation, \$181; Ryan E. Whelan, 34, Austin, no insurance, \$281.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office

James A. Bain, 51, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Brandin D. Botten, 28, New Ulm, revoked license, no insurance and expired registration, \$511; Matthew K. Butler, 30, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Corbin A. Gedicke, 17, Faribault, windshield violation and speeding, \$261; Holly N. Gundlach, 33, Middleton, WI, speeding, \$121;

Lindsay S. Hachfeld, 31, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Marilyn Harris, 34, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Jay P. Holmes, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$221; Talon M. Judson, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Scott P. Kasper, 51, Medford, speeding, \$121;

Jeffrey R. Kiewatt, 55, Le Sueur, speeding, \$121; Bernard Koslosky, 56, Medford, stopping on highway, \$121; Steven A. Lamotte, 47, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Pete J. Lemke, 32, Wamamingo, speeding, \$141;

Mercedes E. Morsching, 19, Morristown, speeding, \$121; Paul S. Niernan, 36, Byron, speeding, \$121; Joshua L. Pap, 40, Madison, WI, speeding, \$121; Ann M. Pickett, 36, Waseca, expired tabs and speeding, \$171;

Jason S. Ranslow, 40, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Kassondra L. Robinson, 26, Clear Lake, IA, expired tabs and speeding, \$161;

Marcelino Sanchez, 23, Owatonna, no license, \$181;

Eh Say, 27, St. Paul, invalid license, \$181; Sabrina R. Schmitz, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; John R. Shifflett, 46, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Brendon C. Strand, 16, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Natalie A. Velzke, 24, Waseca, speeding, \$121;

Vicki L. Verhota, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Pamela S. Wester, 55, Stewartville, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office handled 223 complaints during the week of Feb. 22 – 28. Some of them include:

Feb. 22

Animal. Deputies received an animal complaint from 1st Ave. SW and 2nd St. SW in Hayfield at 10:41 a.m.

Fire. At 12:20 p.m., a car caught on fire in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center. The fire was out prior to the fire department arriving.

Suspicion. Deputies found a subject walking on Hwy. 30 at 210th Ave. in Hayfield at 2:32 p.m.

Feb. 23

Barking Dog. A citizen reported a barking dog and possible animal neglect in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 9:54 a.m.

Feb. 24

DWI. At 1:43 p.m., deputies responded to a mini van stuck in the off-ramp at U.S. Hwy. 14 and County Rd. 25 in Dodge Center. The male driver smelled of alcohol. He was transported to the Steele County Jail on Feb. 26.

Domestic. A domestic disturbance occurred in the 800 block of Airport Dr. N. in Dodge Center at 4:38 p.m.

Feb. 25

Snowmobile. Deputies received a complaint of snowmobiles riding on the sidewalks and boulevards in the 400 block of Highway St. W. in Dodge Center at 2:44 p.m.

Feb. 26

Larceny. Deputy took a report of \$100 stolen from a purse in the 100 block of 5th St. SW in Dodge Center at 9:13 a.m.

Fish and Game. At 5:20 p.m., deputies received a report that a

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

- Daniel Decker – controlled substance crime – no bail
- Arturo Dector – DWI – no bail
- Felipe Delacerda – DWI - \$750 bail
- Jose Delbosque – dishonored checks - \$10,000 bail
- Jose Delrio – criminal damage to property - \$3,000 bail
- Derek Denelsbeck – domestic assault - \$3,000 bail
- Rachell Dentz – obstructing - \$3,000 bail
- Donald Derrick – theft – no bail
- James Desbiens – child support – no bail
- Michael Deslongchamps – DWI - \$6,000 bail

- Rey Diaz – escape tax - \$5,499 bail
- Tina Disher – assault - \$1,000 bail
- Panfilo Dominguez – DWI - \$6,000 bai
- Eric Doran – weapons - \$6,000 bail
- Loretta Dorsey – trespassing - \$2,500 bail
- John Douthit – cancelled license - \$3,000 bail
- Richard Doyens – deprivation of parental rights – no bail
- Brady Dubose – theft, shoplifting - \$1,000 bail
- Scott Dungey – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- Angel Duran – assault – no bail

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

ACTIVE
WARRANTS

male subject shot a coyote from the side of the highway at State Hwy. 30 and 250th Ave. in Hayfield.

Feb. 27
Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 10:12 a.m.

Suspicion. A citizen reported suspicious people in the 67000 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont at 2:46 p.m.

Drug Court. Deputies arrested a subject for violating drug court in the 500 block of Clyde St. in West Concord at 3:26 p.m. The subject was transported to the Steele County Jail.

Animal Bite. Deputies responded to an animal bite in the 300 block of Church St. in Claremont at 7:02 p.m.

Marijuana. At 10:52 p.m., deputy made a traffic stop at 2nd St. SW and 3rd Ave. SW in Dodge Center. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana.

Feb. 28
Counterfeit. Deputies received a report of a counterfeit bill in the 400 block of 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 2:57 p.m.
Harassment. At 3:33 p.m., a

Hayfield citizen reported receiving harassing phone calls and voice messages.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Feb. 20 – 27:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Gary R. Dahl, 45, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Gregory L. Demmer, 60, Hayfield, parking violation, \$32; Nathaniel H. Eddy, 24, Black River Falls, WI, revoked license, \$280; Justin R. McLaughlin, 25, Pine Island, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$180;
Lance D. Monroe, 47, Rochester, open bottle, \$180; Jose G. Rios, 33, Faribault, revoked license, \$280; Cheryl R. Shaw, 59, Dodge Center, stop sign and expired registration, \$160; Kevin P. Smith, 54, Bartlett, IL, stop sign, \$120;
Jason Y. Tanaka, 60, Valley Springs, CA, parking violation,

\$32; Richard A. Terwilliger, 60, Janesville, WI, parking violation and registration, violation, \$400; Harris R. Thompson, 21, Iowa City, IA, speeding, \$140; Amacende A. Torres, 24, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32.

Kasson Police Department
Joshua D. Clausen, 29, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Bradley C. Curtis, 54, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Joshua R. Kahl, 32, Kasson, revoked license, \$280;
Melissa M. Moe, 32, Kasson, texting while driving, \$130; Kaitlin B. Murphy, 27, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Shauna S. Otterness, 29, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Benjamin J. Rendler, 38, Rochester, parking violation, \$32; Joshua N. Tamez, 29, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Josh M. Upton, 35, Rochester, parking violation, \$32.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Summer V. Allen, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Hase Behlic, 37, Rochester, seat belt, \$105; David A. Ehmke, 41, Waltham, speeding, \$130; Amanda L. Fjerstad, 38, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Laura B. Hamersma, 18, Kasson,

speeding, \$130; Norma J. Hoffmaster, 46, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Barbra D. Hoglan, 48, Lime Springs, IA, speeding, \$140; Curtis E. Kempenich, 30, Faribault, speeding and revoked license, \$480; Michael T. McNeill, 45, Kasson, speeding, \$120;
Andrew J. Merseeth, 52, Saco, ME, speeding, \$130; Jordan R. Papinski, 24, Waseca, seat belt, \$105; MacKenzie M. Snow, 24, Kasson, speeding, \$120.

West Concord Police Department
Julio C. Madrid, 44, West Concord, invalid license, \$180.

ARREST
Steele County

Owatonna Police
Theresa Ann Christen, 42, arrested at 9:36 p.m. Feb. 24, domestic assault/assault, held for court.
Jose Antonio Gonzalez Jr., 21, arrested at 10:45 a.m. Feb. 25, warrant arrest, \$10,000 bail.
Angela Rose Herplinck, 34, arrested at 6:19 p.m. Feb. 25, felony motor vehicle theft, held for court.
Chase Douglas Hill, 22, ar-

rested at 4:56 p.m. Feb. 26, felony criminal sexual conduct, held for court.

Jon Martin Johnson, 43, arrested at 11:40 a.m. Feb. 27, assault, held for court.
Katherine Jean Davis, 32, arrested at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 27, cancelled license, held for court.
Cedric Antonio English, 44, arrested at 8:34 p.m. Feb. 27, felony possession, held for court.
Noshid Amir Abdul-Zahir, 41, arrested at 8:45 p.m. Feb. 27, felony possession, held for court.
Keith Allen Lindl, 21, arrested at 8:30 a.m. March 1, felony probation violation apprehension and detention, body only.
Michael Conroy Falvey, 25, arrested at 3:54 p.m. March 1, domestic assault and interference with 911, held for court.
Bradley Joseph Meyer, 27, arrested at 7:46 p.m. March 1, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Forest Andrew Wright, 20, arrested at 12:14 p.m. March 2, warrant arrest, \$5,000 bail.
Michael Jermaine Hambrick, 32, arrested at 3:19 p.m. March 2, felony motor vehicle theft, fleeing, robbery, domestic assault and reckless driving, held for court.
Ryan James Schroeder, 27, arrested at 6 p.m. March 2, assault/

domestic assault, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Faisal Mohamed Abdullahi, 27, arrested at 10:43 a.m. Feb. 25, warrant arrest, body only.
Christopher Michael Powers, 41, arrested at 2:45 a.m. Feb. 26, warrants arrest, body only.
Makenzie Jo Boone, 26, arrested at 5 p.m. Feb. 27, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.
Halie Marie Sievers, 30, arrested at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 28, warrant arrest, \$25,000 bail.
Christopher George Asplund, 42, arrested at 6:06 p.m. March 1, warrant arrest, \$12,000 bail.
Jonathan Scott Lantry, 29, arrested at 12:19 p.m. March 2, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

MN State Patrol
Justin Wade Mourray, 29, arrested at 5:48 p.m. Feb. 25, felony controlled substance, held for court.
Jesse Thomas Price II, 32, arrested at 5:48 p.m. Feb. 25, felony controlled substance, held for court.

Why now after 40 years?

BEHIND THE BADGE



SHERIFF SCOTT ROSE

Some wonder....why now? Just a few weeks ago we honored a fallen officer who had never been formally recognized for his service and sacrifice. His injury was in 1977 ultimately resulting in his death in 1999. Why was this so important nearly 40 years after the incident, and 18 years following his death? Why was it so important that we took the time to formally honor Hayfield Police (and part-time Dodge County deputy) Chief Doug Claassen for his service and his sacrifice?

Nearly 1,500 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty dur-

ing the past 10 years. That's an average of nearly one death every 60 hours – 142 law enforcement heroes paid the ultimate sacrifice last year. Nearly 60,000 assaults against law enforcement are reported annually, resulting in around 15,000 injuries every year. Assaults like the incident where Doug was injured in 1977.

Here in southeast Minnesota, 140 brave men and women have died while serving to keep our communities safe.

In Dodge County, we've had four line of duty deaths since the county was formed (two in Hayfield and one each in Claremont and the county). Most greater Minnesota counties have zero, one, or two line of duty deaths in their history. Unfortunately we've suffered more losses than most, especially in Hayfield. Why? Nobody knows. What we do know is that we can never forget the service a sacrifice of these great men.

Law enforcement officers and their families are part of a unique culture. There is no other profession in our society that serves quite the same role, or faces quite the same risks as a matter of course in their everyday work life. This

culture also creates a unique set of challenges for the families of these men and women. Law Enforcement officers work nights, weekends, and holidays. They miss special family dates – birthdays, anniversaries, school events, band concerts, choir concerts, sporting events, etc.

They are on heightened alert daily and need to be on guard and watch their backs both at work and off-duty with their families. Their kids may get teased or worse at school and must know to watch their backs as well. Officers work under the public microscope every day and know that the actions they take in a split second will be arm-chair quarterbacked by many – lawyers, media, and community. They understand they will be held to a higher standard than others both on and off duty – which in turn means their kids are held to a higher standard as well.

For many, this career will not likely pay enough for them to avoid needing a part-time job to raise a family and make ends meet – so not only do they miss many special family events in order to protect you and me, they also must spend time away from family to simply help pay the bills. These are truly

amazing and giving people!

Every day or night when these men and women go to work, they hug their families and tell them they love them knowing that every time they go out the door with that badge – they may be injured or killed in the line of duty. While this stress can wear on the officer, it most certainly wears on the families watching him or her go out that door each day. I know that first hand growing up with a father who was in law enforcement.

When an officer is hurt, or dies as a result of violence, the ripple effect it causes can be traumatic – for the officer, for the officer's family, for his/her fellow officers, and for the communities they serve.

The Claassen family lived and sacrificed every day Doug served Hayfield and this county, sacrifices the family made in order to do their part to help keep our community safe. Then Doug was injured. The Claassen family lived and sacrificed for years with the debilitating effects of his spinal cord injury until he passed away in 1999.

For fallen Law Enforcement Officer's surviving families, their sacrifice never ends. It's important for us as a society, to always honor all

fallen officers for their service to our communities, and to recognize their families for their sacrifice. We need to be there to support the families of the fallen - always. We need to make sure they know the appreciation we have for them, that we will always be there to support them, and ensure for them that their loved one's sacrifice will never be forgotten.

It's families like these, with the sacrifices they've made, that make Dodge County such an amazing place to live. It's important for the Havey, Lange, Claassen, and Guenther families to know their husband, grandson, son, father, grandfather, and/or uncle was a hero! We owe it to these families to make sure these men's service and sacrifice, as well as all the sacrifices their families have made for our community, both before and after their death, are NEVER FORGOTTEN.

That's why!
Your Sheriff
Scott

Scott Rose has been the sheriff of Dodge County since 2015. His column appears in this newspaper monthly.

THE CLASSIFIEDS-
Where the Deals Are!

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STEELE COUNTY Times
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S	L	F	E		T	E	B	V	B		B	B	I	B

Crossword solution

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. "ER" actress Leslie
5. Hebrew name for Babylon
10. Newts
14. Leaf angle
15. Dravidian language
16. Ridge on nematodes
17. Monetary unit
18. Determined the tare
19. Unfreeze
20. Merits
22. World's oldest broadcasting organization
23. Vacation spot
24. December 25
27. Ottoman military command
30. Resin-like substance secreted by insects
31. A.C. Comics female supervillain
32. Insect linked to honey
35. Opinion
37. In the middle of
38. Basketballer Yao
39. Remove lid
40. Pressure wound therapy
41. Fabric
42. Witnessed
43. Defunct European economic organization
44. "Hotel California" rockers
45. When you expect to arrive
46. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
47. Danish airline
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Type of seal

CLUES DOWN

1. "Dark Knight" actor
2. S. African plants
3. Castle in County Offaly, Ireland
4. White (French)
5. Morsel
6. Semitic language

7. Areas outside cities
8. Crackling
9. Cub
10. Landmark house in Los Angeles
11. Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
12. Mineral
13. Late night host Myers
21. Pull along
23. Not good
25. British Air Aces
26. Upset
27. Maltreatment
28. Nocturnal, cat-like animal
29. Hollyhocks
32. Shelter
33. Finished
34. Discharge
36. "X-Men" actor McKellen
37. Beloved dish ___ and cheese
38. Holds coffee
40. Languish
41. Quenches
43. Electric fish
44. Consume
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Educate
50. "Transformers" actress Fox
51. Spiritual leader
52. Every one
53. Site of the Taj Mahal
54. Welsh village
57. Weapon
58. Geological times
59. S. Asian crops
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

Let's get you movin!

KELLER WILLIAMS
PREMIER REALTY

Jennifer Walsh
507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com

Legal Notices

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

NOTICE OF INFORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE OF CREDITORS

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-201

Estate of
Marion J. Ingvaldson,
Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of Decedent's Will, dated November 14, 2012 and ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Darrell B. Ingvaldson, whose address is 58145 220th Street, Austin MN, 55912, and Douglas A. Ingvaldson, whose address is 562 E. Agnes, Owatonna, MN 55060, as personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

BY THE COURT,

Kris Schmitz
Registrar

Attorney for Petitioner
David V. Hoversten
Hoversten Johnson
Beckmann & Hovey, LLP
807 West Oakland Avenue
Austin, MN 55912
Attorney License No: 47454
Telephone: (507) 433-3483
FAX: (507)433-7889
Email: dhoversten@
hoverstenlaw.com

2/28, 3/7

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-314

Estate of
Ronald L. Schleif,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 10, 2017 at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in the Owatonna Fire Hall at 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, April 3, 2008, and ("Will"), and for the appointment of Kathleen A. Schleif, whose address is 804 South Street, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes

and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred. BY THE COURT,

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
2/015/2017

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver &
Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@
owatonnalawyers.com

2/28, 3/7

Foreclosure

17-105521

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
that default has occurred in
the conditions of the following
described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June
20, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$118,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Corey R.
Winter and Nicole M. Winter,
Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage
Electronic Registration Systems,
Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT:
Mortgage Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1001625-0005863524-5
LENDER OR BROKER AND
MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR
STATED ON THE MORTGAGE:
Sterling State Bank
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:
Filed June 23, 2003, Steele
County Recorder, as Document
Number A 311960

ASSIGNMENTS OF
MORTGAGE: Assigned to:
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National
Association; Thereafter assigned
to Federal National Mortgage
Association.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY:
Lot 4 in Block 14, In the original
town (now city) of Owatonna,
Minnesota, subject to easement
dated the 1st day of September,
1982, and recorded on the 2nd
day of September, 1982, in Book
170, Page 488 as document
#184321 covering the West
9 Feet of Lot 4 in Block 14 in
the original town (now city) of
Owatonna, Minnesota
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 221
Main St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 17-100-1404
COUNTY IN WHICH
PROPERTY IS LOCATED:
Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON
THE DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$96,422.49

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:
April 18, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's
Main Offic , 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 October
18, 2017, or the next business
day if October 18, 2017 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: February 21, 2017

Federal National Mortgage
Association ("Fannie Mae")
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,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/28, 3/7, 3/14
3/21, 3/28, 4/4

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MOWER

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

NOTICE OF INFORMAL
APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number:
50-PR-17-294

Estate of
aka Michele E.
Morehouse,
Decedent

Notice is given that an
Application for Informal
Appointment of Personal
Representative was filed with
the Registrar. The Registrar
accepted the application and
appointed Karena K Tufte,
whose address is 17250
533rd Ave, Austin, Minnesota
55912, to serve as the
personal representative of the
decedent's estate.
Any heir or other interested
person may be entitled to
appointment as personal
representative or may object
to the appointment of the
personal representative. Any
objection to the appointment
of the personal representative
must be filed with the Court,
and any properly filed
objection will be heard by the
Court after notice is provided
to interested persons of the
date of hearing on the
objection.
Unless objections are filed,
and unless the Court orders
otherwise, the personal
representative has the full
power to administer the
estate, including, after
thirty (30) days from the
issuance of letters of general
administration, the power
to sell, encumber, lease,
or distribute any interest in
real estate owned by the
decedent.

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.

BY THE COURT,

Christine C. Zahradnik
Registrar

2/07/2017

Kristine M. Bartness
Court Administrator

Melanie J. Leth, #311911
Weber, Leth & Woessner, PLC
P.O. Box 130
Dodge Center, MN 55927

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE

2/28, 3/7

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND FOR
FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-350

Judge: Joseph A. Bueltel

Estate of
Delbert C. Johnson, also
known as Delbert Johnson
Deceased

It is Ordered and Notice is
hereby given that on the 10th
day of April, 2017 at 10:45
a.m., a hearing will be held
in the above named Court 111
East Main Street, Owatonna,
Minnesota, for a formal probate
of the instrument purporting to
be the will of the above named
decedent, dated September 12,
2005, and for the appointment of
Darren Johnson, whose address
is 1498 - 150th Street East,
Faribault, Minnesota 55021,
as personal representative of
the estate of the above named
decedent in the unsupervised
administration, and that any
objection thereto must be filed
with the Court. That, if proper,
and no objections are filed, a
personal representative 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.

Notice is further given that ALL
CREDITORS having claims
against the Estate are required
to present the claims to the
personal representative or to
the Court Administrator within
four months after the date of
this Notice or the claims will
be barred.

BY THE COURT,

Karen Ducan
Court Administrator/Deputy
2/22/2017

John A. Edman
Attorney at Law
53 Downtown Plaza
P.O. Box 318
Fairmont, MN 56031
507-238-4333
Atty, Reg. No. 25719

2/28, 3/7

Foreclosure

16-105111

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: July 28,
2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:
\$146,697.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Denise M.
Flanagan, a single person
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 July 29, 2003, Steele
County Registrar of Titles, as
Document Number T53745

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY:
Lot 11, Block 1, Mathews
Addition
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 110
18th Place NE, Owatonna, MN
55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

NUMBER: 17-242-0111 COT#
18442
COUNTY IN WHICH
PROPERTY IS LOCATED:
Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON
THE DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$105,582.97
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:
May 2, 2017, 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 November 2, 2017, or the
next business day if November
2, 2017 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: March 1, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.,
Successor by Merger to Wells
Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
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,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/3, 4/10

Foreclosure

17-105704

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
that default has occurred in
the conditions of the following
described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: June
17, 2011
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL
AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:

\$240,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Barbara E.
Jacobson, a single person
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 June 27, 2011, Steele
County Registrar of Titles, as
Document Number T000067400
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF
PROPERTY:

Lot 2, Block 1, Maplewood
Terrace Townhouses No. 2,
Owatonna, Minnesota.
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 10
Augusta Pl, Owatonna, MN
55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION
NUMBER: 17-421-0102 COT#
13078
COUNTY IN WHICH
PROPERTY IS LOCATED:
Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE
DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON
THE DATE OF THE NOTICE:
\$155,804.55

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:
May 5, 2017, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's
Main Office, Law Enforcement
Center, 204 Pearl Street East,
Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay
the debt secured by said
mortgage and taxes, if any, on
said premises and the costs
and disbursements, including
attorneys fees allowed by law,
subject to redemption within 12
months from the date of said
sale by the mortgagor(s) the
personal representatives or
assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE
PROPERTY: If the real estate
is an owner-occupied, single-
family dwelling, unless otherwise
provided by law, the date on or
before which the mortgagor(s)
must vacate the property, if
the mortgage is not reinstated
under section 580.30 or the
property is not redeemed under
section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on May 5,
2018, or the next business day if
May 5, 2018 falls on a Saturday,
Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY
LAW FOR REDEMPTION
BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE
MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES OR
ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED
TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL
ORDER IS ENTERED
UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES SECTION 582.032
DETERMINING, AMONG
OTHER THINGS, THAT THE
MORTGAGED PREMISES
ARE IMPROVED WITH A
RESIDENTIAL DWELLING
OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS,
ARE NOT PROPERTY
USED FOR AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE
ABANDONED.

Dated: March 3, 2017

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,
Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/3, 4/10

Notice

Blooming Prairie Township will hold its annual meeting and election on March 14th 2017. Polls will be open from 4:00PM until 8PM. The meeting will immediately follow the closing of the polls.

On the ballot

- Doug Krell- Supervisor 3 year term
- Katie Zipse- Treasurer 2 year term

Blooming Prairie Township Board
Missy Anderson- Clerk
Jerry Wencl- Chairman

3/7

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 17, 2017

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

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal; Members of the BPTA; Member of the Press

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Report information from Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

Rotation of School Board Officers

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the Board officers to remain the same as 2016. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

School Board Committee Assignments

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the Board committee assignments to remain the same as 2016. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Employment, Reassignment, Donations

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, employment, reassignment and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Extended Maternity Leave

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a revision to a staff member's previously approved eight week maternity/family leave with an additional four week extension; therefore to equate to a total of twelve weeks. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Designation of Local Depositories, Newspaper, and School Attorney

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the following as official financial deposit ies for school funds and investments through January 2018: Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Blooming Prairie; US Bank, Blooming Prairie; Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund, Harrisburg, PA; and Wells Fargo, Minneapolis. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the following persons as authorized personnel for electronic or paper transactions from any institution for the district: Barry Olson, Nancy Clark, and Sharon Lea; as well as Tammy Wurst and John Worke authorized personnel for transactions with US Bank. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve the Steele County Times as the designated official school newspaper through January 2018. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, PLLP as the district's designated school attorney through January 2018. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the promulgation of the seniority lists for the teaching staff. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

G. Resolution Amending HRA Plan

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve a resolution to amend the district's health reimbursement arrangement. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Band/Choir Trip

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve a band/choir trip to Colorado with departure on March 30, 2017, and return on April 4, 2017. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

Committee Reports

A report update was given on the Education Foundation.

Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year as of January 11, 2017, is 408 at the elementary school and 319 at the high school (313 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 3 seniors and 3 juniors with attendance being full-time.

Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Speakers at the MSBA Conference were very good. An informational finance meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on February 21st in the High School Media Center regarding legislation and various levies. Update given on school cancellations. Thank you received from the family of Elaine Klemmensen.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Jon Sunde to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

3/7

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 12, 2017

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Elementary Principal

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the January 17, 2017, regular school board meeting.

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

3/7

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 16, 2017
Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 20, 2017
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, March 20, 2017
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center

Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL – CLERK

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Consent Agenda
Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Employment
Donations

B. Spanish Trip
C. Timeline for Food Service Bids
D. Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Operating Levy
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

3/7

Notice

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE
PROBATE COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No. 74-PR-17-326
In Re: Estate of
JACQUELINE RAE JENSEN
aka JACQUELINE R. JENSEN
Deceased ORDER AND
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
FORMAL PROBATE OF
WILL AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 10th day of April, 2017, at 10:45 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 October 17, 2011, and for the appointment of Susan Stendel, whose address is 27568 160th St. New Richland, MN 56072, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative 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 representative 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 Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 02/21/2017

/s/ Karen Duncan
Judge
/s/ Sonia Kocher
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.

Gregory C. Olson #81930
150 West Park Square PO BOX
506 Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: 507-451-9000

3/7, 3/14

Probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-379

Estate of
Dale E. Hensrud,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on the April 10, 2017 at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Owatonna Fire Hall, 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, May 30, 2007 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Angela J. Ringhofer-Halverson, whose address is 860 Richway Lane, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,

Karen R. Ducan
Judge of District Court
2/28/2017

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator
2/28/2017

Attorney for Petitioner
Mark R. Carver
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0276133
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: carver@owatonnalawyers.com

3/7, 3/14

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
March 13, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Public Hearing – Predatory Offenders Residency Restrictions

Call to Order
City Attorney presentation
Public Comments
Adjourn

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of February
Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A.

3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission

Business
1. Predatory Offender Residency Restriction Ordinance
2. Increase in Blooming Prairie Fire Department Retirement Benefits
3. South Central Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement
4. July 3rd Street Dance
5. Purchase of a used Plow Truck

City Administrator's Report
1. Board of Review Reminder April 10th
2. APPA Rally
3. Steele County Housing Study
4. MCFOA Conference Mar. 15-17

City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

3/7

Steele County

Steele County

Steele County

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 02/14/2017
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
• Glynn/Krueger to approve the consent agenda items. Ayes all.
• Approve the Minutes of January 24, 2017 Board Meeting and January 26, 2017 Work Session.
• Approve Listing of Bills.
• Approve Personnel Report.
• Approve the Renewal of Consumption & Display Permit for Finch's Pub LLC in Hope, MN.
• Accept Internal Central Services Minutes.
• Accept Community Services Policy Committee Minutes.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the 2017 Rules of Order as amended which will permit additional Board discussion and public comment. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Krueger to approve CUP #407 for Glass House LLP to construct a commercial greenhouse for growing leafy greens and herbs in the E 1/3 of the SE ¼ of Section 20, Clinton Falls Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Abbe to approve eliminating one Record Specialist position in the Records Dept. at the LEC and create a new Records Supervisor position along with decreasing one Records Specialist position from 1.0 FTE to .75 FTE. This proposal will be reevaluated at the end of 2017. Ayes all.
• Abbe/Gnemi to solicit proposals from firms to serve as a Registered Municipal Advisor to the County to provide specialized advice regarding the County's membership in SCCL or as otherwise requested. Submission of proposals must be received no later than 5:00 pm, February 26, 2017. Ayes all.
• Abbe/Krueger to change the date for the Financial Services Request for Proposals from February 26, 2017 to February 24, 2017. Ayes all.
• Krueger/Gnemi to set a Board meeting for February 21 at 6 p.m. for a workshop to discuss the Public Works Building Project. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution for the 2017 County Highway & Road Weight Restrictions. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Glynn/Krueger to exercise the two-year extension option with the current Recycling Agreement with Waste Management to extend the expiration date from 10/31/17 to 10/31/19. Ayes all.
• County Administrator, Laura Elvebak gave the Board an update on the Courthouse.
• Glynn/Abbe to Table the quotes for bat removal at Courthouse. Ayes all.
• Krueger/Glynn to add as an agenda item for the meeting on February 21, 2017 at 6:00 pm the proposals from the architects to repair the damages and/or next steps to the Courthouse repair from a pipe burst on January 10, 2017. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
02/14/2017

30th Place LLC	22,219.30
A'viands, LLC	18,053.30
Additions & Stress Clinic	2,400.00
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	16,298.52
Assoc of MN Counties	16,245.00
Big Tex Outdoors	3,368.90
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	3,955.02
Businessware Solutions	5,004.53
City of Blooming Prairie	7,495.69
Compass Minerals America	31,617.93
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,389.00
Express Services Inc.	3,779.35
Four Seasons Centre	3,011.25
Holsterops	3,403.35
Honeywell Inc	7,682.35
Integra Telecom	2,753.00
Kappy's Auto Restoration	3,719.70
KOWZ-KRUE Radio	2,455.00
Jeff Larson	2,517.00
Local Government Information Systems	6,728.94
Loken Excavating & Drainage	6,395.88
Metro Sales Inc.	4,953.38
Microsoft	10,448.95
Motorola Solutions Inc	5,969.24
Newman Signs Inc	2,164.86
Olympic Fire Protection Corp	4,149.85
Owatonna Groundsmaters Inc	10,485.54
Owatonna Public Utilities	37,449.32
Riverland Comm College Austin	2,200.00
Michelle Schmid-Egleston	3,120.00
SE MN Water Resources Board	5,000.00
Sheriff of Dakota County	8,814.09
Steele County Highway Dept	4,569.09
Steele County Treasurer	165,353.12
Stewart Sanitation	2,367.64
Stonebrooke Engineering Inc.	19,430.53
StreamWorks LLC	9,960.00
Thomson Reuters – West	3,140.78
Tim's Auto Service Inc	2,024.93
Waste Management of WI-MN	52,102.46
181 Warrants under \$2,000	53,220.82
Total:	\$580,417.61

Motion by Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 7:00 p.m. Ayes all.

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Area Church Spotlight

Vibrant Life Assembly of God, Ellendale, MN

Pastor’s corner: Celebrate your right

Let us take a moment to celebrate the right to religious freedom.

What a glory it is that God allowed our souls the freedom to choose how we choose to worship Him. Religious freedom is generally defined as the right to discover and celebrate God without government interference.

It may surprise you to know that this is a uniquely Christian idea. Many of the world’s major religions, such as Islam and Judaism, developed as both a religion and a state synonymously.

Whether it be the Pharaohs of Egypt, the Incas of Peru, the Caesars of Rome, or the

emperors of Japan, religion and the state are both the source of spiritual truth.

That forever changed on Easter morn when the resurrected Christ walked from the tomb. Here was the first time there was a religious truth which was not endorsed by a state.

Christianity is distinct in that it teaches there is a universal truth distinct from state authority. It was Christians who first proposed the idea of the freedom of religion because they understood there was a truth distinct from the state and, therefore, the state could not regulate the pursuit of truth. 2nd Century theologian,

Tertullian, was the first coin the phrase “freedom of religion” and that we had the “human right” to “worship according to our convictions”.

For the earliest Christians, it was pointless to force anyone to worship their God by the use of violence.

Christ was true whether others believed in Him or not. Christian believed man had the right to find God for Himself. To put it another way, God has given man the right to be wrong so man could freely discover truth.

We do not give students math answers but never teach them questions. We give them the questions and

the methods of discovering truth.

They must have the freedom to be wrong so they can learn how to be right. So it is with God.

While giving people the right to be wrong about God is terrifying; it is the only way to allow people to freely and sincerely come to the truth of God.

Pastor Patrick Stitt
Vibrant Life Assembly of God
 Ellendale, MN

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507-451-2585

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Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
 6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
 Pastor Stephanie Wood
 (507) 676-5696
 10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 5881 S.E. 118th St., Bloomington
 Pastor Stephanie Wood
 (507) 676-5696
 Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
 434 First St. SW., Bloomington
 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

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
 Pastor Kirk Griebel
 (507) 451-2720
 www.redeemerowatonna.org
 Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
 Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
 4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
 The Rev. Alan Broadwell
 (507) 528-2404
 sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
 Weekly Church Services:
 Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy
 Communion, Sunday Morning at
 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
 offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday
 of each month. Sunday School 9:00
 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant
 Pastor Collin Duling
 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 Kristen Venne
 (507) 256-4288
 Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
 Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indechar
 (507) 451-2165
 Worship 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS



108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
 Pastor Mark Biebighauser
 (507) 451-0447
 Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
 Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
 Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indechar
 (507) 451-2165
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
 Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
 Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
 (507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org
 Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
 Holy Communion served
 All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
 8:15 & 9:30 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

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
 7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
 Pastor Nancy Edwardson
 (507) 789-6666
 (Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
 (June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Christian

Christ Community Covenant Church
 540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
 Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
 507-451-1032
 Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Owatonna Campus
 422 W. North Street, Owatonna
 Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Full Gospel

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 Bloomington, MN
 http://streetfireministries.com/

Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
 616-788-1044
 www.streetfireministries.net

Methodist

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

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
 Pastor Randy Cirksema
 (507) 684-2731
 www.ellendaleumc.org
 Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
 Free home style meal on the first
 Sunday of the month through Dec.
 2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.
 followed by the free meal at
 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 815 E. University, Owatonna
 Loren Olson, Pastor
 Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
 (507) 451-4734
 www.owatonnaumc.org

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
 The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
 Fr. Jose Morales,
 Parochial Vicar
 (507) 451-1588
 www.litomysl.webs.com
 Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
 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. Faith
 formation for Kindergarten thru
 Confirmation: every Wednesday
 evening 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays during Lent: 6:15 p.m.
 Eucharistic Adoration; 6:45 p.m.
 Stations of the cross.

SACRED HEART PARISH
 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
 The Rev. John Sauer
 The Rev. Jose Morales,
 Parochial Vicar
 (507) 451-1588

Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
 Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
 Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 130 East Bridge St. Owatonna,
 Pastor Keith Haskell
 507-215-2249
 Sundays 10:00 AM
 Coffee Fellowship starts at 9:30 a.m.
 Reformers Unanimous Meetings
 Fridays at 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
 30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,
 Hayfield
 Pastor Aaron de Neui
 (507) 477-2255
 www.cedarcreekchurch.org
 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
 2002 Austin Rd.
 Pastor Doug Jones
 (507) 363-3099
 www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
 Sun 10 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 CHURCH
 332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
 Pastor Scott Peterson
 (507) 721-1366
 Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
 Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 Owatonna 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., Bloomington
 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 Steven Robertson
 (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.,
 Bloomington
 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



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 Owatonna

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HometownLiving Community Calendar

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

March 7th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
March 14th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
Tue Mar 14, 2017 - Wed Mar 15, 2017
All day Steele Co Commission
Tue Mar 14, 2017 - Wed Mar 15, 2017
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR

Event Spotlight: BP Welcome Packets

Judy at the bank needs to make more Welcome Packets.
She could really use some information or an item from you that has your business on it.
Please drop your items off at F&M Bank as soon as possible and leave them with Judy Engleken.
Let the new people to town know you are here and you are ready to do business with.

Event Spotlight: Owatonna coed basketball game

Saturday March 18th there is a coed basketball game from 2 to 4 pm at Owatonna High School.
Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for kids 18 years of age and younger.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

March 7th:
9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time Where: Packer Dome, Wescott Field
10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Storytime
3:30pm - 4:30pm Staff Mentee Meeting (Secondary)
March 8th:
All day Lyle City Council Meeting
Wed Mar 8, 2017 - Thu Mar 9, 2017
2pm - 3pm Kids Fused Glass Photo Frames
Where: Austin ArtWorks Center
March 9th:
10:30am - 11:30am Wake Up and Wiggle
6pm - 7pm Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6pm - 8pm Illustrative Landscapes
March 10th:
12pm - 4pm Defensive Driving Class
6pm - 8:30pm Autism Family Respite Night
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Bismarck Bobcats
March 11th:
All day Stickin Around Mite Hockey Tournament
Sat Mar 11, 2017 - Sun Mar 12, 2017 Where:
Riverside 7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Bismarck Bobcats
10:30am - 12pm Feeling History by CLIMB Theatre:
3pm - 4:30pm Feeling History by CLIMB Theatre:
March 12th:
1pm - 3pm Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room
March 13th:
All day American Legion & Auxiliary Meeting
Mon Mar 13, 2017 - Tue Mar 14, 2017
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal
Where: Heritage House
5:30pm - 8pm History Happy Hour - Southern Minnesota Railroad History: Development of the Lyle Gateway Where: Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin, MN 55912, USA
March 14th:
10am - 5pm 2nd Floor Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery
Where: Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin, MN 55912, USA
All day Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
Tue Mar 14, 2017 - Wed Mar 15, 2017
10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Storytime
12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters
Where: Hormel Foods Corporate Office
6pm - 7pm Grand Meadow City Council Mtg

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

March 7th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellnd
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
March 9th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
March 13th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellnd
March 14th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellnd

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Ellendale Municipal Liquor Store is one of many liquor establishments that will now be free to sell off-sale liquor on Sundays. The new legislation will be put into operation on July 1.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Laura Berndt

At last year's Boys & Girls Club bash, Marcy Sundine, Unit Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie (right), and kids from the Boys & Girls Club, present Lianna Doocy (eft) with a thank you card handcrafted by kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie.



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

March 7th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
Tue Mar 7, 2017 - Wed Mar 8, 2017
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
Created by: ashley.mattson@alschools.org
5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
March 8th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
5pm - 6pm Medford EDA (2nd Wed odd months)

Event Spotlight: International Women's Day Rally

Celebrate International Women's Day on Wednesday, March 8 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Owatonna's Central Park.

The 2017 national theme for this event, which was first held in 1911, is "Be Bold for Change." The Owatonna rally will feature music and speakers that honor the voices of women and history.

The rally is open to anyone who supports progressive causes, especially those concerning women's and human rights and the unity of the United States of America as outlined in the Women's March.

Francy Hall of Owatonna will be the rally emcee of this family event. Local Girl Scouts will lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and several speakers representing many voices of our community will be featured, including keynote former Senator Vicki Jensen and Rev. Coqui Conkey from Owatonna, as well as others.

Follow USA rally tradition and make a sign or poster to carry during the rally! We have many voices.

This event is sponsored by Steele County Indivisible.

Event Spotlight: 2017 Road Trip Ice Show

Come join the Owatonna Figure Skating Club skaters cruise around the USA at the 2017 Road Trip Ice Show.

Music from our favorites musicians like Alicia Keys, KISS, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blues Brothers, Johnny Cash, Elvis, John Mayer, and many more!

Guest appearances include Rochester Theater On Ice, Professional Skater Amy Berglund, Choreographer Heidi Evers, and members of Owatonna Boys Hockey.

This is a show that you will not want to miss! Come sing along and enjoy a great performance by Owatonna's finest skaters!

Saturday, March 11th 2017 at 2pm

Four Seasons

Advance General Admission -\$7.00

Tickets at the Door \$10.00

Kids 5 and Under are Free

Tickets can be purchased online at www.showtix4u.com or locally at Court Sports in Owatonna.

Event Spotlight: Steele County Blood Drive Opportunities

Blooming Prairie
3/10/2017: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Blooming Prairie High School, 202 4th Ave. NW

Owatonna
3/8/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.

3/9/2017: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.

3/10/2017: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 512 S. Elm Ave.

3/10/2017: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Famous Dave's, 4355 W. Frontage Road

3/13/2017: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Ag Power Enterprises, 3555 18th St. SW

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-BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H FEE CHARGED. 21 AND OVER.
JAN. 24 FEB. 7 MARCH 14 APRIL 4 MAY 9: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT 7-9 P.M. @ J&H

- CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY: APRIL 1ST (31 YEARS IN BUSINESS) !
- CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE...JUNE 24
- STREET DANCE: JULY 3RD
- JULY 4TH : OPEN 10AM - CLOSE
-B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 22

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100 years of yum!

Girl Scout Cookies fuel a century of adventure for girls

Juliette Low actually founded the Girl Scouts 100 years ago, with the first 5 members the girls got to work baking and selling cookies in their school cafeteria.

The cookies were such a success the American Girl magazine, published the cookie recipe in 1922. Giving young girls the opportunity to learn life skills.

The cookie program continues to be the largest girl-owned business, teaching the next generations of beautiful unique girls, goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, business ethics along meaningful social skills and essential morals, values, and principles.

To order a dozen of the cookie recipe from 1922, Please email: confectionsbykaren@gmail.com



A Pivotal Part of Women's History

More than 59 million women in America today enjoyed Girl Scouts during their childhood—and that number keeps on growing as Girl Scouts of the USA continues to inspire, challenge, and empower girls everywhere.



submitted photo

The following sponsors would like to congratulate the Girl Scouts on 100 years of yum!



Medford Honor roll

Grade 7

Jacob Andrews
Carter Blome
Logan Buecksler
Jordan Capello
Payton Caron
Emma Corbin
Reed Cumberland
Isabel DeLeon
Jacob Ernste
Cheyenne Fedder
Henry Grayson
Nicole Harfmann
Jackson Hemann
Piper Hill
Noah Honsey
MacKenzie Kellen
Clara Kniefel
Julia Niles
Jack Paulson
Elizabeth Peterson
Lainie Rahn
Scott Scholljegerdes
Nicole Schrot
Hannah Schull
Anna Sobrak
Malachi Sutcliffe
Amelia Thompson
Rosie Tobar
Ava Jae Westbrook
Jared Zuniga
Jeancarlo Zuniga

Grade 8

Braden Barbeau
Brayden Beede
Jenna Berg
Kinsey Cronin
Isaac Enzenauer
Garrett Fitzgerald
Johanna Grant
Madison Jaster
Brock Merritt
Mason Nagel
Lily Roehrick
Isabella Steffen

Tyler Stursa
Alex Vandereide
Haley VonRuden
Hanna VonRuden
GunnerWhite

Grade 9

JordanEdel
Zachary Finholdt
Kaylin Hanson
Hailee Homeier
Madison Klein
Emma Kniefel
Kiley Nihart
Payton Powers
Brendan Rahn
Jordyn Stadler
Zachary Wetmore
Morgan Langeslag

Grade 10

Andria Archibald
Jacob Gasner
Meredith Gillis
Brett Johnson
Taylore Keppers
Anthony Manderfeld
Maria Mas
Jade Pekarek
Noah Pirkel
Sophie Proehl
Brandon Sisler

Grade 11

Isabel Brady
Cassandra Brase
Morgan Cammock
Madelyn Cloutier
McKenzie Disher
Ian Gillis
Amanda Honsey
Kaylee Kern
Kelsey Kern
Trenton Lund
Jenna McCarthy
Nathan Meixner

Jonathon Meyer
Skylar Meyer
Dakota Panos
Jasmine Panos
Logan Rogotzke
Benjamyn Sutcliffe
Cole Volkmann
Kayleigh Walock
Grace Wobbrock

Grade 12

Haileigh Benton
Rachel Bluhm
Benjamin Borash
Brooke Crosby
Kori Dodge
Rebecca Edel
Ashley Gilbertson
Krystal Hanson
Sydney Langeslag
Holly Larson
Danielle Morgan
Callie Nagel
Alison Ryan
Joshua Schauer
Mikayla Spinler
Anthony Stephens
William Stransky
Christopher Zuniga

Medford Quarter 2 Regular Honor Roll

Grade 7

Jake Barten
Asia Baynes
Tyler Buck
Caydon Budde
Jessica Campos
Paul Cole
Paige Davis
Jazmyne Duncan
Evan Finley
Dawson Gasner
Jesus Granados
Cody Haberman

Isabelle Huizel
Nathan Johnson
Jordan Klecker
Megan Klein
Jacob Kucera
Lynn Larson
Hunter Laue
Bridgette Lemke
George McCarthy
Samantha Miller
Andrew Murphy
Logen Rink-Bermea
Justin Ristau
Nicholas Roberts
Jason Silva
Brielle Smith
Jayme Stransky
Hayley Wall
Jaden Wilson

Grade 8

Emily Chadwick
Kaden Dolney
Cole Dusek
Krista Esch
HannahFessel
Alissa Frelove
Giovanni Gonzales
Lizbeth Gutierrez
Kaelan Hermanstorfer
Gavin Hermes
Brennon Hoffman
Malia Kircher
Matthew Knutson
Shea Lambert
Ernesto Lazaro
Sierra Lustig
Markessa Niner
Alexander Oatway
Luz Peralta
Brooke Purrier
Peyton Seiler
Keondric Spitzack
Chloe Van Ryn
Miya Weber
Jeffrey Westergaard

HalliZumbrunnen

Grade 9

Natily Buck
William Chester
Emily Cloutier
Kylie Cumberland
Sviatlana Danilyuk
Boden Devoe
Taylor Fette
Veronica Gonzalez
Riley Hill
Shawn Johnson
Levi Larsen
Madison Masso
Joshua O'Daffer
Mackenzie Paulson
Isabel Reuvers
Kevin Robles
Lillian Smith
Jeremiah Sutcliffe
William VonRuden
Alorah Weise
Michael Winslett

Grade 10

Zackariah Andrews
Tanner Barbeau
Mary Braasch-Turi
Camisha Chavis
Connor Davis
JasonDomstrand
Bailey DuChene
Ryan Hermanstorfer
Cody Kosel
Bryce Lisowski
Bailey Purrier
Madison Schletty
Joseph Schull
Austin VonRuden

Grade 11

Carter Aldrich
Brody Berg
Madison DeMars
Jason Gedicke

Alex Gengler
Brynn Hable
Beth Ann Hanson
Rachel Ivance
Logan Keilen
Tristen Kern
David Klapperich
Madison Krenske
Josephine Kubat
Gregory Larson
Nathan McCarty
Gisela Mendoza
Katla Michaelson
Madelyn Neuhaus
Kristina Niner
Bo Noble
Ailee Romnes
Ellie Romnes
Emily Steffen
Sydney Stephens
Danielle Stewart
Taylor Theisen
Javis VonRuden

Grade 12

Marcus DeLeon
Tye Devoe
Alicia Esch
Benjamin Ficht-Babcock
Matea Hobbs
Andrew Hunt
Michael Kanne
Brittany Larson
Cassandra Larson
Nathan Larson
Ally Linse
Amanda Litsheim
Ethan Lunning
Amelia Manderfeld
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Medford, Minnesota

Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Madness of the past

IMES

March 1949

PAGE ELEVEN

that he stops every once in a while to listen.”

Mrs. L. H. Grant's contrib':

“A Saloon In Every Home”

If you are a married man who must drink booze, start a saloon in your own home. Be the only customer and you won't have to buy a license.

Give your wife \$5 for a “fifth” in which there are 32 drinks. Buy your drinks from your wife and

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taste

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Archived advertisements
Left: the first ad for liquor that appeared in the January 1934 edition.
Middle: The last ad to run before prohibition ran in September of 1919.

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MY BP RECOLLECTIONS

The Hatchery

As I drive into Blooming Prairie, the large, newly decorated Hanson Realty building on the corner comes into view.

I am reminded of Saturday nights in the 1950's when we brought eggs to sell at the hatchery located in that building. That's where we bought fuzzy yellow Leghorn baby chicks and took them home to our farm where they lived in a brooder house, kept warm with heat lamps.

When the chicks were grown, each hen laid an egg a day. My sisters and I took turns gathering the eggs each afternoon.

After carefully washing eggs in cool water, we placed them in a large, heavy cardboard box with

separations to hold 12 dozen eggs.

Every Saturday night after supper dishes were done and the cows were milked, our family of five headed to Blooming Prairie with the case of eggs.

Our first stop was the hatchery on the corner. After my parents were paid for the eggs, we often stopped at T.S. Morton Appliance Store to visit with Allen Morton and his parents and to admire the appliances and plumbing fixtures. We had nothing like that at home. My sisters and I walked to the Dime Store. What treasures it held — jewelry, dishes, needles, thread, and best of all, many choices candy sold by the pound.

Mom walked farther west to Betlach's grocery store to buy staples such as coffee, detergent, paper products and spices. We raised our own meat, dairy products and vegetables. Meanwhile, my dad was at Srsen Implement Shop where International Harvester displayed the latest in red Farmall tractors.

We all met at Betlach's for the drive home after our Saturday night in Blooming, already looking forward to our visit next week.

(Editor's Note: Judy Pryor is the winner of our submitted BP Recollections for February. She wins two tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. We'll continue to take recollection submissions throughout the year.)



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2017 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Sports 6B

B Section

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Tuesday, March 7,



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Top: Owatonna senior Brandon Moen celebrates after winning the 182-pound Class AAA state championship Saturday at the Excel Energy Center. Moen pinned Hastings' Trey Rogers in 46 seconds of the title match to claim his second-straight state title. Below: Moen attempts to pin Hastings' Trey Rogers in the first period of the Class AAA 182-pound state championship match.

Owatonna's Brandon Moen wins second-straight state title in dominating fashion

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Outside of Apple Valley's Gable Steveson, there's a strong case that Owatonna's Brandon Moen was the most dominant grappler heading into the state tournament.

On Saturday, Moen restated his case.

Securing a pin of Hastings Trey Rogers just 46 seconds into their Class AAA 182-pound state championship, Moen finished his tournament exactly how he started it.

By simply dominating.

"He's as tough as they come," commented co-head coach Scott Seykora. "He's a guy you don't want to match up with on the street because he's tough. When he gets into that zone, you know he's ready to go."

The domination started in the dual portion of the state tournament Thursday. Moen won all three matches by pin.

In fact, his first two matches didn't even last a minute, winning in 47 and 52 seconds. His third match of the day would actually be his longest of the day, when Levi Houser of Willmar managed to last 3 minutes, 14 seconds being pinned.

Moen noted after the team's fifth place finish Thursday night that his performance all based off his mental preparation.

"Mentality is key to wrestling," he said. "You can be prepared. You can do all the training, but if the day comes and you're not mentally there, you have to show up."

On Friday, that domination carried over into the individual tournament.

Moen easily defeated Tyler Dahlstorm of St. Francis in just 52 seconds and added a 15-3

major decision over Rowan Morgan of Mounds Views - his longest match of the tournament - in the quarterfinals.

After a 19-5 technical fall of Calvin Sund of Prior Lake just 4 minutes, 32 seconds into the match, a rematch with Rogers was set.

Back in January, Moen defeated the second-ranked Rogers 5-2 in Owatonna 36-22 dual win over Hastings.

Moen needed one shot - a single leg just moments into the match - and the rest was history. The winningest grappler in Owatonna history quickly locked up a cradle and sent the second-ranked Rogers to his back.

When Rogers managed to slip out of the initial pinning attempt, Moen simply locked it back up and buried the Hastings junior.

Then it was history.

With the win, the high school career filled with records and milestones was capped by a second straight-state title.

"I put in some much time and effort. My whole life revolved around wrestling," commented Moen. "I don't really know the word, but it's like when everthing you've done comes into one and your capping off your senior season."

While Moen will end his high school career a two-time Minnesota state champion, he will be taking his talents and his education to a new level, recently signing to Division 1 Eastern Michigan.

The thing he looks forward to most?

The competition.

"I've been one of the better guys in the room, but to come into the room where there's going to be guys better than you to push you, work hard just have fun with it."





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2017 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Three place for Huskies

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul - After a display of sheer domination in his first three matches, senior 182-pounder Brandon Moen was one match away from collecting his second-straight state title.

Only a rematch with Hastings' Trey Rogers stood in the way. In their last meeting, Moen was able to control the match to a 5-3 decision.

This time, it was all Moen.

Locking up a cradle just 40 seconds into the match, Moen would collect the fall just seconds later for his second-straight state title Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center, giving Owatonna its lone state champion.

Moen, who hasn't surrendered a takedown since the start of the New Year, was simply a man on a mission. He needed just ten seconds to record his first takedown in which he immediately locked up the cradle.

"I just tried something different this sections and this state tournament," the newly-crowned two-time state champion said. "I've usually been conservative and I just tried to go all out, go 500 percent. My coaches told me that no one could stop me. I just went out there and attacked, attacked attacked."

While Rogers was able to slip out of his grasp the first time, Moen's second cradle did the trick, burying the state's No.2 ranked wrestler at 182 pounds. Moen will finish his high school career with two titles at two different weight classes. He won his first state title at 195 pounds

in 2016.

Although the finals ended sweet for Owatonna, the first two bouts ended in heartbreak.

Junior Peyton Robb – who was undefeated on the season – also had a rematch in the finals. His opponent, Alex Lloyd of Shakopee, lost to Robb 4-3 back in December. Both are defending state champions (Robb at 120; Lloyd at 145 pounds), are nationally-ranked and are slated to be roommates together at South Dakota State.

Lloyd struck first with a deep double-leg that appeared to catch Robb off guard to take an early 2-0 lead. Robb would strike back with a double-leg of his own, lifting Lloyd off the mat to take a 3-2 lead after the first period.

Robb would lead 4-3 midway through the third period after Lloyd was able to escape with seconds remaining in the second period.

With time winding down, Lloyd managed to hit a nifty leg sweep that sent Robb to his back to record the dagger and a 5-4 win to defend his title.

"Those two guys are good friends; they know each other quite well and you wouldn't expect anything less than a dramatic finish like that," commented head coach Scott Seykora. "Disappointing for Peyton, I know he's hurting about it, but it's one of those things where he's a junior yet, he can come back and get it next year."

Cade King would also fall in the later stages of his finals match at 152 pounds. After trailing top-seeded

Alex Crowe of Shakopee 2-0, the stellar sophomore managed to cut the lead to 3-2, locking up a takedown after Crowe managed to escape. Choosing neutral to start the third period, King quickly spun around a poor Crowe shot to take a 4-3 lead. The lead was short lived as Crowe managed to hit a takedown with just under 20 seconds in the match.

"Kinger left it all on the mat. He went after it, he didn't shy away from it and he battle for all of those six minutes," commented Seykora.

In the opening round Saturday morning, Owatonna senior Griffin Thorn lost to Apple Valley Tanyi Besong in overtime of the consolation quarterfinals.

Prior to Besong's match-deciding takedown 30 seconds into the sudden victory period, Thorn held a 1-0 for most of the match.

In the opening round Friday, Owatonna suffered just two losses, both coming from their middle school grapplers.

At 106, Kaden Nelson fell to Shakopee's Max Crowe by a 15-5 major decision while at 113 pounds, while Landen Johnson was pinned in 24 seconds by Sartell's Jackson Penk. After Crowe fell in the quarterfinals, Nelson was officially out of the tournament.

Johnson on the otherhand, was awarded a slot in the first round of wrestle backs after Penk upset the No.3 seed of the tournament.

That No.3 seed, St. Francis' Tanner Kunshier would easily defeat Johnson by a 13-0 major decision to end his tournament.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior Griffin Thorn attempts to take down Apple Valley's Tanyi Besong during the 220-pound consolation quarterfinal match Saturday at the Xcel Energy center. Thorn lost the match 3-1 in sudden victory. He finished 2-2.

Huskies show guts, place fifth in state duals



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna sophomore Cade King pins Myles Hanks of Minnetonka during the 160-pound match of the Huskies 52-12 consolation semifinal win over the Skippers Thursday at the Xcel Energy Center. King bumped up from 152 to 160 pounds in the match.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – Needing the strength of the lineup to generate some momentum, the Owatonna wrestling team managed to take a six-point lead with just two matches to go.

After Griffin Thorn a 6-4 decision to Andrew Reigstad of Willmar, the weight of the dual rested on the shoulders of senior heavyweight Goy Tut- a tough task when facing the No. 2 ranked Brady Reigstad.

Despite the odds, he delivered.

Managing to hold on for a 6-0 loss, Tut surrendered just a decision, cementing a 30-29 win for the Huskies and a fifth place finish in the dual tournament Thursday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

"It was unbelievable. It was very gutsy," commented head coach Scott Seykora. "Our biggest thing was saving bonus points where we could."

After Kade Nelson (106) and Laden Johnson (113) each recorded a pair of decisions to give the Huskies a 6-0 lead, the Cardinals managed to string together four-straight wins. Two of which came by pins from No. 2 ranked Israel Navarro (120) and Clay Carlson (138).

Facing a 20-6 deficit, Owatonna received a pair of pins from nationally-ranked Peyton Robb (145) and Cade King (160). Parker Westphal's 8-2 decision at 152 helped the Huskies erase a 14-point lead to hold a one-point lead.

After Nick Staska fell in a 6-0 decision, defending state champi-

on Brandon Moen (182) recorded a pin in the first period to regain the lead for Owatonna. Moen, who recently signed his letter of intent to Eastern Michigan, was a man on a mission today, winning all three of his matches by fall.

"Mentality is key to wrestling," commented Moen. "You can be prepared. You can do all the training, but if the day comes and you're not mentally there, you have to show up."

Parker Holton managed to record a 5-0 decision at 195 pounds to give Owatonna a 30-23 lead heading into the final two matches.

Consolation Semifina

Owatonna 52, Minnetonka 12

After dropping three of the first four matches, the Huskies appeared to wake up, reeling off 10-straight wins to down the Skippers in the consolation portion of the state dual tournament bracket Thursday.

"I'm proud of how the guys came back," commented Seykora. "Wrestling is a lot of skill and mental attitude, but it's a lot of heart."

Johnson was the lone bright spot for Owatonna, winning by major decision (16-2) over Zach Wallace at 113. The Huskies had a chance to steal at win at 126 as Jesse Autridge was leading Henry Bixler 3-2 late in the third period. After a reversal tied the match late, Bixler managed to record a takedown and two points near fall to escape with a 9-5 decision.

In the final ten matches, Trevor

Schroeder (132), Bryce Goodwin (138) and Westphal all dominated to major decisions. The Huskies would record five pins, starting with Robb at 145 pounds. King (160), Moen (182), Isaiah Noeldner (195) and Griffin Thorn (220) all won by pin as Owatonna raced to a 48-12 lead.

Championship quarterfinal

Owatonna 29, Hastings 36

Despite Nelson (106) starting the dual off with an 8-2 decision, the Raiders managed to reel off six straight wins to build a commanding 18-3 lead. Of those six, only two were pins and both were Huskies that wrestled a great chunk of the season on the junior varsity.

Robb would get the Huskies back on the winning track, although it wasn't the way he may have hoped.

In a bizarre act of strength, Hastings' Kyle Erickson managed to keep his shoulders just high enough off the mat, to stymie any chance for a pin after the two-time defending state champion in Robb had a head lock. Robb recorded the technical fall 22-6.

Owatonna would win five of the final seven matches with King, Moen and Thorn all recording pins. Unfortunately, the Huskies ran out of a comeback chance. After the Raiders bumped Trey Rogers, who is ranked No.2 at 182, to 195 pounds, he dominated Parker Holton, winning by technical fall 24-9.



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Brandon Moen
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State Champion



Cade King (152 pounds)
Runner-up in Class AAA

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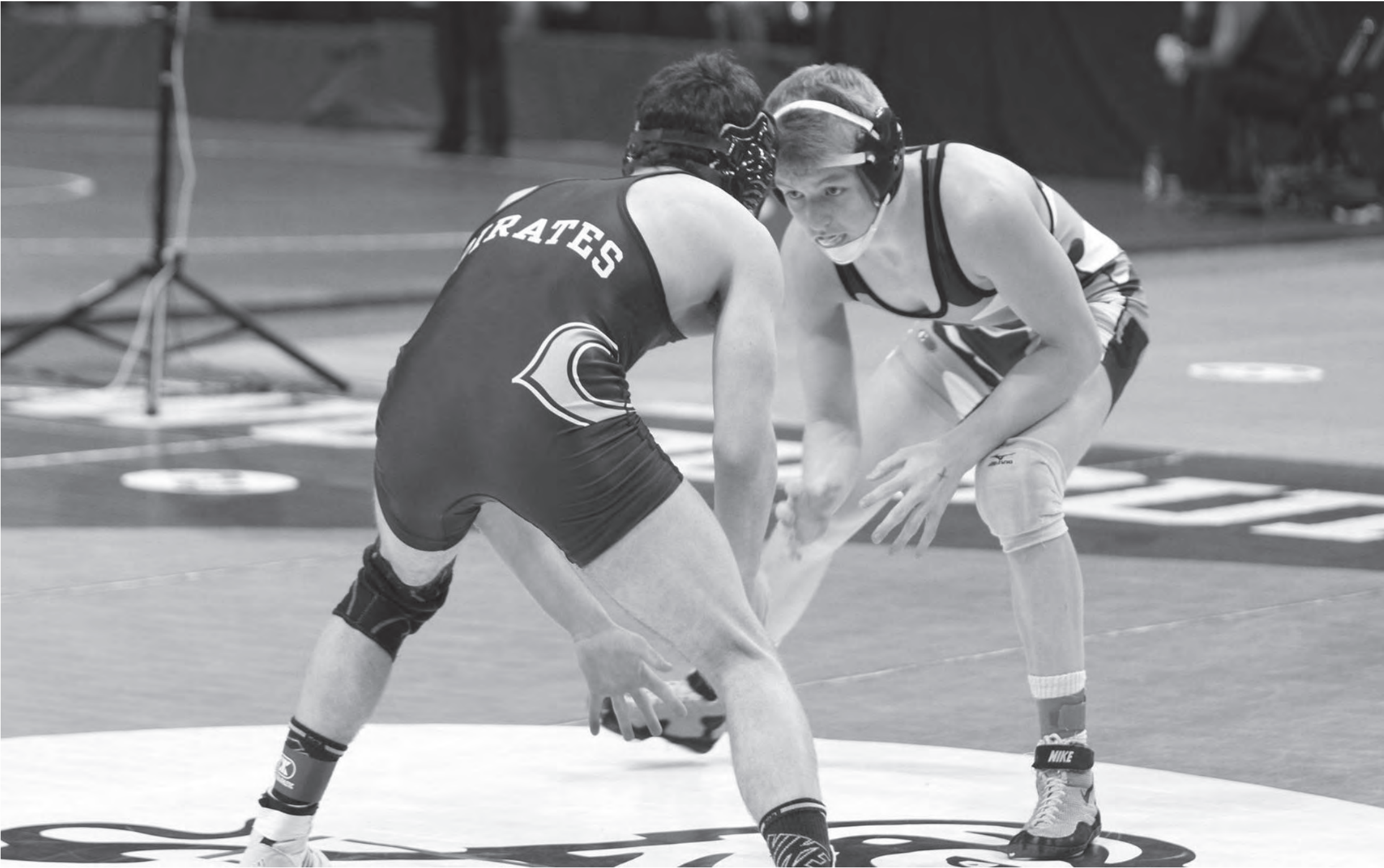
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2017 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



VonRuden falls short



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Top: Medford's Willie VonRuden waits to attack Crookston's Colton Weiland in their 138-pound match during the opening round of the Class A state tournament Friday at the Xcel Energy Center. VonRuden won the match 8-7. Middle left: VonRuden holds on for a stalemate during his match against Weiland. Bottom left: Top-seeded Lane Heim of St. Charles, controls VonRuden during their championship quarterfinal match Frida . Heim won the match 11-3 before winning a state title. Bottom right: Heim prepares to turn VonRuden in their Class A state quarterfinal match.



Medford's lone state qualifier goes 1-2 at state tournament

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul — Last year, Medford's Willie VonRuden was just happy to qualify for the state tournament.

This season, boasting a record of 27-8, the young Tiger was looking to do more. If only he had more time.

In the first round of wrestle backs, Willie VonRuden seemingly looked that he was going to survive another round, building a commanding 6-0 lead off a trio of nice takedowns. Then, in the third period, he surrendered the lead to Tommy Wentzlaff of Sibley East, being pinned just 45 seconds into the third period.

The loss dropped the lone Medford state qualifier to 1-2, ending his bid to place at the 2017 state tournament as a freshman Friday.

"Coming into this tournament, his only losses were to a New Mexico state champ, a North Dakota state champ and a really

tough kid from Maple River a couple times," commented Tigers head coach Dennis Whitman. "So he's wrestled some really stiff competition, and actually looks forward to that. It just didn't go his way this weekend."

VonRuden started his tournament off with a thrilling 8-7 win over Colton Weiland of Crookston in the opening round of the tournament. After sustaining a commanding 6-1 lead heading into the third period, He surrendered a takedown and an escape to cut the lead to 6-4.

After Weiland cut VonRuden to get back to neutral, the freshman allowed another takedown to make it 7-6, but would be cut again to make it a takedown match. With roughly 10 seconds left in the match, VonRuden was hit for his second stalling of the match, cutting the lead to one. Despite it being a takedown match and no stalling call to give, the young Tiger was cool under pressure; something Whitman says is a reoccurring theme with

his young grappler.

"He feels really comfortable on that mat, which is something you can't teach," added Whitman. "It's easy to understand why kids go out there tight and are nervous sometimes, especially at this tournament, but Willie (VonRuden) is always under control and calm. He doesn't let the outside factors affect the way he's going to wrestle."

As Whitman noted earlier, VonRuden thrives when wrestling tough competition. In the second round, while he was still cool under pressure, he struggled to match up against top-seeded Lane Heim of St. Charles, falling by major decision 11-3.

While he may have fell short of his ultimate goal, Whitman noted that the character his young star possesses will help him rebound quickly.

"While it kind of hurts right now, especially the way he lost that last match, I think he is going to come away from here hungrier than last year," he added.

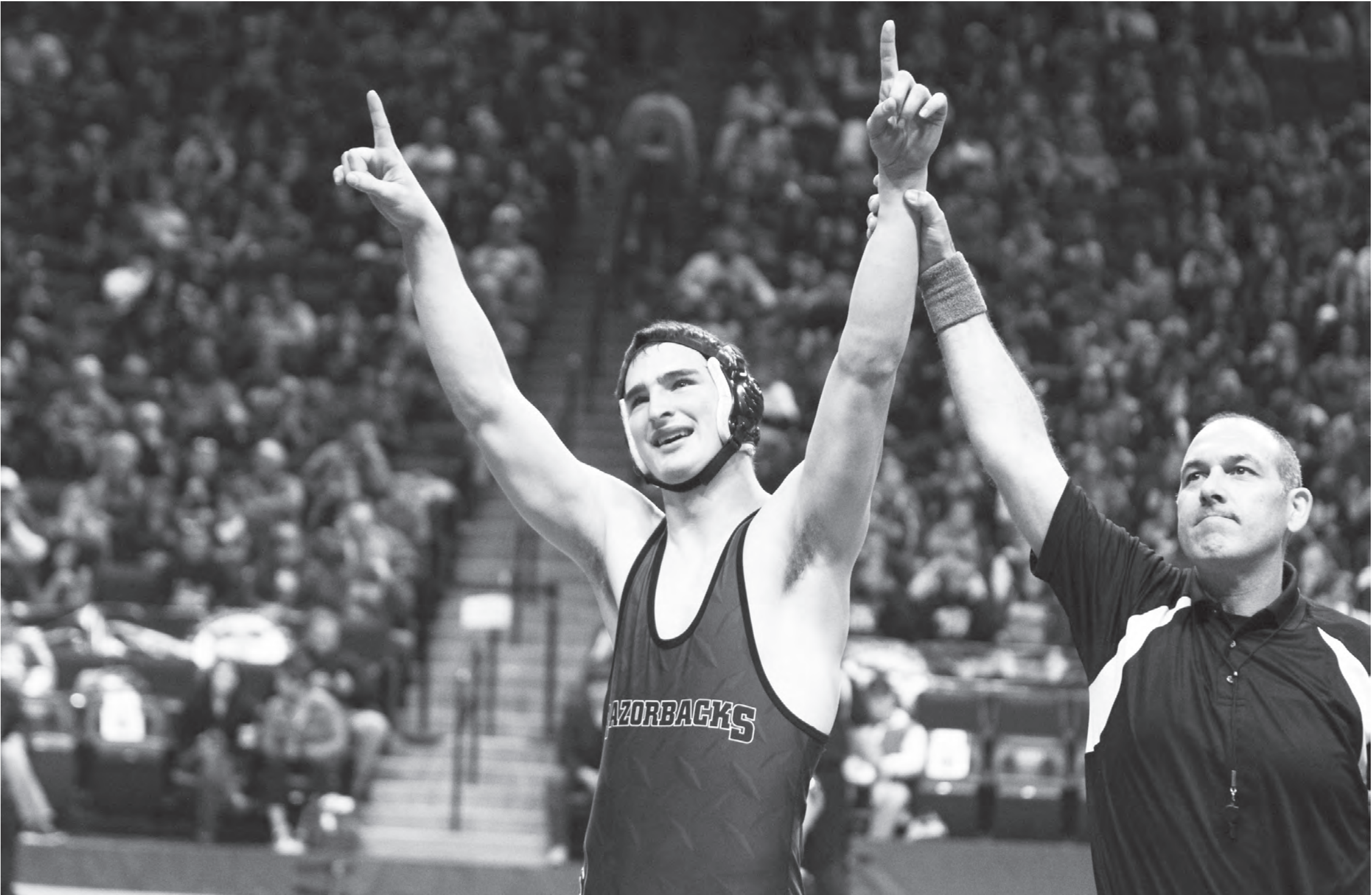




2017 Minnesota High School Wrestling State Tournament



Krell, Oswald make program history



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Top: Westfield's Mitchell Oswald points to the crowd after winning the third place match at 220 pounds in Class A Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center. Oswald defeated Rory Drewes of Frazee 8-6 in sudden victory. Bottom right: Westfield's Colton Krell holds on to the leg of Justin Dravis in the 160-pound Class A third place match Saturday. Krell lost by pin to take fourth.

Westfield's Colton Krell and Mitchell Oswald become first grapplers to place at state

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul — A season of many program firsts ended in celebration Saturday night.

With the match tied at 6-6 entering overtime, Westfield's Brad Heydt admitted that he was a bit nervous for Oswald.

"I didn't know what to think, the kid had taken him down twice, but we've seen that with Mitchell many times during the year where he plows over a guy. He's so strong. What he's done is just amazing," Heydt added.

Then Oswald took a shot that will permanently cement him in program history.

In deep on a double-leg, Oswald was able to turn the corner and drive, sending Rory Drewes of Frazee to a hip and giving the Westfield junior an 8-6 overtime thriller to place third in Class A Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center.

"I wanted to get it done with. I wrestled quite a few matches," commented Oswald. "I just wanted to get it done with and get off the mat with a victory."

Oswald's road to the podium was fairly dominant, suffering his lone loss on Friday.

After winning by fall and a commanding 9-5 decision, Oswald fell to eventual state champion and No.2 seed Reid Steelhammer of Dover-Eyota 10-0.

The third-seeded junior was able to rebound in the consolation semifinals, defeating top-seeded Trenton Rogich of Leseur-Henderson 5-2. Zumbrota-Mazeppa's Jarrett Haglund upset Rogich in the championship quarterfinals.

The match started in favor of Drewes as he hit a strong double-leg, overtaking Oswald's base for a quick 2-0 lead. It wouldn't take long for Oswald to take score as he managed to slip out of a cradle attempt, essentially putting Drewes on his back in the process.

After choosing down to start the second period, Drewes was able to quickly escape and takedown Oswald to regain a slim 5-4 lead. But, the Westfield junior was hit another reversal to take a 6-4 lead into the third period. Attempting to ride his opponent for the final two minutes, Oswald's long frame managed to get a tight claw-ride on the opening whistle.

With 30 seconds remaining, Oswald was assessed a technical violation that would tie the match 6-6 for what the officials deemed was due to grabbing Drewes' thumb and stretching it.

Oswald's win at 220 pounds was a strong finish to a tough placing round for Westfield.

After winning his consolation semifinal match 3-2 over Derrick Kreiger of Kerhoven-Murdock-Sunburg, Krell would wrestle the second-seeded Justin Dravis of

Park Rapids.

Dravis, who was upset by third-seeded Dalton Wagner, made quick work of the freshman Razorback, locking up a cradle at the 1:26-mark of the first period. Krell's road to the third place match came with his only loss prior to the placing rounds.

After defeating his first two opponents by pin and a 5-4 decision, the fourth-seeded freshman had a date set with Class A's top-seeded and eventual state champion Bailee O'Reilly of Goodhue. O'Reilly - the defending state champion - easily dominated Krell to a 16-6 decision. But, lucky for Krell and Westfield, reaching the semifinals locked up the program's first state placer.

The opening round of the Class A tournament on Friday was rough for co-head coaches Brad Heydt and Chad Gimbel.

Ethan Arett was up 2-0 early on Dover Eyota's Taylor DeFrang after securing a deep double-leg on the edge of the mat. The lead would slowly dissipate as DeFrang managed to hit a quick stand up and takedown to lead 3-2. Arett would surrender a takedown in the final seconds of the third period.

Westfield didn't have to wait long for a program first however. In fact, they only had to wait 28 seconds.

After sustaining a 2-0 lead, Morgan Moreno was caught in

a scramble after Elijah Cloos of Ortonville hit a roll and in the heat of the scramble, was able to catch Moreno in a headlock. Trey Chatman was the final Razorback to wrestle and would fall in his match 8-4 after trailing most of the match. After a takedown cut his deficit to 6-4, Chatman was unable to turn Devin Preis of BGRM in the final moments.

Due to dropping all three of their opening round matches, Arett, Moreno and Chatman's weekend were all dependent on their opponents winning in the quarterfinals. However, all three won their matches, ending the three Razorbacks' hopes for placing.

With a memorable first year in the books for Westfield, Heydt

noted that the future of Razorback wrestling should be very successful for years to come.

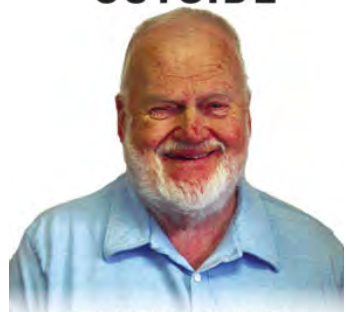
"Last year, we were two different schools and didn't send anybody to stop. This year, we were one school and sent five to state and had place," commented Heydt. "Wrestling could be pretty good for a while for Westfield."



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OUTSIDE



THE LINES LeMar Nelson

Think spring and... SPORTS

When I mentioned that playoff time for winter sports provides some of the biggest thrills of the entire year, I probably should have also reported that not having any of the local teams involved at this time of the season becomes the most disheartening.

Such is the case for the local basketball teams.

It is rare that both teams bow out of tournament play after the first round, but this season that fate befell both teams.

It does make the period between winter and spring that much longer, for sure. The one team that is still enjoying success and competed at the state tournament was the wrestling team.

It remains way too early to assess any chances for spring sports, although we can be pretty confident that the boys golf team should be a winning team again.

As for the other sports, only time will tell about any success in store for the teams.

At least to begin, optimism reigns, and all the athletes are eager to get the season started.

Wrestlers have wins

The wrestlers deserve a tip of the hat this week, as five of the Razorback matmen wended their way to the state wrestling tournament.

Ethan Arett lost his first bout and then was eliminated from competition when his first round opponent lost his second bout in the tournament. At 160, Colton Krell won his first two bouts and advanced to the semifinals. Krell pinned Logan Tesch of Sibley East in just 28 seconds of the first period in his first bout and then took a 5-1 decision in bout number two.

He recorded a takedown with just 20 seconds left in the second period and then recorded a takedown and an escape in the third period to beat Tony Hinzmann of United North Central.

Morgan Moreno and Trey Chatman both also lost in the first round, but 220-pound Mitchell Oswald also earned a spot in the semi-finals. Oswald pinned Jacob Batman of Park Rapids at 4:38 in his first bout and then decisioned Hunter Podlowski 9-5 to reach the semis.

Both Krell and Oswald lost their bouts in the semi-finals, but Krell came back for a win, before losing the third place bout.

Oswald eventually finished third by taking an 8-6 verdict over Rory Dawes of Frazee. Both Krell and Oswald deserve an extra tip of the hat for their fourth and third place finishes.

Krejci honored

It seemed only fitting that our own Cheri Krejci should be honored last week as the 2017 Woman of Achievement by the Owatonna Women of Achievement organization.

For those of us who live and work in Blooming Prairie, we are well aware of the countless contributions that Cheri has made to the community and for her tireless work in the local Cancer Group.

A cancer survivor herself,

LINES

Continued on page 7B

Panthers advance

Wagner twins guide top-seeded NRHEG to sub-section final

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

New Richland – In the opening round of 2AA South Sub-Section play, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva girls basketball team looking to keep doing what they’ve done at home all year. Dominate.

Powered by the play of twins Maddie and Marnie Wagner, the top-seeded Panthers (22-5) cruised to a 53-23 win over No. 8 seed St. James Tuesday night, keeping their record perfect when playing at home.

“We came out well defensively and attacked them,” commented head coach Onika Peterson. “Offensively, we got the shots we wanted. We attacked the basket; The girls did a nice job.”

NRHEG exploded out of the gates with a stifling trap on the defensive end, forcing six turnovers in the first half. If the trap didn’t force a turnover, it forced numerous passes that sailed over any Saints in the area.

The Saints mustered just five points in the half. Three of which, came from free throw attempts. In fact, St. James didn’t register its first point of the game until seven minutes passed in the first half.

While the trap orchestrated by Peterson guided the defense, Maddie Wagner guided the offense.

Wagner led all scorers in the game with 15 points, all coming in the first half. Six of those 15 were part of a 13-0 run by the Panthers. The senior also dished five assists, hauled in four rebounds and reaped the benefits of the trap, registering five steals. Wagner noted that the rhythm seemed to be perfect offensively in the first half.

“I thought we set some pretty good screens right away to get everyone open and thought we passed the ball down low very well,” she added.

Maddie twin sister, Marnie, also got in on the action for the Panthers,



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

NRHEG’s Maddie Wanger (1) goes up for a jump-shot in the second half of the top-seeded Panthers’ 53-23 win over eighth-seeded St. James Tuesday, Feb. 28. Wagner scored 15 points in the win.

PANTHERS

Continued on page 7B

Cardinals edge Blossoms

Blooming Prairie falls in Sub-Section quarterfinals

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie’s Nick Thompson (24) and Gabe Hagen (33) attempt to block a Cardinals’ player shot in the first half of the Blossoms’ 56-45 loss to Bethlehem Academy Thursday in Section 1A Sub-Section action.

Faribault - “No reason for the boys to hang their heads after this one,” remarked Coach Nate Pillar, after third-seeded Bethlehem Academy ended the sixth-seeded Awesome Blossom season with a 56-45 victory in quarterfinal action of the sub-section tournament.

“The boys competed at a high level and played some of their basketball of the season,” added Pillar.

The Blossoms trailed by just three points 48-45 with under four minutes left in the game.

However, a couple of costly turnovers and a late Cardinals basket forced Blooming Prairie to foul, and Bethlehem Academy made the free throws down the stretch to ensure the win.

Blooming Prairie played without center Jake Ressler in the contest.

The Cardinals had three players reach double figures, while BP freshman Kaden Thomas led all scorers in the game with 19 points.

Jack Clark scored 16 points for the Cardinals, Avery Hunt counted 14, and Alex Bongers added 10 points. Trent Swenson had eight points for the Blossoms.

“This was a tough loss tonight,” concluded Pillar. “We were down by just three with over three minutes left, but we couldn’t get the crucial baskets we needed.

“Obviously, I am very proud of the boys’ effort. We played very well, even without our post player. The boys competed well and rebounded the ball about as well as we had all season. We just ran a little short of time.”

Tigers nip Huskies

Farmington ends Owatonna’s season in 54-48 win

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Hosting a home Section 1-AAA playoff game Wednesday, the Owatonna high school girls basketball team was going to need a lot of Syd Schultz to top the fifth-seeded Tigers.

If only the turnover bug didn't bite.

Forcing 13 turnovers, the Tigers were able to fend off the Huskies 54-48 Wednesday night at OHS.

"It was a close game, very physical; just a really good game," commented Huskies head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa.

Owatonna managed to swing a 9-1 run that cut a double-digit lead to just one in the second half, but were unable to generate any offensive rhythm late.

While the Huskies shot 40 percent from the field, the charity stripe proved to be a daunting task.

In 13 free throw attempts, Owatonna made only four, shooting a dismal 30 percent.

Farmington also managed to shut down leading scorer Syd Schultz.

Despite recording a double-double, the high-scoring junior managed to register just 11 points.

Owatonna finished the season 17-7.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Farmington's Ellie Clayton (12) takes a shot from beyond the arc as Owatonna's Bria Wachowiak (3) attempts to defend during the first half of the Tigers' 54-48 win over Owatonna Wednesday in Section 1-AAAA tournament action. The loss ends the Huskies' season at 17-7.

2016-17 LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE Week Twenty (Mar.1)

Team Scores

	W	L	F& M Bank	1578
1. Epic Contract	20	12		
2. Koster's Kar Corner	19	13		
3. F& M Bank	14	18		
4. J&H/DQ	11	21		

High Team game (Scratch)

F& M Bank	580	1. Joann Nielson	179
		2. Kathy Meyer	154

High Team Game (Handicap)

Koster's Kar Corner	566	1. Joann Nielson	432
		2. Judy Esplan	412

High Team Series (Scratch)

High Team Series (Handicap)

Koster's Kar Corner	1622
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High Game Individual

1. Joann Nielson	179
2. Kathy Meyer	154

High Series Individual

1. Joann Nielson	432
2. Judy Esplan	412

Huskies' Sullivan drops 30 in season finale; To play Lakeville South in Section 1-AAA opener

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

In his final home game as a Husky, senior Jay Sullivan had a performance to remember.

Scoring 30 points, Sullivan gave the Owatonna Huskies just enough to edge Big Nine Conference foe Mankato West 70-65 Friday night at the OHS gymnasium.

Owatonna managed to overcome a 10-point deficit early in the first half.

Sullivan, who has reached double figures in seven straight games, was simply unable to be stopped.

Along with draining both of his three-point attempts, the high-scoring junior went 10-

of-16 from the field.

He also went 4-of-6 from the free throw line.

Sullivan wasn't the only Husky to catch his groove.

Dalton Kubista, the Huskies' leading scorer this season, added 20 points.

Mankato East 60, Owatonna 43

On Tuesday, the Huskies were in Mankato for a Big Nine Conference game with the Cougars.

**Stats were not reported prior to press.*

Four Huskies receive honors

It was announced Monday that four members of the

Owatonna boys basketball team were selected for post-season awards.

Senior Jay Sullivan and junior Dalton Kubista were selected to the Big Nine's All-Conference team Monday.

Sullivan and Kubista both average over 17 points a game.

Junior Alex Raichle and senior Andrew Jackson were named to the Conference's honorable mention squad.

Huskies awarded No.5 seed in Section 1-AAA

In the upcoming Section 1-AAA tournament, Owatonna was awarded the fifth seed and will travel to fourth seed Lakeville South Wednesday.

Spring previews on the horizon

LINES: from page 6B

she has been a tireless champion for bringing support and help to countless residents who have suffered from that terrible disease. From arranging rides, giving gas cards, and lending financial aid to struggling individuals and/or families, the cancer group has been available. And that is just one of the causes for which Cheri has volunteered. Her contributions would be too many to list here, but she is most deserving of the honor received, and she gets a very big tip of the hat this week for all her efforts.

A lull in the action

I am not sure why it is the case, but this period of time

between the winter and spring sports always seems to be a relatively long period of inactivity. Maybe it is because the seasons are changing abruptly from winter to spring, or maybe it is just because students and adults alike find time dragging just a bit, as everyone looks forward to spring rains, budding trees, and awakening lawns and gardens.

And who would ever have thought that the Gopher men's basketball team would initiate a complete turnaround from a year ago to enjoy the success of this year. The team will certainly earn a rather high seed in the NCAA tournament, and they have a real chance to do well in the conference tourna-

ment as well. Nobody could have predicted that, but we will enjoy it while we can. Minnesota sports fans have too few opportunities to tout success for our university teams, and we will take advantage of any opportunity, while we can.

What remains a certainty is that the Times is now looking forward to preview articles getting prepared for the big spring sports tab. This publication has become a regular part of the paper and one that causes interest and excitement to the writers and the student athletes. The publication date for that tab will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Think spring, and we'll talk again.

NRHEG to play No.2 seed Blue Earth

PANTHERS: from page 6B

scoring 11 points and while also recording three rebounds and two assists.

After taking a commanding 40-7 lead into the half, the Panthers appeared to slump a bit in the second half, scoring just 13 points. Coach Peterson noted that much of the struggles in the second half were due to trying to shift her players in platoons.

"We got a lot of kids in tonight. The second half was a bit different, I mean, we tried to

run them in squads like hockey; Get them in and get them out to get everyone else playing. And that's hard to get a flow of things when you get that many kids coming out."

Peterson quickly added that it's a bigger deal than it may sound to be able to platoon-style sub in the second half, knowing they will play again on Friday.

A moment that would make any sports fan smile took place in the final minute of the game

for the Panthers.

After suffering back-to-back ACL tear, practically ending her high school career, senior guard Gretchen Ramaker was finally able to step onto the court to play in the final moments of the game.

**Editor's note: Stats from NRHEG's 49-34 win over WEM Friday were not reported prior to press.*

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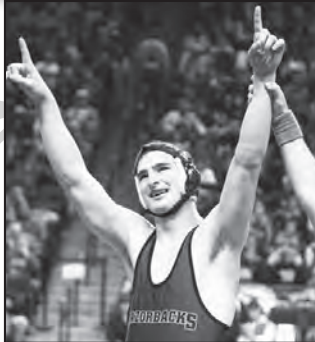
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STARS OF STEELE

Brandon Moen



Mitchell Oswald



Looking to cap off his senior season with another state championship, Owatonna senior Brandon Moen dominated the Class AAA state tournament. In the finals, Moen pinned the No.2 ranked grappler in Class AAA in 46 seconds.

In the program's first state tournament bid, Blooming Prairie junior Mitchell Oswald made history.

In an 8-6 sudden victory win, he became the first state placer for the Westfield wrestling program.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

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Owning the ice in Owatonna



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Two members of the Owatonna Figure Skating Club turn in tandem as they practice their “Surfing USA” skate routine. They’re two of 21 student members who will be performing in the show.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Get ready to rock around the USA. The Owatonna Figure Skating Club will hosts its annual Ice Show Saturday, March 11 at 2 p.m. at the Four Seasons. This year’s theme is a USA road trip.

They’ll be preforming to classics by Elvis, Jonny Cash, and the Beach Boys, as well as rock and pop songs by the likes of Alicia Keys, KISS, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blues Brothers, and John Mayer.

Annabelle Wellnitz, a sophomore at Owatonna high school, has been skating with the club since the fourth grade, and she is stoked to perform. She says the other girls and her have competed before, but performing is different.

“There’s no limit,” she said, “you just do what you want to do.” Her favorite part of the show is performing with all the other girls on the ice. Competing, she says is more of a solo event.

Hermother, Val Wellnitz is president of the figure skating club. She says the

show provides the skaters a chance to tryout things they’ve been working on without the pressure of competition.

This year’s show, she said would be different from ones in the past, because so much of the music is modern or rock and roll based.

“You don’t have your classical figure skating music,” she said.

Audience members can also look forward to members of The Owatonna Boys Hockey team joining the show for a number. Six hockey players who have helped out with previous shows will be back this year.

“They’re an awesome group of guys,” Val said.

In total, 25 club skaters will perform in the show. Their ages range from four to over forty.

Guest appearances will include Rochester Theater On Ice, Professional Skater Amy Berglund, and Choreographer Heidi Evers.

Tickets can be bought in advance for \$7 or \$10 at the door. Kids five and under are free. Tickets can be purchased online at www.showtix4u.com or locally at Court Sports in Owatonna.

Tips for
child car safety



Lisa Waypa

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death for children between 1 and 13 years of age and a properly used child safety seat can reduce fatal injury by 71%.

Seems simple right? Just buckle children up in their car seats and you’re good to go. But - the statistics show that three out of every four car seats are not used correctly.

With the vast selection of child passenger restraints available and differences in vehicles, there comes many mistakes in properly restraining children for travel. As a certified child passenger safety technician, I would like to review some guidelines and mistakes people make. Let’s work together to keep your child safe.

Before you buy a car seat, know your child’s height and weight. Buy a seat that is appropriate for his/her size and for his developmental stage. If you are considering using a seat that is a hand-me-down, make sure you know and trust the previous owner and ensure that it was never in a crash, has not expired and that any recalls have been fixed. A car seat expires 6 years after date of manufacture unless otherwise printed. Check nhtsa.gov/recalls for any recall information.

Read both the vehicle and car seat instruction manuals. This will help you know if the seat is right for your child, how to care for and use it. Your vehicle owner’s manual will tell you where and how to secure the car seat in the vehicle. Use the seatbelt OR the LATCH system to secure the car seat, not both. Note that there is a 48 lb weight limit when using the lower anchors.

And if securing the car seat with the seatbelt, lock the shoulder strap if the latchplate is free sliding. The car seat should not move more than an inch from side to side as you drive around town.

Infants and young children should be rear facing and continue that until the highest limit of the car seat which is often to age 2 or 3. Children in their second year of life are five times less likely to die or be seriously injured in a crash if restrained rear-facing compared to forward-facing.

For those using a safety harness, there should be no slack and the chest clip should be placed at armpit level. Older children should stay in a booster seat until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall and the lap belt lays across their hip area and not across their soft abdomen. It is considered safest to keep children in the back seat until they reach age 13.

I hope these tips are helpful and that you understand the seriousness of keeping children the safest they can be if there is a car crash. As they grow, expect children to ask why all the rules. Remind them how precious they are and you would never want them to be seriously hurt.

Call Steele County Public Health at 507-444-7650 if you are interested in car seat education or to check if your seat is being used correctly.

Lisa Waypa is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, Family Health Lead and WIC Coordinator.

Reading month
comes to
Seussical end



Submitted photo by Principal Ristau

First grade teacher Mrs. Ness and first grader Alexis Markham pose with different Dr. Seuss themed items in honor of the author’s birthday and the end of Reading is Fun month. Medford school celebrated with a special breakfast, where 69 adults and 253 students were served by kitchen workers dressed as Thing One and Thing Two from the Dr. Seuss book, *The Cat in the Hat*.

Medford art student
draws winning logo

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Medford Senior Spencer Peck won the contest to design The Owatonna Art Center’s logo for its Art On The Hills art fair in July. The logo will appear on the publicity material leading up to the fair.

Peck found out about the contest from his art teacher Kim Cameron. Inspired by the event’s name, it took Peck only five minutes to draw a rough draft of his logo, and it went through only minor changers after the initial draft.

Naomi Jirele, a member of the Art On The Hills committee, said that Spencer’s logo stood out to the committee right away. It’s clean simplicity, color, and circular design made it one of the most logo friendly images they received.

“He has an innate talent,” Jirele said referring to Peck. Peck was awarded an amazon gift card for winning. The committee received 24 entries in total from Owatonna and Medford high schools.

Peck says he’s been “interested in art for as long as I could draw pictures.” He used to paint, but he doesn’t have the patience for it. He always comes back to drawing either by hand or on a computer. This is the first art contest he’s ever entered, and he hopes to pursue graphic design when he attends the University of Duluth.

His advice to other aspiring artists is to “practice, practice at home, not just at school.”

He continued, “Try different styles until you find your main one, then focus on that.”

Jirele hoped the logo contest would give local youths a chance to feel invested in their art community. She said, “I want to build a bridge



Submitted photo

Speck’s image was chosen in large part because it was the most logo-friendly. His clear wording and circular design will make reproduction of the image easy.

to the arts.”

“The [art center] is here to serve them as well,” she continued.

The festival for which the logo will be used is only recently returned to Owatonna. After a few years hiatus, and having been held in Central Park before that, the summer art fair is back where it began at the West Hills Campus this July.

The art center decided to restore the event at the enthusiastic request of local artists, who will have the chance to display and sell their work at the event.

All of the submitted logo designs will be displayed during the student show coming up this month at the art center.

Books go to battle at NRHEG elementary

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At NRHEG Elementary February was, “I Love to Read Month”. Throughout the month special activities and events were held to promote the love of reading in students.

The students and staff felt the emphasis on reading this month was successful.

Graden Karl, in grade 5 stated, “My favorite activity was being able to read any book I wanted for 15 minutes on Wednesday’s.” He is planning on finishing the book during the month of March.

Ned Bell, also in grade 5, said, “I think the Battle of the Books this afternoon is going to be my favorite activity.”

Hailey Deniz-Clark, grade 3, stated, “My favorite activities were the Lexia Scoop and Read and Munch.”

On March 3, the school hosted a Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast, where they served 576 serving of green eggs and ham, long john rolls, juices and

coffee, in honor of Dr. Seuss.

During the morning The Reader’s Theatre from NRHEG High School presented Dr. Seuss stories to each grade level, and that afternoon was the Battle of the Books.

The Battle of the Books is a contest for fourth and fifth grade students. They form teams and all read from a specific list of books. This year’s list included entries like Sarah Plain and Tall and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone.

On the day of the battle, on stage three of the nine teams face off at a time answering trivia questions about the books. One team is selected from each of the initial three rounds, and a championship round is held between the remaining three teams.

After every question is answered an explosion of noise comes from the younger students gathered in the gym to watch. There are waves of cheers for every right answer, and exclamations of dismay for every wrong guess.

This year a group of fourth grade boys, The Elite Dabbers, took first place.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The Elite Dabbers recieved their trophy along with their teacher Ms. Freeman, the event’s coordinator. Team members included: Ian Riskedahl, Colton Kruger, Owen Bartlett, Aidan Schlaak, and Jace Ihrke.

For their efforts, they received a team trophy and individual dog tags that exclaimed, “Pawsome Reader.”

Jill Freeman, who founded Ellendale’s Battle of the Books last year, says it, “makes reading fun for the kids.”

Judging from all the cheers and first-pumps, she’s not wrong.

Barb Handahl, the school’s Family Services Coordinator, contributed to this article.

Blooming Prairie Living

After prom planning continues

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Blooming Prairie High School’s Prom for 2017 is less than two months away with planning continuing in earnest, reports chair Jessie Christianson and committee member Julie Noble.

Blooming’s high school prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

The mission of the After Prom Committee is to provide a safe, fun Prom experience for all BP students.

Every other year the plan for prom alternates from a traditional prom with a Grand March, dance at school or club and After Prom at the school with games, food, a hypnotist etc or a boat year prom with a Grand march at school, bus ride to Stillwater for a banquet and dance aboard a riverboat, bus ride to arcade facility for an all-night after prom party with games, food etc then back to school for light breakfast and prizes.

This year is a boat year,

thus the Grand March will be held at the school and immediately following this the kids will board coach buses to travel to Stillwater.

Prom goers will board a riverboat and will have a cruise on the St. Croix. Students will have a nice dinner and dancing on the boat.

Following the boat cruise, students will then be bused to Grand Slam where they will change clothes and have the opportunity to do many activities such a batting cages, arcade games, large trampolines, etc.

Prom attendees will have food, too. They will then be bused back to BP and will be back at school by 5 a.m. A light breakfast of muffins and juice will be served, followed by prizes.

The After Prom Committee welcomes parents of students (any age) to become active on the committee to help with fund-raising. These funds are necessary to put on After Prom.

“We also accept any and all donations from individuals

or businesses,” Christianson said. Many local businesses have already helped “and we are thankful for that,” Christianson added.

People can attend the After Prom fund-raisers and support the committee in that respect. Tailgate parties, an Italian buffet dinner with a silent auction and a Buffalo Wild Wings fund-raiser have already been held.

Future fund-raising ideas may include a bowling tournament for kids and adults and a crafts class.

Christianson takes over as chair, following in the footsteps of Holli Naatz who chaired the After Prom Committee for many years. “Holli did a great job and we just want to keep this leadership tradition going,” said committee member Noble.

Any parent or community member may be part of the planning committee. The committee usually consists of parents of a senior or junior class student, “but it doesn’t have to be,” said Christianson. “We welcome

any interested parties to join the committee.

Active committee members currently include Christianson, Noble, Teresa Sisler, Sandy Basness, Ellen Sunde, Mary Ann Romeo, Danielle Hein, Jessie and Ruben Kubista, Kathy Peterson and Jill Kubicek. Many others have helped with the various events, Christianson and Noble point out.

If anyone has a donation for After Prom (i.e. money, prizes, food or other), they may contact Christianson or Noble.

“We really believe it is important to keep our students safe on this very special event,” Noble said. “We are very fortunate in Blooming Prairie to have adults who really care about the safety of our students and have worked hard to make After Prom a very successful event,” added Christianson.

Continued support is needed to keep this tradition alive and successful, Christianson said.

Sue Helgeson donates wine bags, cakes, pies



Submitted photo

Blooming Prairie Education Foundation board member Sue Helgeson is shown with specially designed wine bags to be offe ed for sale at the annual BP Ed Foundation auction on Saturday, March 25. The one in the middle is this year's wine bag. The slogan has yet to be revealed.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

The success of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation’s annual auction depends on the generosity of lots of volunteers and on the dedication of its board members.

The success of the Education Foundation event is also dependent on donors and buyers.

The 14th Annual BP Education Foundation Auctions will be held Saturday, March 25 at the Cue Company in Blooming Prairie. The silent auction begins at 3 p.m. and the live auction follows at 6 p.m.

Sue Helgeson is one of those volunteers who donates to the cause and also serves on the BP Education board of directors. Sue is known for donating a round raspberry and white chocolate layer cake.

Helgeson’s specialty cake has brought as much as \$475. She also donates pies and other cakes for the auctions.

Sue is also known for her

contributions of wine bags that are sold for \$20 each. Sue donates the fabric and sewing. Fifty bags will be available and hold a regular size wine bottle.

Linda Klemmensen of Sportstitch donates a bottle opener that is attached to the bag.

In making the wine bags, Sue chooses a theme. She hesitated to reveal this year’s theme, saying she wanted it to be a surprise. Last year’s theme was “Blossoms Are Red Hot.” One other year, the theme was “Cheers!”

Helgeson says the wine bags become collector items. Klemmensen donates the printing for the bags.

Sportstich has become a regular donor to the BP Education Foundation event and again this year she plans to donate hooded sweatshirts, kids sizes to adult. In the past she has also made t-shirts from a t-shirt quilt crafted by local volunteers.

High School student groups donate specialty baskets and Klemmensen has donated specially designed t-shirts to be placed in the baskets. The designs are new and have yet to be revealed.

Helgeson said she became involved with the Education Foundation after “seeing the good that it has done.”

Helgeson’s five children and two of her grandchildren are graduates of Blooming Prairie High School.

Serving as a board member and regular donor, Helgeson says her involvement and that of others helps provide kids with programs the school district would not ordinarily provide. A strong education system has always been available to students of the Blooming Prairie School District, Helgeson says.

Helgeson urges others to help with the cause of the BP Education Foundation by coming to the auction and by donating unique items for the auction.

“Come and see us on the 25th of March,” Helgeson says, offering a special invitation to see the more than 300 auction items that are expected.

Blooming Prairie March students of the month



Name: Ethan Arett
Grade: 11
Siblings: 22 year old brother
Pets: 1 dog - Ivy
Interests: 4-H, FFA, wrestling and baseball
Favorite Class: Chem II – He likes the teacher.

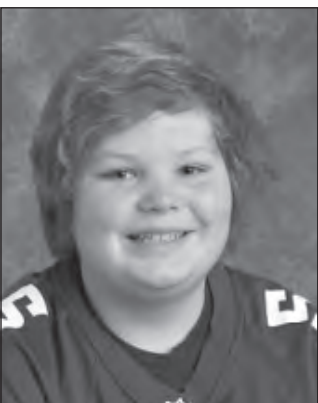
Statements from the staff:
“I couldn’t ask for a more mature, hard-working, calm presence in class. He has such great common knowledge and is so down

to earth. He is definitely a kid who knows how to work hard.”

“Ethan is a model student/athlete. He is very conscientious about his schoolwork, making sure it is done and done well, all while balancing a grueling wrestling season. Ethan is a student leader of few words, but shows his leadership by working hard in the classroom and on the wrestling mat.”

“Ethan Arett is a role model for all student athletes...he is hard working, focused, dedicated, respectful, and a great leader on and off the field.”

“Ethan is a stellar student whom others would be smart to follow. He is extremely bright, kind, hard-working, respectful, and grateful. There is no question, Ethan will be successful in life.”



Name: Adam Walsh
Grade: 7
Siblings: 19 year old sister
Pets: 1 dog – Macy
Interests: Styx of Fur -playing the drums, football, and golf
Favorite Class: Science – fun learning about the body and how everything works. Gym – get to run around, burn energy, and play fun games.

Statements from the staff:

“Adam is a student who always says hello and has a smile on his face. He is easy to get along with and is always willing to help out his peers.”

“Adam Walsh is a wonderful student to have in class. He is always happy and adds a great deal of spunk to the class room atmosphere. Adam works hard in class and is always willing to help others.”

“Adam is always quick to volunteer and help a classmate.”

“He’s polite. He always says hello when he meets me in the hall and not every student does that.”

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Minnesota Chamber outlines legislative priorities

By **DOUG LOON**

It’s difficult enough to compete in today’s global economy and the everchanging circumstances that are out of our control. That’s all the more reason to bring stability to Minnesota’s business environment. Owners and managers need as much certainty as possible if they are to invest dollars to start and expand operations in our state.

The Minnesota Chamber works every day to strengthen the business climate to the benefit of all Minnesotans.

We’re most successful in our efforts when the statewide business community sends a united message to the governor and legislators. March 8 is the perfect opportunity. Please join us and our local chamber partners for our annual Business Day at the Capitol.

Our legislative priorities this year are focused on Making Minnesota Ready for the future – ready for change and ready to grow. We seek to bring peace of mind to all Minnesota businesses no matter your size, location or industry.

Leading our agenda this year:

Enact tax relief: Reduce uncompetitive taxes to encourage investment, innovation and growth among all businesses.

Expand health care options: Ensure access to quality, affordable health care for employers and their employees by expanding options, especially for small and midsize companies.

Pass long-term transportation investment: Pass strategic and sustained funding of roads, bridges and transit.

Minimize workplace mandates: Pass the Uniform State Labor

Standards Act to explicitly preempt local governments from enacting their own wage and benefit mandates on private employers.

Rest assured, the Minnesota Chamber and our local chamber partners lead the charge year-around to improve your bottom line for the benefit of your company and your employees – to bring stability to the business climate so businesses can grow and prosper. We support your needs at the Capitol by advancing and passing policy with the goal of securing the health of our state’s economy so we can adapt to changing competitive pressures. Please join your peers March 8 and send a united message. Together, we will ensure that Minnesota’s economy continues to change and grow.

Doug Loon is th president of The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

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Blooming
Prairie Cancer
Group

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Bright yellow daffodils will again be offered at A Touch of Charm in Blooming Prairie with all proceeds going to the BP Cancer Group’s Community Fund.

The flowers usually available in early March represent a first sign of spring, says Leanne Hanson of A Touch of Charm.

The daffodils will be available for the third consecutive year at A Touch of Charm at 330 East Main Street in bunches of 10 for \$10. A Touch of Charm sold 90 bunches last year and ordered 90 bunches again for this year.

The sale of daffodils was formerly a project of the American Cancer Society. Many organizations sold the flowers to benefit the Cancer Society.

Since the American Cancer Society discontinued its project, Leanne thought she would continue the project on a local level.

Cancer Corner

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Daffodil sales in BP benefit BP Cancer Group

“Everybody seems to look forward to daffodil sales,” says Hanson.

Hanson said she admires the efforts of the BP Cancer Group and wanted to help in any way she could.

Daffodils are hardy perennials that grow in most areas of North America, except

southern Florida. Daffodil bulbs can be planted in the fall and will bloom in late winter or early spring.

If you don’t plant your own daffodils, the next best bet is to order from A Touch of Charm at 507-583-7637. Stop by the store between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Submitted photo

Daffodils will be for sale f om A Touch of Charm of Blooming Prairie through Saturday, March 11. Daffodils a e available in bunches of 10 for \$10. All proceeds go to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group’s Community Fund.

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County Living

Seeing how the other half lives

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Roughly 50 members of the MN Prairie County Alliance staff gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna for a poverty simulation hosted by United Way. The staff were workers who specialized in child support, who were hoping to gain new perspective on what life is like for many of their clients.

Laura Prink, the Community Impact Manager for United Way Goodhue, Wabasha, Pierce, came in from Redwing to facilitate the simulation. She told the participants the goal was for them to better understand the situation of lower income families, so they would be “able to provide more comprehensive means of lifting people out of poverty.”

This event she said can “sensitize us to the daily lives.” 9.4% of Steele county residents live in some form of poverty or financial instability.

“This is a simulation, not a game,” Prink reminded everyone, “It’s not a game for our neighbors.”

The participants were grouped into family units and given individual descriptions of their person, as well as a packet with the family’s financial material, bills and a list of possessions. They had to live for one “month”, made up of four 15 minute weeks.

In addition to the daily challenges of their situation, Prink walked around with a deck of cards describing random events that could happen to them. “Representing the hand of fate that is at play in all of our lives,” Prink

said. Once the month started, the participants needed to visit different booths representing services, such as public schools, employment, social services, mortgage and realty, community action, grocery stores, and a homeless shelter. They needed to provide food and housing for themselves and their family.

Over 20 volunteers are needed to put on the simulation. Many of them were members of United Way or one of its partner agencies.

Volunteer Annette Duncan, the Executive Director of the child abuse prevention center, one such partner agency, was manning the child services booth. Her work made her familiar with the service, so she could more accurately portray what happens when someone visits them. At the child abuse prevention center, Duncan said, “the majority of their clients” are people living in poverty.

“We see it, but not everybody does,” she continued, “people living in poverty are there for a reason.”

“We have the opportunity to help,” Duncan said, “It takes all of us.”

Owatonna Police Chief Keith Hiller ran the jail for the simulation along with Captain Eric Rehemeier. Chief Hiller also serves on the United Way board of directors. While he had never done a poverty simulation before, he said he’s always in favor of the police force finding opportunities for community engagement.

“Anytime we understand how our community and services link together is vital to our community,” Chief Hiller said.

Talking with Prink, as she fielded participants and volunteers’



Left: Participants in the simulation had to apply for work at an employer with limited spaces in an attempt to provide for their households. If they took too long to get to the job booth, they could risk not getting paid that week. Right: Event moderator Laura Prink speaks with Chief Keith Hiller, who was running the jail for the simulation. Several of the participants were arrested throughout the event for drawing a fate card that informed them they had stolen from another resident.



questions, she said when people start the event, “their perception of poverty can vary depending on their life situation.”

Afterward, “their eyes have been opened,” she said, “They never realized the struggle.”

Recalling her own participation in the simulation, Prink said, “I felt exhausted, emotionally, physically.”

When asked, over 90 percent of applicants respond that the simulation raised their “awareness, empathy, and understanding.” Prink said it’s encouraging to see how it alters people.

“They take it with them to work or to their families,” she continued, “It changes their behavior.”

FFA scholarship accepting applicants



Kalyn Naatz



Jack Skalicky



Emily Glynn

The Reone Broulik memorial scholarship will be offering 3, \$500 scholarships to graduating FFA seniors from Owatonna, NRHEG, & Blooming Prairie. All recipients must be furthering their education on in an agriculture field. 2017 applications are due April 1st.

The 2016 Reone Broulik Scholarship Winners:

Blooming Prairie FFA Chapter- Kalyn Naatz

Kalyn is majoring in Animal Science at South Dakota State University.

Out at college Kalyn is involved in Jackrabbit Memorial Livestock Show, Little International & Block & Bridle.

In high school Kalyn was involved in her FFA chapter, a member of the Merry Lane 4-H Club, Basketball, Softball, Yearbook staff, Steele County 4-H Club Council, Steele County 4-H Ambassador, a Steele County Dairy Princess and a member

of the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Kalyn is the daughter of Doug & Holli Naatz. Congratulations Kalyn!

NRHEG FFA Chapter- Jack Skalicky

Jack is furthering his education out at Ridgewater College in Willmar MN for Agricultural Business.

Out at college Jack is involved in the Post Agriculture College and is on the quiz bowl team.

In high school Jack was involved in his FFA chapter, a member of the Straight River Stars 4-H club, Baseball, Trap Shooting Team, and has his own goat farm operation, Jack is a member of First Lutheran Church of Hope.

Jack is the son of Steve & Darla Skalicky. Congratulations Jack!

Owatonna FFA Chapter- Emily Glynn

Emily is majoring in Animal

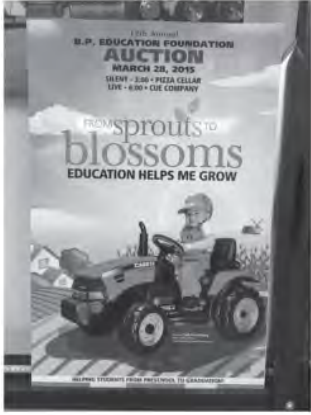
Science at North Dakota State University.

Out at college Emily is involved in Residence Hall Association and is a wrestling manager.

In high school Emily was involved in her FFA Chapter, a wrestling manager along with being a religious education teacher. Emily is the daughter of Jeffrey & April Glynn. Congratulations Emily!

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Pruning apple trees and woody plant control

Pruning trees especially apple trees is recommended between January and March each year to avoid potential disease and insect problems during the summer months. This winter period is also an excellent time to control unwanted or invasive woody trees and shrubs (buckthorn, Siberian elm, Japanese barberry, oriental bitter-sweet, etc.).

For pruning apple trees, you want to prune the tree to have well-spaced branches and a balanced appearance, while eliminating problematic branches (those that are broken, diseased, or dead).

General pruning guidelines include: Remove diseased, broken, or dead branches, remove any downward-growing branches, if two limbs are crossed, entangled, or otherwise competing, remove one of them completely at its base, remove any limbs along the trunk that is getting bigger in diameter than the trunk, remove suckers coming up from the roots or low on the trunk, remove watersprouts, which are vigorous vertical branches, make pruning cuts close to the branch collar at the base of the limb, for larger limbs, start the cut from the underside of the limb to avoid tearing the bark, remove large limbs first, starting with the top of the tree.

Information on pruning apple trees and general pruning tips are available at these sites: <http://z.umn.edu/homeapples>, <http://z.umn.edu/pruning>, <http://z.umn.edu/usfspruning> and www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/2016/03/pruning-what-why-when-and-how/

The procedure for woody plant control is to positively identify the tree or woody plant to control, cut the stump, and



treat the stump with herbicide and dispose of the brush. Winter woody tree identification is important because deciduous

trees have no leaves. Buckthorn usually has a tiny thorn at the very tip of most branches. Other desirable trees have a bud. Buckthorn has male and female trees. Female trees have purplish-black berries and should be selected to control first to prevent spread. The most effective brush killers for cut stump treatments include Triclopyr as one of the active ingredients. For winter treatments an oil base and ester formulation is best. Follow label directions. Herbicide treatments are less effective when the sap is

flowing

Cut the tree trunk an inch above the ground and treat the entire bark or cambium layer (outer rim, edges of the stump). If any part of the exposed bark layer is not treated, the tree may resprout. Rope or flag a small plot to facilitate systematic treatment. Monitor treated sites seasonally.

To learn more about Buckthorn and woody plant control, look at the following web sites: www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/2007/04/woodland-invasive-species-in-minnesota/ <http://z.umn.edu/woodycontrol> and <http://z.umn.edu/buckthorn>

Extension plans seminars at North American Farm and Power Show

The University of Minnesota Extension is once again excited to coordinate the educational seminars for the 2017 North American Farm and Power Show, March 16, 17 and 18 at the Four Seasons Building in Owatonna. Admission to the Farm and Power Show and the seminars are free, and everything is open to the public.

UMN Extension's programming includes seminars on Thursday and Friday afternoons, March 16 and 17. Thursday's seminar is titled "Nitrogen Smart", presented by Brad Carlson & Greg Klinger, UMN Extension Educators. This meeting goes from 1 to 4 p.m., and will cover nitrogen related water quality issues in Minnesota, how nitrogen behaves in the environment, nitrogen application practices and recommendations, and using science to adapt your

management and evaluating new technology. Farmers are welcome to attend any part of the program that interest them, but must be in attendance for the entire program if they wish to receive their Nitrogen Smart Certification. Registration is free!

Starting Friday at 12 p.m. with registration, the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers will be offering a training session for commercial manure applicators and livestock producers who want to learn more about the development in manure application. Attendance at this program will meet the education requirements for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Commercial Waste Technician Licensing Program, but is open to public and free to attend.

Friday's agenda is as follows:

12:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Welcome
1:05 p.m. CAWT License Program Update, Alison Rosow, MN Dept. of Agriculture
1:35 p.m. Nitrogen Management Update, Greg Klinger, UMN Extension
2:35 p.m. Break
2:50 p.m. Public Perception, Rick Martens, Minnesota Custom Applicators Assc.
3:35 p.m. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Update, Steve Schmidt, MPCA
4:30 p.m. Final Remarks and Instructions

The public is encouraged to attend the University of Minnesota Extension's free agriculture seminars at the North American Farm and Power Show. Any questions can be directed to the Steele County Extension Office at schr1123@umn.edu or via phone at 507-444-7685.

The grazing dream

ON THE FARM



Kendra Schroeder

Autumn is supposed to be a time of beautiful leaves, carved pumpkins and eating sweet apples, but our previous fall was nothing but a continuous rainy day and the muddy aftermath to go with it. Increased rainfall all over southern Minnesota left fields, and farmers' hopes of their annuals returning this spring, utterly drowned. If you pastures were left as a devastating mud hole last fall, don't lose all hope yet; there's still time to get them back in time for summer.

Start by evaluating your pasture as it was left last fall. Was it shattered completely, or are there just areas that are overgrazed or trampled? On top of the bald spots, was your pasture full of weeds? By knowing the current quality of the pasture you can best determine if there are areas that need to be over-seeded, (seeding into existing pasture,) or re-established completely. The best time to seed your pasture is in the fall, August 1 to September 15. This gives the new seeding times to establish with adequate moisture and limited weed pressure before the cold hits. If you missed that deadline, or lost some pasture to the rain we had last November, the next best opportunity to seed will be this spring, April 1 to May 15.

When adding new seed to your pasture, be sure to give it the time it needs to develop a good root system. In general, you want to allow the pasture to grow 4-6 inches, then mow it to 3-4 inches. Repeat this process two or three times before allowing your livestock access to the field

The best way to manage your pastures is in a rotational grazing system. For this system you need at least two pastures and a "sacrifice area". A sacrifice area is a designated dry area for the livestock to stay when the pasture isn't ready to be grazed; many times, this is an outside area where the cattle are wintered. In a rotational grazing system, the animals are left on a pasture for a few weeks or until the pasture gets down to about 3 inches, then the animals are rotated to another pasture to allow time for each paddock to rest. Livestock tend to graze pastures unevenly, so be sure to mow the pasture after grazing; this keeps the highly grazed plants from being smothered by weeds or less desirable grasses. Dragging the pasture evenly distributes the natural fertilizer, manure, giving all plants a boost of nutrients. Finally, by allowing the pasture time to rest, the plants are able to regrow properly; you should wait until the pasture is 6-8 inches again before allowing animals to return to grazing.

Utilize these tips to help manage your pasture this growing season. For more information on pasture management, livestock stocking rates, and pasture assessments, feel free to contact Kendra Schroeder at the Steele County Office at 507-444-7685, Rice County Office at 507-332-6109 or schr1123@umn.edu.

Sesquicentennial Farm applications due April 3

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. Since the Sesquicentennial Farm program began in 2008, over 225 farms have been recognized. The Sesquicentennial Farm program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications

1) The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2016) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.

2) Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and

direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

3) Continuous residence on farm is not required, but ownership must be continuous.

4) The farm should consist of 50 or more acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson and Governor Mark Dayton will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition.

Applications are available by writing Sesquicentennial

Farms, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164; emailing info@fbmn.org; or calling 651-768-2100. Applications are also available on

our website, www.fbmn.org. Deadline for application is April 3. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Ses-

quicentennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of June.

To see a list of previously recognized Sesquicentennial Farms in Minnesota, visit fbmn.org/pages/farm-recognition.



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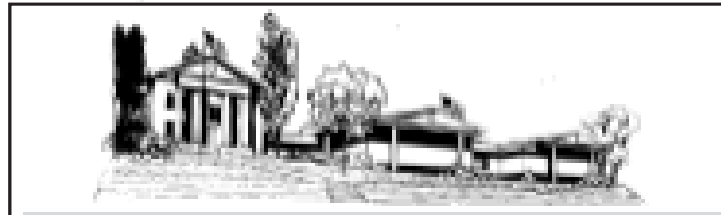


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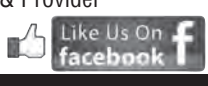
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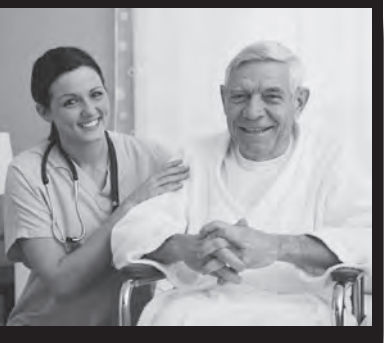
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BPRA Taco Night

Saturday, March 11th, 2017
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Cost \$5

Come and meet our BPRA Board Members: President Jeremy Wangen, Vice President Mike Studer, Secretary Lisa Bruns, Recreation Director Gina Hendrickson, and Board Members Katie Winzenburg, Mandy Lembke, Chase Kellner, & Tony Schiller

The BPRA is a community organization that is responsible for the financial and administrative duties related to youth activities in Blooming Prairie. The main emphasis is for the youth grades K-6; however, the BPRA will assist all activities K-12 when appropriate.



Happy 40th birthday.

M

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Samuel, Elijah & Levi

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Jack Bartlett is NRHEG's Panther of the Week. He is the son of Jason and Amie Bartlett. He also has a stepdad, Jay, and a stepmother, Nicky. Jack is in Mr. Beynon's 2nd grade class.

Jack shows great responsibility and respect in the classroom. He has so much curiosity for learning and loves participating in class discussions. He is always willing to go above and beyond to help his classmates.

Jack really enjoys playing outside and building with pattern blocks. His favorite movie is Night at the Museum, his favorite book is Dinosaurs Before Dark from Magic Tree House, and his favorite food is pizza.

Great job Jack!



PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS

Tuesday

High: 47°
Low: 28°

Wednesday

High: 48°
Low: 30°

Thursday

High: 49°
Low: 30°

Friday

High: 45°
Low: 24°

Saturday

High: 42°
Low: 22°

Sunday

High: 44°
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Blooming Prairie Ed Foundation Annual Auction March 25, 2017

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