

BLOOMING PRAIRIE TIMES

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FOURTEEN PAGES

COLUMN LEFT

Community Chatter
If brevity is the soul of wit this column promises to be extremely funny . . . Time and space this week are strictly rationed. The little thing which played such an important part in the V.P.W. parade about a year ago died an honorable death at the age of 36 last week, according to George Peterson . . . Mrs. C. A. Peterson "If you ever quote me in your column there'll be a scolding." The thing we like best about Bill Carroll is his frankness. Bill never had illusions about the liquor business and to him a saloon is merely a place where liquor is sold by the drink. The saloon will be back April 7 . . . Konard . . . World . . . city recorder. "Thirsty and pious Austin has four applications for beer warehouses and Blooming Prairie, the oasis on the arid plains has had none. Carve your own jig-saw." A few weeks ago store buildings were a drug on the market. With the return of beer landlards are smiling again . . . I. W. Page is showing what a penny can do this week at his store . . . Frank Matejcek is growing a beer stein; his contribution to the return of "non-intoxicating beer." With this adornment Frank looks like a fat Hitler . . . With three big sales and a number of specials being offered in Blooming Prairie this week the common people have a chance to live off the fat of the land for a few shekels. Wholesalers claim we are due for a price increase and many things have hiked up in price. A word to the wise is sufficient . . . W.K.M.

Steele Taxpayers May Save \$3,049

New Law Extends Payment Date Of Delinquent Taxes Without Penalty

Steele county taxpayers may save \$3,049 in penalties for 1931 assessments due last year as a result of the recent act passed by the state legislature and signed by Governor Olson, according to County Auditor Griffin. A total of \$357 already paid in penalties in Steele county is to be credited on the 1933 tax.

The new law allows the payment of last year's taxes without the usual penalty of 10 per cent and provides that land may not be sold for taxes delinquent in 1931, payable in 1932, before the sale on Monday in May 1935; that if 50 per cent or more of taxes due last year are met this season, the balance may be paid in 1934 without penalty.

Steele county, ranking second of the 86 counties in the payment of 1931 tax assessments, had only 4.4 per cent representing \$30,483.37 delinquent taxes January 1. The new law extending the date of payment gives Steele county residents an opportunity to save the 10 per cent penalties, \$3,049.

Since January 1, \$3,570.91 plus the interest of \$357 has already been paid. County Auditor Griffin states. Amounts paid in penalty for delinquent taxes thus far will not be refunded but will be applied towards payment of 1932 taxes, due this year.

The law is less applicable in Steele county than in other counties of the state because of the unusually good conditions here which have made possible payment of more than 95 per cent of 1931 assessments before the first date of penalty.

In some counties, however, less than 50 and even 30 per cent of tax assessments levied in 1931 have been met. The new law suspending penalties will save residents of the state hundreds of thousands of dollars if they are able to meet the assessment due, minus the penalty.

Dodge Center To Show Free Movie

A free movie showing a three reel talking picture and the first issue of national farm news reel will be shown at the opera house at Dodge Center, Monday April 3 at 2 p.m. o'clock. In the farm news reel are extracts from the national corn husking contest, the international livestock show and the national dairy show. The entertainment is furnished by the state farm insurance companies.

Vacant Stores Vanish As Beer Returns to City

W. R. Carroll To Establish Business In Building Leased By Jurgenson

FEW LOCATIONS

Date of Legal Beer Not Known Until Council Meets Monday

With the legalizing of the sale of 3.2 beer Blooming Prairie is expected to have a shortage of business houses. W. R. Carroll will take possession May 1 of his building now occupied by the Jurgenson Clothing House and will open a beer garden on the main floor. The basement will be used for a wholesale beer business and the second story will be converted into hotel rooms.

Fred Jurgenson has not announced the new location of his business but probably the only two available places are either in the Cooley building or in the present location of the Farmer's store.

This week Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Lewis moved their Blue Bird bakery to the front of the Cooley building in the store previously occupied by Larry's Cash Grocery, which leaves only one vacant store building on main street, the corner of the Cooley building. The quarters vacated by the bakery also in the Cooley building, is the only other downtown vacant store.

Just when beer will become legal in Blooming Prairie is not known. At the council meeting Monday night an ordinance is expected to be framed but it cannot go into force before publication in the local newspaper, Thursday, April 6. As soon as the ordinance is in effect the council will probably have an adjourned meeting to grant licenses but whether this meeting will be held in time to let local merchants in on the grand opening at midnight April 6 will not be known until after the regular council meeting next Monday night.

In addition to W. R. Carroll, the West hotel has announced its intention to request a license and is making plans for an opening night soon as beer becomes legal in Blooming.

Blooming Prairie's restaurants are awaiting the passage of the village ordinance before announcing plans as to selling beer. According to the ruling given by Attorney General Harry H. Peterson Wednesday pool halls will not be permitted to sell 3.2 per cent beer for consumption on premises under provisions of bills approved by the Minnesota legislature. Attorney General Peterson said that owners of pool halls cannot avoid the restriction by merely putting in a lunch counter.

Many cities and villages in Southern Minnesota will have a belated opening of legal beer. April 14 is the earliest date action can be taken to make beer legal in Austin and there is a possibility it may take longer. Beer will not be sold in Albert Lea until at least April 30. In Rochester however, the beverage becomes legal April 7.

This week Attorney General Peterson gave the formal opinion that communities which are dry will permit licenses to be issued for the sale of 3.2 per cent alcoholic content beer. Thus, in Mower county, dry under the local option plan before the federal prohibition law, local governing bodies can permit the sale of non-intoxicating beer.

Westfield Project Leaders Discover Gain In Interest

Interest in the clothing projects in the Westfield community is growing rapidly and the leaders Mrs. J. Olson, Mrs. Dan Burke, Mrs. Cecil Merideth and Mrs. Albert Noble, who attended the Dodge County leaders meeting at Hayfield the fore part of the week, are prepared to present the lessons at the next group meeting.

Clothing project number one will meet with Mrs. Henry Egerth at her home Tuesday afternoon, April 4, when Mrs. Cecil Merideth and Mrs. Albert Noble will have charge of the lesson. Group number two will meet the same day at the home of Mrs. John Selberger and Mrs. John Olson and Mrs. Dan Burke will present the lesson. Both meetings will start promptly at 1.15.

Stores Launch Sales With Markets Soaring

Rusche Warns To Pay Personal Tax by Friday, Mar. 31

County treasurer W. A. Rusche sends out the reminder that Friday, March 31 is the last day to pay personal property taxes. This is the end of the thirty-day extension granted this year from February 28, usually the final day of payment without penalty.

Board Postpones Hiring Teachers

Await Action of State Legislature Regarding Aid For Departments

Pending the action of the legislature on the bill for state aid to special departments in high schools, Blooming Prairie's board of education postponed the re-election of teachers Monday night to an adjourned meeting Thursday, March 30.

Dr. B. Melby, president of the board, said he believed serious consideration should be given before taking steps to eliminate the home economics and manual training departments of the local school. He pointed out that the departments could not be eliminated without weakening the entire school system and said he believed no high school in the immediate vicinity of Blooming Prairie had cut out these departments.

He was of the opinion that in order to attract the large percentage of rural and non-district pupils which is now enrolled in the high school Blooming Prairie must keep its standards high and offer as many courses as possible to compete with other high schools in this section. He pointed out that the school district is getting a good income from the rural pupils and said he believed this income would not be cut down if Blooming Prairie continued to make its school attractive to induce students from other districts to take their high school work here. The state now reimburses the district \$63 for every tuition pupil. Last year this yielded \$4,000 to the school's income and this year because of the larger number of rural pupils it will be more.

Doctor Melby also remarked that the Blooming Prairie school district is well situated aside from its school debt, and said that many school districts don't know how they will continue because of their tremendous debt burdens and reduced incomes. He said that at the present time in the United States five million children are being deprived of attending school because the school districts are failing to secure funds to run schools.

Shows Birth Rate Gains On Deaths

State Report Shows Twelve Births, Eight Deaths In Past Year

An increase of four was made in Blooming Prairie's population during the year 1932 and Blooming Prairie township boasts a gain of three, according to the annual report of the Minnesota department of health and vital statistics.

Reports of the various districts are Aurora township, births 3, deaths 6; Berlin township, births 13, deaths 1; Blooming Prairie village, births 12, deaths 8; Blooming Prairie township, births 15, deaths 12; Clinton Falls township, births 3, deaths 6; Deerfield township, births 15, deaths 4; Elmdale village, births 3, deaths 2; Lemond township, births 14, deaths 3; Medford township, births 6; deaths 4; Meriden township, births 18, deaths 3; Merton township, births 11, deaths 2; Owatonna, births 192, deaths 104; Owatonna township, births 5, deaths 4; Somerset township, births 17, deaths 4; Summit township, births 11, and deaths 7.

Total comparisons for the last four years are 1932, births 348, deaths 173; 1931, births 307, deaths 153; 1930, births 308, deaths 174; and 1929, births 327, and deaths 172.

Blooming Firms Give Chances To Save

Just at a time when commodity prices are rising from 5 to 20 per cent and with prospects of some sharp increases, particularly in flour, Blooming Prairie merchants are offering some outstanding bargains to the people of this trade territory.

The M. Nelson & Company are leading off with one of the most remarkable sales in their ten years of business. Their announcement is occupying seven pages in this issue of the Times due to the advertising and merchandising cooperation they have received from the wholesale companies. The wholesalers have united in this experiment to see how much business can be done where a firm gives bargain prices on standard merchandise and makes a 100 per cent effort to get the business.

In these seven pages are many free offers, many slashed prices, and combinations which make the offerings unique. Fred Jurgenson has been notified by William Carroll, owner of the store building that he must vacate by May 1. Mr. Carroll is planning to open a beer garden in his store and will sell the new beer at retail. Mr. Jurgenson is not definitely sure just where he will move but he states that the building will be smaller and he is therefore putting on a sale to cut down his stock. The Jurgenson Clothing removal sale announcement will be found on page six.

Another "New Deal Sale" is launched this week by the M. J. Fladager company with Charles "Curly" Hoffman, who is known as the "funniest man in the world," in charge. Charles Curly also will conduct a "No Money Auction" which is noted for its laughs. The Fladager announcement is found on page seven.

There are hundreds of opportunities to save money and thrifty buyers will read every advertisement in this issue for money saving chances.

Fourth Graders at District 45 Write Poems of Spring

Tulips and Dutch scene boards in the school at district 45 during the month of March has helped inspire writers in the third grade who have been busily making booklets on Holland.

Waxing poetic about the month of March, the fourth graders have written many verses, among the best were "The Helping March Wind" by Evelyn Peterson and "March Wind" by Stewart Peterson.

Eighth graders are finishing booklets called "My Occupation." Two pupils have had perfect attendance for the last six weeks. They are Bernard and Harold Miller.

Two new pupils, Evelyn and Stewart Peterson, have moved into the district and help to fill the vacancy caused when two students moved away March first.

New officers elected at the last meeting of the Little Citizen's league, Friday, March 10, were Bernard Miller, president; Stewart Peterson, vice-president; Evelyn Peterson, secretary-treasurer. Miss Irene Seykora is teacher in the district and Miss Evelyn Peterson, news reporter.

Name Successor To H. J. Van Metre

R. A. Fisher Elected County Agent of Steele County Effective April 15

With his resignation as county agent of Steele county becoming effective April 15, H. J. Van Metre will be succeeded by R. A. Fisher, Lakeland.

Mr. Fisher has been county agent in Nicollet for two years and in Jackson for two years, has specialized in 4-H club work and has successfully carried on a program for the eradication of weeds in both Nicollet and Jackson counties. He is a graduate of the class of 1924 of the Minnesota college of agriculture.

Mr. Van Metre has made no definite announcement as to his future plans.

To Speak Friday



A. G. Mereness, Director of Organization, Minn. Farm Bureau Federation.

Extension Leader Will Visit Village

A. G. Mereness To Be Guest Speaker at Farm Bureau Meeting Friday

A. G. Mereness of the extension department of the University of Minnesota and director of organization of the Minnesota Farm Bureau will be guest speaker of the Blooming Prairie farm bureau unit at the regular meeting Friday night, March 31 at the community club rooms of the First National bank.

Misses Lois and Kathryn Klingbeil and Lillian Olson are in charge of the program and Miss Mabel Frederickson heads the refreshment committee.

Christine Palmer will give a humorous reading and a play "Mother pulls the strings" will be given by a group of young people. An interesting evening's program is being prepared.

Civic League To Aid Garden Plan

Miss Gladys Johnson, Home Demonstration Discusses Emergency Measure

Williness of Civic League members to co-operate with the emergency gardening project was signified at the meeting Tuesday afternoon in the community club rooms, when Miss Gladys Johnson, Home Demonstration agent, Owatonna, met with the women and discussed the plans for this relief idea.

Miss Agnes Lysne was the fortunate winner of the end table, and lunch was served by a committee consisting of Mrs. Ray Herron, Mrs. Mark Brainerd, Mrs. Russell Culbertson, Mrs. I. W. Page, Mrs. Ernest Thompson, Mrs. Albert Srsen, Mrs. John Gorvin, Mrs. Hans Verness, Mrs. William Borgen, Mrs. Art Bell. Proceeds from the lunch amounted to \$67.50.

May Trap Muskrats In Joining Counties

Muskrat trapping has been declared legal in Rice, Goodhue and Freeborn counties in Southern Minnesota by W. D. Stewart, director of game and fish, according to an announcement made Friday by George Huber, Steele county game warden.

The season which opened Saturday and continues through noon Wednesday, April 5, does not apply in Steele county, closed in a previous order to all muskrat trapping this spring.

Rivers and other bodies of water which are boundary line of the legal trapping counties will be considered as open territory with trapping permitted on both sides.

February Gas Tax Collections Rise

Net collections of Minnesota's gasoline tax in February totalled \$514,313 after refunds, compared with \$457,241 in February, 1932, according to a report of the state oil inspection division. This is an increase of \$57,072.

The total amount of gasoline, kerosene and furnace oil shipped into the state in February was 33,062,793 gallons, compared with 30,487,092 gallons in the same month last year.

Foodstuff Prices Show First Rise Here In 4 Years

Flour Up 20 Cents Sack Wholesale; Sugar Rises 30 Cents Hundred

ALL LINES GO UP

Cotton, Rubber, Canned Goods, Beans, Rice, Coffee, Goods, Beans, Are Affected

An early reflection of Uncle Sam's farm relief bill soon to be passed by Congress was noticeable this week in Blooming Prairie by the distinct rise in commodity wholesale prices all along the line. Local merchants say it is the first rise in prices in four years. One business man estimates a five to ten per cent increase on merchandise throughout his store.

Footstuffs jumping up this week included flour 20 cents a sack or 80 cents a barrel; sugar 30 to 40 cents a hundred; canned goods of the cheaper variety two and a half to 10 cents a dozen; cocoa two cents a pound; coffee one cent a pound; beans 60 cents a hundred; rice 40 cents a hundred. Oatmeal is also up and all other foods made of wheat, corn and barley are expected to rise immediately.

Cotton is up 10 to 15 per cent and rubber goods 12 1/2 to 15 per cent. No rise is noticeable in meat prices although pork is advancing slowly and soap is expected to go up.

Local merchants expect the rise in wholesale prices to stimulate considerable buying of staple lines for as soon as the present supplies are exhausted the price will be higher. Cotton goods of all kinds will probably be in demand as well as grain products.

Former Blooming Man Is Chosen Pharmacy Officer

Among the newly elected officers of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical association for 1934 are Roy G. Paulson, Fairmont, second vice-president. He is a graduate of Pillsbury Academy, Owatonna, and a former Blooming Prairie business man when he was associated with N. A. Olson in the drug business. Since leaving Blooming Prairie he has conducted a store at Fairmont. He is a son of Mrs. Jacob Paulson and a brother of Mrs. Selmer Magnusson and Mrs. Earl Burch, Red Oak Grove community, and Mrs. H. Hanson, Lemond.

Other officers elected were Theodore Arneson, Montevideo, president; Charles T. Weller, St. Paul, treasurer; Gustav Bachman, secretary; Keith K. Keller, Minneapolis, first vice-president; and Evelyn Williams, Minneapolis, third vice-president.

Henry Peterson Minneapolis, Dies

Former Resident of Blooming Prairie Suffered Stroke After Short Illness

A stroke suffered Saturday morning, March 11, resulted in the death a few days later of Henry Peterson, Minneapolis, former resident of the Blooming Prairie community. He had been ailing slightly for some time before he had the stroke.

Funeral services were conducted at Absaraka, North Dakota, near Fargo, and interment was in the Wheatland, North Dakota, cemetery beside the body of his son Carmen. Thomas Skagen, Dennison, who has been spending some time here with relatives, attended the service. Mrs. Peterson is his sister.

After the Peterson family left this community they went to Leonard, North Dakota, where they lived until about five years ago, when they moved to Absaraka. Mr. Peterson had charge of a store at Absaraka until the spring of 1931 when they moved to the Peterson farm at Ayer, North Dakota. A son Carmen died in a Fargo hospital, August 9, 1931, of a ruptured appendix after having been ill only two days. From Ayer Mr. and Mrs. Peterson moved to Minneapolis, where they had a restaurant at Lake street until they sold the business in January.

Surviving Mr. Peterson are his widow, one son Harvey and two grandchildren at Chaffee, North Dakota.

Blooming County

Legion-Auxiliary To Meet Thur.

A joint social evening enjoyed by members of the and auxiliary in the com club rooms after their meetings Thursday.

The auxiliary will meet in M. W. Ayre's office in the National bank building, and the legionnaires will have their meeting in the club rooms at the same hour.

Miss Gladys Johnson, home demonstration agent, Owatonna, will speak at both meetings on the county-wide emergency garden project.

Farmer's Income Lowest In 8 Years

\$768 Short Of 5 Per Cent On Investment; nothing for Labor

Steele county farmers who are co-operating with the Minnesota College of Agriculture in the keeping of farm records have just received their reports for 1932. As was to be expected, the average farm earnings are even lower than last year, when they were the lowest since the project was started six years ago. The summary includes 143 farmers in eight counties in southeastern Minnesota, including 21 farmers from Steele county.

Of the 143 co-operators, there were 13 that had a positive farm income. That is, after paying all farm expenses and allowing 5 per cent interest on the value of the farm and equipment, there was something left over for the labor and management of the operator himself. The other 130 farmers failed to have enough income to allow 5 per cent interest on the investment after paying farm expenses, and then something in addition for the labor and management. The average of the 143 farms for the year 1932 shows that after paying farm expenses the operator fell \$768 short of making 5 per cent interest on his investment, with nothing for his labor. In 1931 the average farmer was \$632 short of making 5 per cent. In 1930 the average showed the operator making \$243 above 5 per cent interest; in 1929, \$1857 above; and in 1928, \$1277 above.

One purpose of this study, as explained by County Agent H. J. Van Metre, is to determine the reasons for the greater earnings of those who made a fair income last year as compared to those who were the deepest in the red. "It is interesting to note," states Mr. Van Metre, "that whether it is a good year or a bad year, there is a spread of from \$5,000 to \$6,000 between the labor earnings of the man who makes the most and the man who makes the least. During these depression years the level of them all has been much lower, but while the top man has been lower in his earnings, the bottom man has been deeper in the hole. The spread between the top and bottom seems to be about the same each year.

The reasons for the wide spread are being reported to each co-operator, and the weak spots and the strong spots in his own farm business are being pointed out to him. For example, the average butterfat production per cow of the very important influences on the farmer's labor earnings. A farm that has a high butterfat average has a much better chance of making a good income for the year than a farm that has a low butterfat average, even though the high butterfat average is obtained at some increase in cost. In a similar manner, the farm that is able to show a good income above value of feed on his livestock, such as hogs, poultry and so forth, stands a better chance of a good farm income than if this figure is low. Good crop yields compared to poor crop yields, a good choice of crops compared to an indifferent selection of crops, economy of expenses and careful planning of the work to secure efficient use of labor are all important factors, also."

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Lewis, Minneapolis, spent Friday and Saturday at the Bray Brothers home. Mrs. Lewis is a sister of George Richard and Albert Bray. George Bray has returned here recently from Farmington where he spent a number of days on a combination business and pleasure trip.

work in the emergency gardening project will help to create a sunnier prospect for those who found it necessary to secure county aid during these difficult times.

Co-operating with local organizations, the county extension service, Red Cross and county commissioners are making plans for a county wide emergency garden project in keeping with the resolution passed by the county commissioners at their last meeting. "Resolved, That all families receiving county aid in 1932 shall be required to plant a garden in the season of 1933!"

Each family will be required to raise an adequate garden that will provide them with vegetables during the summer and enough to can and tide them over the lean winter months. Demonstration teams of the 4-H club together with the home demonstration agent will assist with training leaders for canning work, the county agent and Miss Gladys Johnson, demonstration agent will help with making garden budgets, estimating amount of seed and supplying garden plans and information about insect control.

Representatives from local organizations will be appointed as committee members for this work. At present Miss Rena Brainerd, chairman of the local Red Cross is in charge of the project here, and is anxious that people that can be of any assistance in this new deal gardening idea get in touch with her at the Red Cross rooms Saturday afternoons.

Anyone having garden plots that they will not use this year or that they could spare even part of, those who have land available, farmers who have more seed, potatoes, and tomato plants than they need, are urged to do their bit by donating to the county.

Blossoms Revive Spring Baseball

High School Hopes To Reclaim Past Glories In Popular Sport

After many years' inactivity Blooming Prairie high school is reviving baseball this spring with hopes to reclaim some of the glories of the past. Future Babe Ruths will soon be warming up at the bat under the tutelage of Coaches Ted Halvorson and Henry Homan.

The baseball program is part of the state-wide movement stimulated by the sponsorship of the American Legion of Junior baseball in the summer time. By getting the early training in high school in the spring the boys will be in good practice for the junior league when vacation begins.

In earlier days Blooming Prairie high has turned out some famed players—the most illustrious, perhaps, Molly Solberg—and in later years the Johnson brothers, the Miller brothers, the Coggins brothers and the Bellach brothers.

Way back in 1909 when Molly Solberg was in high school playing nearly every position on the team and knocking wonderful balls, Nordan Olson was the team's back-stop and both boys were also playing on one of the most famous town teams Blooming Prairie ever boasted. Dick's and Molly's team mates were the four Zweiner brothers, Ed, George, Ray and Lawrence, Charlie Meehan, George O'Brien, Oscar Oppen and Carl Jolson, the star home-run hitter.

Juniors To Have Banquet and Prom

At the junior class meeting on Thursday afternoon, the class decided, after considerable discussion, to have both a prom and banquet this year on May 18.

Miss Olson, the class advisor, stated the facts, concerning a banquet alone, prom alone or both, and presented the advantages and disadvantages of all. The president, Maxine Goldberg, will choose the committees for the affair.



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Opinion

Our view

The train is departing

We the people spoke.

Senators, John Jasinski (R-Faribault), and David Senjem (R) District 25 listened. Not only did they listen, but they acted, not as bureaucrats, but as legislators.

There are those who dream dreams, there are those who see visions. The sight and the talk are very good, and plans on paper are quite impressive.

All they are, however, are published thoughts. Every train needs an ambitious conductor to get it out of the station and on to its destination. Jasinski and Senjem are a visionaries.

Visionaries are said to be dangerous, in a good sort of way. They not only listened, dreamed and strategized, but he told us that they would make things happen. And they did.

Last week the transportation budget bill (Senate file 1060) was passed, which will pour in \$3.6 billion within the next 10 years to help refurbish, recreate and repair roads and bridges in Minnesota. More importantly for us here in southeastern Minnesota, it spells the end of the long wait to expand the Highway 14 corridor.

That daily nightmare for people who have to travel its insanity is almost over.

These are some of the dispersions that are in the bill. To read more about it, please go to: www.senate.mn/departments/scr/billsumm/summary_display_from_db.php?ls=90&id=5495

- Aeronautics.
1. Appropriates \$26.5 million in FY18 and \$17.3 million in FY19 for airport development and assistance. Of the appropriation in FY18, \$2.3 million is for improvements at the Rochester International Airport, \$6.6 million is for runway infrastructure at Duluth International and Sky Harbor Airports, and \$250,000 is for an air transport optimization planning study for the St. Cloud Regional Airport.
 2. Appropriates \$6.8 million in FY18 and \$6.9 million in FY 19 for aviation support and services. \$80,000 in each year is for the Civil Air Patrol.
- Transit. Appropriates \$18.1 million in FY18 and \$18.1 million in FY19 for Greater Minnesota transit.
- Freight. Appropriates \$6.7 million in FY18 and \$5.8 million in FY19 for freight purposes, of which \$1.1 million in FY 18 is a onetime carryforward appropriation for port development assistance grants.
- This train, docked at the depot for almost a half-century has finally had wood put to the box, steam into the air and those rusted iron wheels are beginning to move. Finally.
- When these things happen in government we can only pat each other on the back and realize that we found the right men in government to get this job done.

Guest Column

Creating a smarter government for smarter kids

By TIM PENNY

Whether you prefer small government or big government, perhaps the better conversation is around what smarter government could do.

Smart government requires collaboration and a long-term vision. It helps when you can start from a place of shared interest.

An op-ed in the Star Tribune on March 9 talked about ending the current “hodge-podge approach to early education in Minnesota.” Amidst

all of the areas of disagreement happening at both state and federal levels, our children - our next generation - continue to be a topic where legislators can find common ground.

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), smart investments in kids have been part of the Foundation’s 30-year history. It makes sense that if you want a long-term competitive global advantage, you start young. From our experience, we know this to be true, and studies prove this out.

University of Chicago Professor and Nobel Laureate in economics James J. Heckman’s newest analysis shows that “high-quality birth-to-five programs for disadvantaged children can deliver a 13 percent per year return on investment.”

In our rural communities, SMIF has advocated against any sort of “silver bullet” approach to providing early childhood care. However, this does not mean that as a state we can’t find some efficiencies in how early childhood investments are allocated.

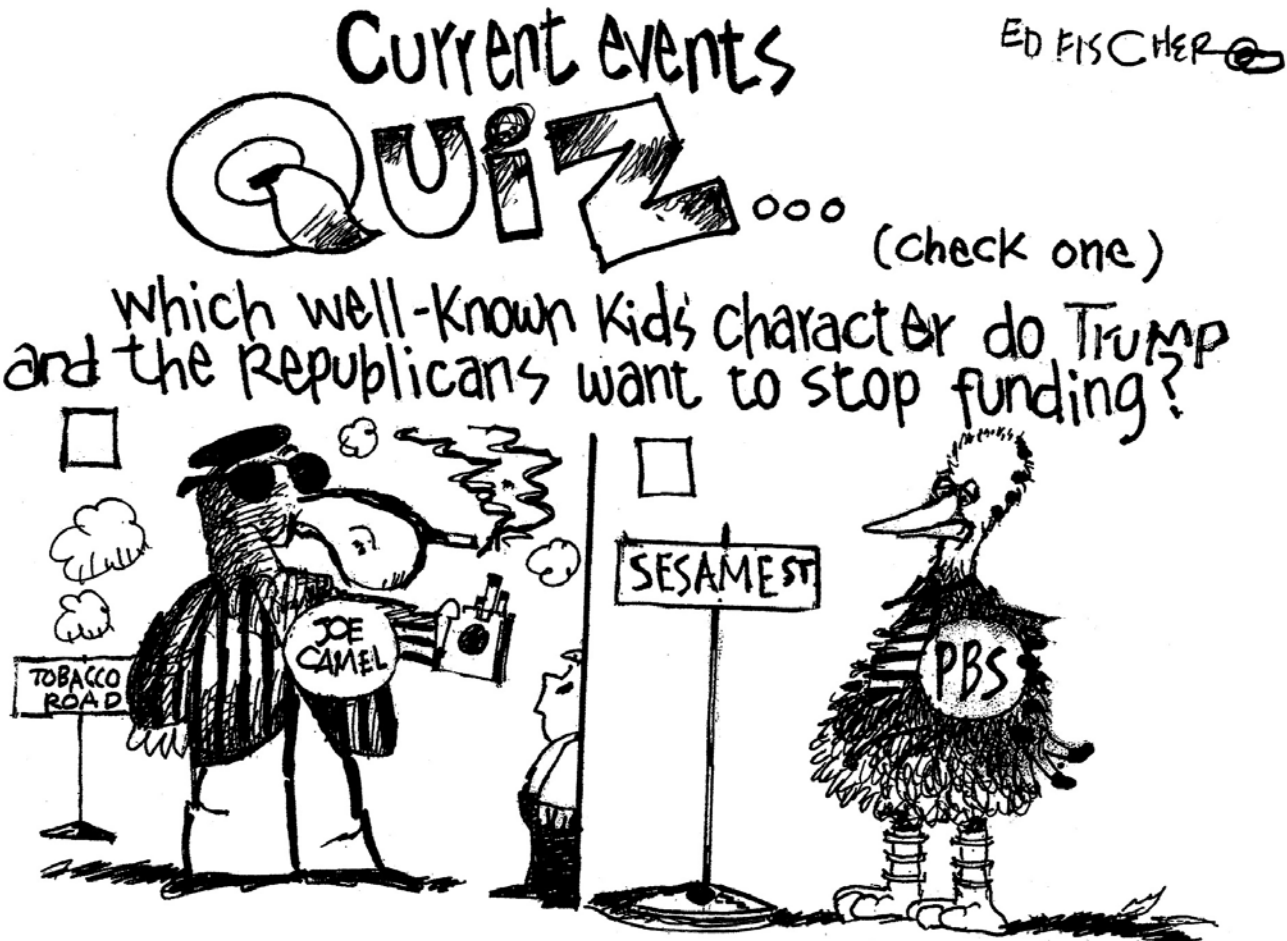
The proposed bill for an Early Childhood Access Fund, with a special director to provide oversight, could cut back on the current piecemeal approach. However, the issue is complex and the answers will not come without a lot of collaborative discussion with childcare providers, trainers, certifiers, educators and funders. We’ve seen what happens when a bill gets proposed without affected partners getting a chance to weigh in.

Starting with the achievement gaps in early education

can help address other issues facing Minnesota.

Again, going back to research, we know that while Minnesota often leads the way in education, we are near the bottom when it comes to the achievement gap between white children and children of color. 40,000 low-income kids in our state don’t have access to affordable, quality early learning programs (Close Gaps by 5). Given the 400,000 worker shortfall

EDUCATION
Continued on page 4A



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

For years it was impaired driving that took an ugly toll on our roadways. And while drunk driving still continues to be a problem, there is a new issue that has emerged that may be just as dangerous if not worse. It’s texting while driving, or distracted driving.

Last week’s tragedy that killed 13 people on a church bus outside of San Antonio, Texas appears to have involved a driver who had been texting behind the wheel. A witness reports that the driver allegedly said, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I was texting.”

Callers reported seeing a swerving pickup just minutes before the deadly crash. Sadly, law enforcement was unable to respond to the driving complaint before the driver struck the mini-bus loaded with church people returning from a retreat. The col-

Ugly reality of texting and driving hits in Texas

lision, which happened in a rural area, was one of the deadliest in Texas in recent memory.

It is heartbreaking to hear about church people who had just finished a three day retreat and didn’t make it back home. Their bus crashed less than 10 miles from the retreat location.

As shocking as something like this is, church members took comfort and found peace in knowing that their “members are with their Lord.”

This is a horrifying reminder of the dangers posed by distracted driving and comes just as Minnesota police officers will be hitting the roadways looking for distracted drivers beginning next Tuesday and going through April 23. The enforcement period usually ends up being one week, but for the first time it has been extended to two weeks. It’s all in an effort to crack down on drivers who aren’t focusing on their driving.

State safety experts are driving home the message

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

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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 Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)



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DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays. Web: 11 p.m.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower.....\$42
Elsewhere in Minnesota.....\$44
Out of state.....\$46



Dream Season 1C



Staff Photo by Rick Bussler

Fixing damaged bridges

Arched in the air with a mechanical scissors ladder, a pair of MnDOT workers makes repairs to a bridge on Interstate 35 at County Road 31 south of Owatonna Saturday afternoon. A truck hit the bridge as well as another bridge at CR 18 earlier on Saturday causing debris to be strewn on the roadway. Traffic has been restricted by the CR 31 bridge to a single lane while MnDOT evaluates the damage to determine what else needs to be done. No word yet on how much structural damage has been caused. The newly damaged bridges are not part of MnDOT's road construction project that starts this week.

DRIVERS BEWARE

Major road project begins on I-35 in Steele County

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Headaches for motorists are about to set in once again as a major road construction project begins along Interstate 35 through southern Steele County.

Beginning this week motorists traveling south of Owatonna on I-35 will encounter alternating lane closures as preparations begin to replace three southbound bridges.

Once the preparations are complete, traffic is scheduled to switch on Thursday to a single lane in each direction in the northbound lanes, according to MnDOT spokesperson Michael Dougherty. Southbound lanes will be closed until mid-September while three bridges are replaced.

During the construction, the Straight River Rest Area for southbound will be closed. The northbound rest area is under construction and is expected to open later this summer.

MnDOT says traffic backups are likely on I-35, especially on weekends. Dougherty urges motorists to use the zipper merge, which decreases traffic backup dangers and moves traffic more efficiently through a

merger point by using both lanes of traffic while approaching the merge.

Motorists can expect to see signs posted 10 miles out warning of the potential of I-35 backups and MnDOT will deploy flashing signals activated when backups are occurring to alert drivers of slower moving or stopped traffic ahead.

This is a two-year project to replace six bridges along I-35 and four on Highway 14 south of Owatonna.

On I-35, bridges over the Straight River, Turtle Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad are set for replacement. On Highway 14, bridges over the Straight River and the Union Pacific Railroad are scheduled for replacement.

Bridges southbound on I-35 and eastbound on Highway 14 will be replaced in 2017. The adjacent northbound and westbound bridges will be replaced next year.

Lunda Construction is the prime contractor for the nearly \$30 million project.

Dougherty urges motorists to be attentive, drive with caution and slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Senate moves on roads and bridges

Last week, Senators honored an early session promise to deliver much-needed funding for roads and bridges throughout Minnesota.

The ten-year, \$3.6 billion bill would help repair or replace 8,800 lane-miles and 200 bridges – including \$90 million for the urgent highway 14 expansions from Owatonna to Dodge Center. The transportation bill doesn't raise any gas or sales taxes.

"You asked us to take care of roads and bridges, and we listened," said Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault).

"Besides healthcare, transportation – and highway 14 in particular – is the issue I hear about most. Finishing the expansion is item number one on my to-do list, and last night we took a big step to getting it done. Most importantly, I'm proud we were able to do it without raising taxes on working Minnesotans."

The Senate plan includes \$2.8 billion in new, on-going funding in large part from re-directing existing vehicle-related sales taxes. One-time funding is made up of a mix of trunk highway bonds and federal grants. Cities, counties, and townships would see a quick boost of \$148 million over the next biennium to address their own specific transportation needs.

"We've been talking about the highway 14 expansion for almost half a century now," continued Sen. Jasinski. "We've made progress, but with every year that passes it gets more and more urgent. I'm proud we made it a priority in our transportation bill."

The bill passed the Senate with a bipartisan vote of 38-28.

Courthouse on track



Submitted Photo by Laura Elvebak

Architects are onsite at the courthouse, working on the county's wish list of updates and repairs, after a pipe broke in the attic and flooded the building earlier this year. The insulation in the attic has been removed. Holes have been repaired and new insulation placed. This should prevent bats from coming in and allow for better-regulated temperatures in the building. The county is applying for the Minnesota Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant. They applied on Friday and expect it to be approved by June. The county is asking for \$27,025 to help with the cost of courtroom security updates. Construction is continuing on the second floor of the courthouse. "We're looking at it as a phased approach" said county administrator Elvebak at the county board meeting last week.

Cedar Valley to receive transit grant

Grants will increase transit service in Greater Minnesota by 100,000 hours over next two years

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

"This will allow us to help more people maintain a better quality of life and regain their independence for students, shopping, healthcare, employment and senior activities." - Melinda Estey Cedar Valley Transit Manager.

Lt. Governor Tina Smith and Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle announced last Thursday that \$23.7 million in grants to help meet the growing need for transit services in Greater Minnesota. The grants were awarded to 23 transit providers in Greater Minnesota, and will help improve reliability, frequency and service for Minnesotans as they commute to work, school

and personal activities.

Closer to home, Cedar Valley Services, which operates in Freeborn, Mower, Waseca and Steele counties received \$471,800.

Cedar Valley's website states that it has been in existence since 1960 and that it has been helping communities in Minnesota to get back on their feet by providing vocational rehabilitation services and individuals with disabilities.

Melinda Estey, transit manager for Cedar Valley Services confirmed that their organization had in deed received the grant money, but that they had submitted 4 programs for consideration and only three had been granted.

"This will open up a lot of opportunities, especially in the area of pre-school transportation,"

Estey said. "Right now there are between 30 and 50 people of the waiting list as programs are currently at peak capacity."

With the addition and purchase of 3 busses, Cedar Valley can look at extending hours, covering operating costs and maintenance. Cedar Valley provides transportation for employees needing to get to work, people who are needing medical care and seniors who have become immobile over the years.

It is also transportation that is open to the public. The cost to ride the bus which circles each city is \$1.50 for a one-way ride. For "demand response" which is first come first served and provides curb to curb service, it

GRANT

Continued on page 4A

Greater Minnesota Transit Grants		
Service Provider	Communities	Amount
East Grand Forks	Cities of East Grand Forks and Grand Forks, N.D.	\$731,200
Mankato	Cities of Mankato and North Mankato	\$3,185,800
Moorhead	Cities of Moorhead and Dilworth	\$1,395,800
Rochester	City of Rochester	\$2,520,000
Duluth Transit Authority	Duluth, Hermantown and Proctor MN with service to Superior, WI.	\$3,995,800
St. Cloud Metro Transit	Cities of St. Cloud, Waite Park and Sauk Rapids	\$4,016,000
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency	Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine and St. Louis Counties	\$2,369,800
Becker County Transit	Becker County	\$197,900
Brown County Human Services	Brown County	\$52,600
Cedar Valley Services	Freeborn, Mower, Steele and Waseca Counties	\$471,800
Central Community Transit	Kandiyohi, Meeker and Renville Counties	\$298,600
Hearland Express	Chisago and Isanti Counties	\$1,699,900
Kanabec County	Kanabec and Mille Lacs Counties	\$123,400
Prairie Five	Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine Counties	\$209,000
Productive Alternatives	Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin Counties	\$249,500
Three Rivers Community Action	Goodhue, Rice, Wabasha Counties	\$620,600
Tri-County Action Program	Benton, Morrison, Sherburne and Stearns Counties	\$422,500
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council	Clearwater, Kittson, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Red Lake Counties	\$108,800
Wadena County	Wadena County	\$314,000
United Community Action Partnership	Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties	\$289,200
City of Hibbing	City of Hibbing	\$47,300
Minnesota River Valley Transit	Cities of St. Peter and Le Sueur	\$59,000
City of Winona	City of Winona	\$324,500
Total Investment		\$23,703,500

Senate funds public safety

The new Senate Republican majority continued a successful 2017 session by passing their first Advancing Minnesota budget bill off the Senate floor. Senate File 803 is the Judiciary and Public safety budget.

Senate File 803 provides \$2.23 billion to public safety, corrections, and the courts, with a focus on keeping Minnesotans safe.

"Our Judiciary and Public safety budget makes important commitments to the courts and to our public safety agencies to make sure Minnesotans are kept safe," said Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault). One of our top priorities was that no agency would have their base funding cut, and I'm proud we were able to accomplish that."

"That said, we can – and should – do more," added Sen. Jasinski. "This is just the first step in a long negotiation process. As a strong supporter of our Department of Corrections and the Minnesota Correctional Facility - Faribault, I'll continue fighting to make sure these agencies get the funding they need to be successful."

New funding in the Judiciary budget bill includes:

- \$6 million to strengthen supervision of offenders on probation
- \$1.1 million to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for more analysts to assist in complex narcotics and homicide investigations, a forensic firearms examiner, and a drug chemistry forensic scientist
- \$1 million for Violent Crime Enforcement Teams to fight narcotics traffickers, gangs, and other violent crime
- \$160,000 for reimbursements to Minnesota's expert FBI-trained bomb squads
- \$720,000 in for law enforcement officer training
- \$150,000 for non-profit security grants to combat terroristic threats
- \$3 million for critical technology upgrades at the Department of Corrections.

Second Front

Legislation introduced for prescription drug monitoring

U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced legislation to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in all states that received certain federal funding to combat opioid abuse and also require states to make their PDMP data available to other states.

Klobuchar and Portman were two of four senators, along with Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and former Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), to lead the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA).

This bipartisan legislation,

which was signed into law last July, encourages states and local communities to pursue a full array of proven strategies in the fight against opioid addiction. At the end of 2016, \$1 billion was made available by Congress to fund the national effort.

“As a former prosecutor, I have witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by opioid abuse in communities across the country,” said Klobuchar. “Our bipartisan legislation would require states to have prescription drug monitoring programs that use best practices, curbing the kind of doctor shopping that

facilitates addiction. Last year, I heard about a patient who filled 108 prescriptions for painkillers from more than 85 different prescribers located in 50 cities. We know that opioid addiction too often begins with the abuse of legal prescription painkillers. And with this bill, we can do something about that.”

“Four out of five heroin addicts in Ohio and across the country started with prescription painkillers. Too many of these people were prescribed a painkiller by their doctor and became addicted or tried a drug prescribed to someone else,” Portman said.

“In 2012, there were more opioid prescriptions in Ohio than there were Ohioans, and during just one three-month period, 11 percent of Ohioans were prescribed an opioid painkiller. Since then we’ve made progress in stopping overprescribing, but the consequences of addiction have only gotten worse. This legislation would help Ohio continue to make progress against overprescribing by keeping better track of prescriptions and ensuring that addiction is discovered and treated as early as possible.”

“We applaud Senator

Klobuchar for introducing this important legislation to strengthen PDMPs, which are a critical tool in the continuing effort to stop the flood of prescription opioids and prevent overdoses,” said Nick Motu, Vice President of the Hazelden Betty Ford Institute for Recovery Advocacy.

“Senator Klobuchar’s bill is a crucial next step in the fight to end the opioid epidemic and will ultimately save lives.”

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Act would:

- Require drug dispensers in covered states to report to the PDMP each opioid prescription that they dispense

to patients within 24 hours.

- Require practitioners in covered states to consult the PDMP before prescribing opioids to patients.
- Require states to actively notify practitioners when the PDMP shows that a patient exhibits patterns indicative of opioid misuse.

To ensure that PDMP data is available across state lines, the bill would also provide for the creation of an inter-state PDMP data-sharing platform and require all covered states to make their individual PDMP data available on this platform.

Childcare gap needs long-term solution

EDUCATION: from page 2A

Minnesota is facing by 2030, we’re not in a position to be letting any children fall behind.

Furthermore, we are in the midst of an early childhood care crisis that has become an economic development threat. Current childcare providers are retiring, there’s a gap between what providers are paid and what parents can pay, and businesses are struggling to recruit workers because they can’t promise access to affordable care. This is another area where a short-term fix won’t be enough; we need smart, long-term approaches and lawmakers who understand the many variables involved.

SMIF’s role is just one of a much larger effort to address these issues. SMIF’s Quality Child Care Program has been providing a model to get our child care providers on the path to higher quality. Another bill pending in the Minnesota Legislature (SF 2090) would appropriate \$1.5 million so the Minnesota Initiative Foundations that would help us con-

tinue to work within the 80 Greater Minnesota counties - 52.4 percent of children live in Greater Minnesota (Minnesota Kids Count 2016) - to align resources for quality early learning opportunities.

SMIF works with partners like the five other Minnesota Initiative Foundations, First Children’s Finance, Child Care Aware of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Education, multiple task forces, local care providers and business leaders and elected representatives to bring these issues to light and start working for collaborative, creative solutions. SMIF’s Quality Child Care Program has already worked with hundreds of providers across 13 counties in our 20-county region to get them on a path to quality through the state’s Parent Aware rating system.

SMIF’s Early Childhood Initiatives are another approach, underscoring the need for many voices to be at the table, from educators to providers to families to the business com-

munity. Our Vice President of Early Childhood, Rae Jean Hansen, is on the Minnesota Committee of the National Academy of Sciences to lend a national perspective to SMIF’s work in rural Minnesota, as well as the Start Early Funders Network. These conversations inform the needs and SMIF’s response.

As early childhood education bills go forward in the State House and Senate, I ask elected officials to make sure that similarly, all voices are at the table. We certainly have room for growth, and the State-level is a good place to push for a more equitable education agenda. Smart early education investments are vital to Minnesota’s future success.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smi-foundation.org or 507-455-3215.

Tim Penny is President and CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

GRANT: from page 3A

is \$2 for a one-way trip.

People can also purchase an unlimited monthly ride pass for \$30. There is a \$5 discount for students and seniors.

“This is a great opportunity to expand,” Estey said. “But the challenge still remains that the state only has promised funding through 2021. We are hoping the Dayton/Smith transportation package is approved which will give us increased funding for the next 10 years.”

“Transit matters in every corner of Minnesota,” said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. “Residents of Greater Minnesota took 12.2 million transit trips in 2015 alone. The need is only expected to grow in coming years.

“These new grants will help provide more Minnesotans reliable transit access. Our Administration looks forward to working with the Legislature this

Rural transit to expand

year to make additional investments in transit, roads and bridges.”

Minnesota currently has 44 transit systems serving all 80 Greater Minnesota counties. In 2015, residents of Greater Minnesota took 12.2 million transit rides – or more than one in 10 of all transit trips in Minnesota that year. The demand for transit in Greater Minnesota has grown rapidly. Transit ridership in rural areas increased 12.6 percent between 2010 and 2014.

“Transit in Greater Minnesota is vitally important,” said Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle. “There are fewer options in our rural communities for Minnesotans who don’t drive. These bus services are a critical lifeline for many Minnesota workers, seniors, students and families across our state.”

The Minnesota

Department of Transportation estimates that operating expenses for Greater Minnesota transit will exceed revenues by 2021. The deficit between revenues and expenses is expected to climb to \$31 million by 2025. Additional resources will be needed starting in 2021 to achieve a long-term service plan that meets the demands of Greater Minnesota transit users.

Grant recipients include urban services in populations greater than 50,000, small urban services in populations from 2,500 to 49,000 and in rural systems made up of county and multicounty systems, including tribal systems.

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The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation would like to thank you for helping make our 2017 14th annual Education Foundation Auction a great success!

With over \$70,000 in proceeds, this will definitely help us give the children of the Blooming Prairie Schools the opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. Over the years, we have been able to provide in excess of \$500,000 in programs and activities to our kids. This year’s auction results are nothing short of amazing! The thought that we can raise \$70,000 in one night is truly a statement of the kind of community we live in. Whether you are a bidder, donor, or just a school supporter, your contributions are appreciated so much! Whether your contributions are large or very small, or whether they are of services, material items, or if you helped in any way, we want you to realize that it is all of those things together that make our efforts a success. It is because of this entire community and the love of its kids and school system that allows our foundation to be able to continue to help give the children of School District #756 the best education possible.



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HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Steele County Times • Tuesday, April 4, 2017 • 5A

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

April 4th:
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, City Hall
April 5th:
7pm - 8pm Medford Park Board (1st Wed even months)
April 6th:
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
April 10th:
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
4:30pm - 5:30pm Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Course or City Park
April 11th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owa, 2nd Tues Sept - Jun
April 12th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

Event Spotlight:

Owatonna Foundation Traditional Scholarships

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to make available scholarships to graduating seniors at Owatonna schools. Any senior at OHS, Owatonna Alternative School, Eagle Academy, Owatonna Christian School, Choice Technical Academy, or Pillsbury College Prep may apply. These scholarships are for students who will be attending non-four year programs at technical/community colleges to prepare themselves for technical careers. Eligibility requirements include that recipients be a 2017 graduate and that they have a parent or guardian with a Steele County address. Scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$3,000 each. Applications must be submitted by April 10. Applications and instructions are available at the Foundation's website at <http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/> Grants/Scholarships, and Apply for a Scholarship; from Jill Holmes at 455-3059, and at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

April 6th:
10am - 1pm Discover the River, Riverland Community College, 1900 8th Ave NW, Austin
11am - 1pm Inspiring a Thriving Culture in the Workplace Luncheon, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin
7pm - 9pm 2017 Austinaires Show, Christgau Hall, Austin High School
7pm - 8:30pm Keepsake Quilter's Guild Meeting
St John's Lutheran Church, 1200 13th Ave NW, Austin
April 7th:
All day Calico Hutch Quilt Retreat, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center, 1701 4th St NW, Austin
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12pm - 1pm Easter Meal, Mower County Senior Center
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
7pm - 9pm 2017 Austinaires Show, Christgau Hall, Austin High School
7pm - 8:30pm Charlotte's Web, Historic Paramount Theatre, 125 4th Ave NE, Austin
April 8th:
10am - 2pm Painting With the White of Your Paper, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
10am - 2pm SPAM® Kids Fest, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave NW, Austin, MN 55912, USA
12pm - 2:30pm Crawfish Boil and Jambalaya Feed, Hoot And Ole's Tavern, 105 11th St SE, Austin
2pm - 3:30pm Charlotte's Web, Historic Paramount Theatre, 125 4th Ave NE, Austin
7pm - 9pm 2017 Austinaires Show, Christgau Hall, Austin High School
April 9th:
2pm - 3:30pm Charlotte's Web, Historic Paramount Theatre, 125 4th Ave NE, Austin
April 10th:
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
5:30pm - 8pm History Happy Hour, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin
April 11th:
5:30pm - 7:30pm Positively Austin - The Story Behind Positive Community Norms, Hormel Historic Home
April 12th:
7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

April 4th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
April 5th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
April 10th:
7p.m. City Council Meeting, City Center
April 11th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
2:30p.m.BPPU Comm. Meeting, City Center
4:30pm Fire Commission, City Center
April 12th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
4:30p.m. Economic Develop. Authority Meeting, City Center

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Another phase of the annual Geneva Cancer Auction was held last Saturday and brought in over \$3,000. The grand daddy of the auction was held in mid-January and earned \$105,000. Here, auction chairman whitey Hagen balances a money tray on his head after Cindi Hansen, right, made a donation.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Anna Segner

Before approving his resignation, Medford Mayor Lois Nelson honored Rich Kucera with a plaque for his years of service as the City of Medford's Public Works Director at the city council meeting last March.



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ELLENDALE/HOPE/GENEVA

April 4th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellnd
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall
April 5th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
April 6th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga and Zumba, DAPE Rm
April 10th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellnd
April 11th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellnd

Event Spotlight:
ART FOR HOPE

Owatonna In Support of Alzheimer's (OISA) presents its second annual Art For Hope benefit event on Saturday April 8th starting at 6:30 at Michaelson's Funeral Home (south Gathering Room) There will be a Social Hour from 6:30-8:00 with light refreshments. A Silent Auction will begin at 6:30 and close at 7:45 and the Live Auction will begin at 8:00. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening. Admission to the event is \$20.00 which includes light refreshments and a bidding number. Tickets are available at Kottke Jewelers, the Elks Club, and from OISA members Deb Gillard (507) 213-1305 or Gillard.deb@gmail.com, Melissa Block, Julie Wesley-Smit, Julie Summy, MaryAnne Higgins and Becky Gilman.

Event Spotlight:
Community of Wellness Health Fair

Rochester Clinic and Lotus Health Foundation are pleased to present The Community of Wellness Health Fair, a series of public and private events, on April 18-25. Public events begin on Thursday, April 20, with a CHIP information session at Rochester Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church, beginning with a presentation at 7 p.m. and culminating in a Lifestyle Medicine Symposium: A Holistic Approach to Healthcare, on Tuesday, April 25, at RCTC Heintz Center. A highlight of the week will be the Community of Wellness Celebration Banquet – The Blue Zones, at the Kahler Apache, Saturday, April 22 at 5:30 pm. The Blue Zones are distinct locations where people tend to live longer and healthier. Come to learn how lifestyle medicine can help you create Blue Zones from individual to the community. Registration is required. For more information on Rochester Clinic and to see a full list of date, time, and locations of the Community of Wellness Health Fair events, go to www.RochesterClinic.com, www.LotusHealthFoundation.org or e-mail us Health@RochesterClinic.com, call 507-218-3095.

Event Spotlight:
Woman's Club of Owatonna April Program

The Woman's Club of Owatonna will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 in the Fellowship Hall of St. John Lutheran Church for the April program, "The Looney Lutherans." Using music and comedy, professional actresses "Ginger," "Bella," and "Lois" share their wisdom for living a long and healthy life by using their new cookbook, Use Your Food, A Guide to Healthy Living Inside and Out, From Our Kitchen to Yours, Eat Like a Lutheran. (But you don't have to be a Lutheran to enjoy the program.) This fun, interactive show will include segments on the Lutheran "food wheel" (all roads lead to hotdish), helpful beauty tips creatively using items from the kitchen, some audience members having an opportunity to play everyone's favorite game show, POTLUCK, and hilarious hints for healthy living.



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Blooming Prairie Times

56 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

A team victory for our community

Amelia J. Severson was listening

Severson-Skalicky Wedding.

Stephen S. Severson and Miss Amelia Josephine Skalicky were quietly married this morning at the St. Columbanus parish by Rev. D. L. Murray. The couple was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Skalicky. After the wedding ceremony a breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Skalicky. Only near relatives of the contracting parties were present. They left for a short visit to the twin cities.

Telephone Operator Retires After 37 Years' Service

Connected with telephone service since 1911, Mrs. S. S. Severson has retired from active duty and is now enjoying a well-deserved, pension paid retirement.

Mrs. Severson started her operator's career with the former Inter-county Telephone Company in 1911, before her marriage, and held an operator's chair for six years. She resigned her position after her marriage, but in March, 1934, the call of "hello central" beckoned her back to her former job and since that time she has been connected with telephone communication in Blooming Prairie in some capacity ever since.

In 1946, the Inter-county system was taken over by Minnesota Telephone Company. When Mrs. Severson started as an operator 4 "hello" girls could easily take care of all calls. Now 12 operators and a bookkeeper are necessary to handle the ever-increasing duties of the local office.



MRS. S. S. SEVERSON

High School Band

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

They lived in Blooming Prairie all their lives. Between them, they worked and served in the community for a combined total of over 100 years. The story of Stephan Severson can be found in last week's Steele County Times.

Born Amelia J. Skalicky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Skalicky in 1889, they were considered a pioneer family to Blooming Prairie.

In the early part of the 20th century, the couple attended Blooming Prairie High School and when Stephen went to work at the West Hotel, Amelia followed into the workplace by working at the Inter-county Telephone Company.

The two, who had been friends and then sweethearts for years, decided to make it official November 30, 1916 and after honeymooning in the Twin Cities, they came back and were a one-two punch for the Blooming Prairie Times and the local telephone company.

In 1942 she was appointed as the chief operator for the local telephone office and when the phone company was taken over by the Minnesota Telephone Company, she stayed and was the liaison for the company transition.

She stayed on until 1954 when she finally retired. At her retirement, there were 12 operators and a bookkeeper in a business that had weathered the progress for over 40 years. In her lifetime, she and her husband had two daughters, Delores (Renchin) and Margery (Wencyl).

Severson was a devoted member of the Methodist Church and was known to have made a difference and not just an appearance in the Christian life she lived.

She was born here, she lived here, and she died here in 1962. She was a woman who had heard a lot of phone conversations which most likely made her an excellent community member fine-tuned in the art of listening.

Mrs. Severson Dies July 15th; Rites Wednesday

Mrs. Amelia J. Severson, lifelong resident of Blooming Prairie and widow of the late S. S. Severson, passed away on Sunday evening, July 15, at Raymond's Nursing Home in Austin. She had been in failing health since March of this year.

Amelia J. Skalicky, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Skalicky, was born January 18, 1889. On November 30, 1916, she was united in marriage to Stephen S. Severson, who preceded her in death on January 20, 1948.

Mrs. Severson was an employee of the Inter-county and Minnesota Telephone Co. for 27 years until her retirement in 1954. She was a member of the Community Methodist Church, was active in the W. S. C. S., and a member of the Royal Neighbors of America.

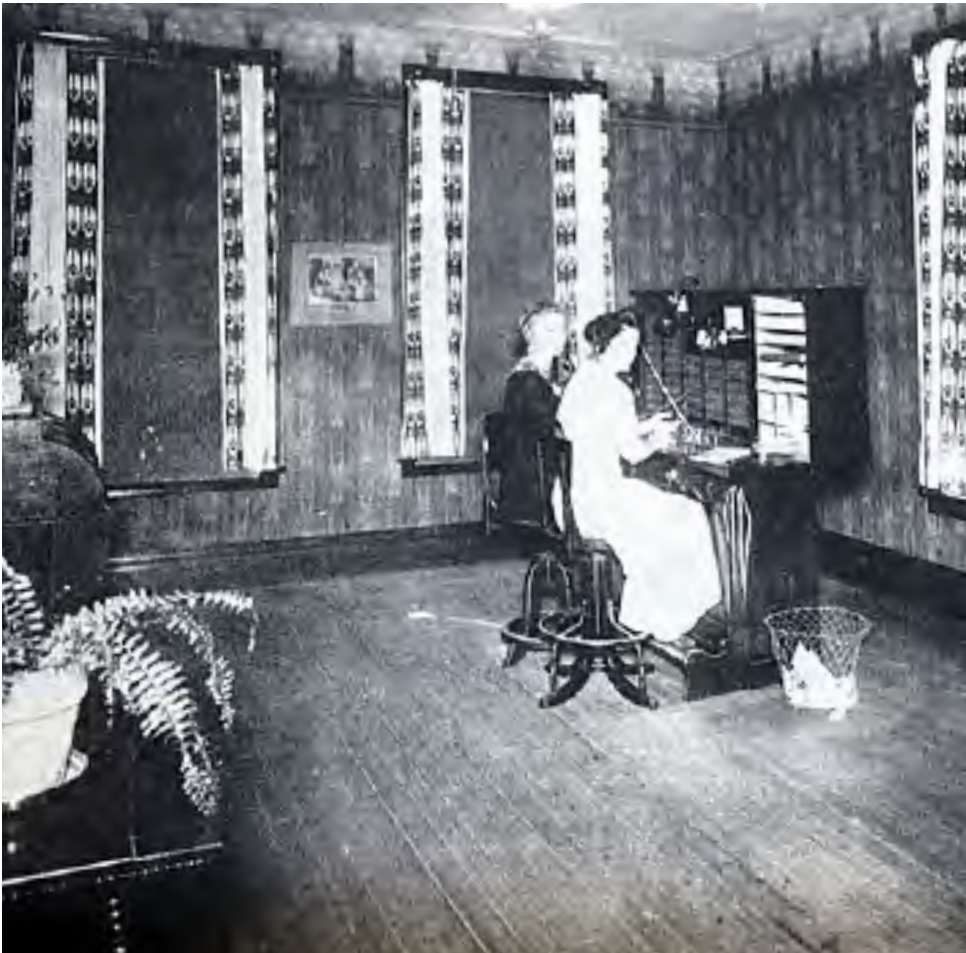
Mrs. Severson was a kind, patient and lovable mother and her friends were numbered by her acquaintances. During the past several months, when her suffering was the greatest, she never complained and always had a smile and cheerful word for her family and friends. This fine Christian woman will be sadly missed by her loved ones and wide circle of friends.

Surviving are: two daughters, Mrs. Raymond (Delores) Renchin and Mrs. Louis (Margery) Wencl, both of Blooming Prairie; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, John A. Skalicky of Owatonna.

Last rites will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, in the Community Methodist Church, with the Rev. Clare W. Karsten officiating, assisted by Rev. Bruce M. Stephens. Lois Poole will be soloist at the service, with Alta Sanders organist.

Interment will be in the Blooming Prairie cemetery, under the direction of Walrath & Hess Funeral Service.

Casketbearers will be Wesley Derby, Ole Olsen, John Colbert, John Skalisky, Jr., Robert Skalisky, and A. L. Fosteson.



Severson (on the left) working at the switchboard at the Blooming Prairie telephone company. She was one of the first telephone operators in Blooming Prairie.



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MY BP RECOLLECTIONS

In honor of Blooming Prairie's 150th anniversary, the Times is looking for reader submissions detailing life in the community.

Help us celebrate Blooming's rich heritage!

One winner will be chosen every month and awarded a pair of tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!

- No more than 300 words
- Signed with contact info
- Submit to the Times
- E-Mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net
- Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
- In Person: 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie



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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie High School robotics team has taken its show on the road after competition has ended. Nine of the 18 team members came to a Friends of the BP Library event on Monday, March 27 to show the public what robotics is all about. Team members from left to right are: Viridiana Villarreal, Jon Herron, Kyler Christianson, Luke De La Cruz, Jack Matson, Zach Wiese, Kisha Aquino, Adam Larson and Riley Millam. Coaches Sarah and Brandon Oelkers are standing.

BP robotics takes show on the road

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Just completing its second year of competition, the Blooming Prairie High School robotics team named the Wrench Warmers, has taken its

show on the road.

Coached by Sarah Oelkers and assistant Brandon Oelkers, the BP robotics team of 18 members in grades 9-12 recently finished 29th in regional competition in Duluth, involving 63 teams.

BP robotics team members visited the Blooming Prairie Library after school on Monday, March 27 to tell the public about the robotics team and to give them a demonstration of how their robot works. The appearance

at the BP City Center was sponsored by the BP Friends of the Library.

Sarah Oelkers, a Blooming Prairie High School life science teacher, became coach of the team in its first year of existence last year.

Oelkers' husband Brandon, information technology systems administrator at the Olmsted Medical Center in Rochester, became the team's

ROBOT

Continued on page 2B

Hay producers help southern farmers

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Twelve semi loads of hay donated by VS Family Farms of Hayfield and by other southeastern Minnesota farmers left Austin, MN early Monday morning, headed to the southern plains region.

Wildfires in the southern plains the past few weeks have claimed many livestock and wild animal lives and also human lives. Over a million and a half acres have been lost in the southern plains.

John Scott of VS Family Farms initiated the project to replace the hay that was ravaged by the severe fires in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

"It's a good thing and so rewarding to see everyone willing to help," Scott said.

Scott has been promoting the humanitarian efforts by using Facebook. Go to Facebook.com and put in VS Family Farms on the search engine.

Round bales and big squares were loaded onto semi trucks over the weekend. Three of the helpers, Josh, Isaiaah and Brennan are grandsons of Orlo Toquamm of Blooming Prairie.

"We have the machinery and the guys

to load large trucks, so it worked well for us," Scott said.

Truckloads weigh 20 tons and pickup loads carry 10 tons of hay.

The hay was to be left at a drop point in Ashland, Kansas. The National Cattleman's Association has been arranging the hay drops.

The trucks were scheduled to drop a few loads before arriving in Ashland. Salina, Kansas was one of the planned stops.

Thirteen volunteers from southern Minnesota made the trip.

"These fires have really caused a lot of tragedy with farmers having to put cattle down, losing hay and some farmers losing their lives," Scott said.

The relief effort has been organized under the umbrella of Wild West Relief. Farmers from Byron, Owatonna, Austin, Albert Lea, Hayfield and Blooming Prairie have worked on this project.

The Scotts raise 500 acres of hay on VS Family Farms.

"It's really gratifying to see some type of help given by our Minnesota farmers to these southern state farmers," said Orlo Toquamm, a longtime farmer in southeastern Minnesota.



Submitted photo

Josh and Isaiah Toquamm load hay onto semi trucks headed to the Southern Plains to help farmers devastated by wildfi es the past few weeks. The trucks left Austin, MN on Monday morning.

Books eneter digital age in exciting fashion



BOOK NOOK

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Do you have kids who have love their digital devices but find it difficult to read a book? The Media Enhanced Books now available may help your child make the crossover to loving books.

So what exactly is a Media Enhanced book? Inside the physical book there is a code that is entered

on the publisher's website. After entering the code and a second code found in the book, the user can see the book online.

While the features vary from book to book, most give an audio reading of the book, links to videos, quizzes, slide shows, and activities that all relate to the book and its subject.

As you can imagine, these options bring the books to life for children. One book on owls shows videos of the birds hunting and teaches how to identify various types of owls.

We have several Media Enhanced books at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Just look for the e-book sticker on the books, or ask for help in locating them. It is the best of both worlds: books and technology linked together to further learning and enjoyment.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

New speed limit signs posted

Six new 15 Mile Per Hour speed limit signs were installed last week in the area surrounding the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Two more speed limit signs will be installed in the near future. The speed limit was previously 30 miles per hour. Helping with the installation were, from left to right: Chris Deml, Steele County Highway Department sign technician; Mike Jones, City of Blooming Prairie administrator; Tony Motl, city worker and Greg Skillestad, BP Chief of Police. The signs will slow traffic down and keep our kids safe said Skillestad.

Help Me Grow: a service for parents



June Piepho

There is so much delight in new born babies. We are amazed by how fast they grow and develop. It seems like they are learning something new every day. Did you know that there are certain milestones a baby must reach every 2-4 months? For example, a baby should be cooing by two months or sitting up by 6 months. Sometimes it is hard to know if our child is doing what she is supposed to especially if we compare ours kids to others. Because kids develop at different rates, it is hard to know if they are on track or if you should be concerned about anything. Sometimes, children will experience delays in their development. Special health conditions may affect children's development, too. Accessing intervention services as early as possible will ensure the best development outcome for these children. So, if there are concerns what is the next step? One option is to make a direct referral to the school district's early childhood services to get the child evaluated but who do you call? Another option is for a parent to call Help Me Grow or go on-line to the website and click the "Refer a Child" button.

Help Me Grow is an interagency initiative of the State of Minnesota Department of Education, Department of Health and Department of Human Services. They partner with all local service agencies. A parent or caregiver can refer the child for an evaluation. After a referral is made through Help Me Grow, local early intervention or preschool special education staff will contact the family to determine whether a comprehensive screening or evaluation is needed to determine eligibility. These eligible children can receive services in their home, childcare setting, or school. These services are available through the ages 0-5 and are no cost to the parent. The early childhood staff will work with the children and parents to plan the services and supports they need. Services may include speech, physical and occupational therapy, ways that a family can support their child's development at home, and connections to community services and programs.

Parents are encouraged to visit the Help Me Grow website because not only does it have the referral information it has many resources about the development of young children. These resources include information on developmental milestones, YouTube videos, caregiver strategies to support development, screening and evaluation, and how to talk about developmental concerns. These resources can help families to understand developmental milestones and learn if there are concerns. This helps families take the lead in seeking additional support or referring their child for a comprehensive, confidential screening or evaluation at no cost. The Help Me Grow phone number is (866) 693-GROW, the website is HelpMeGrowMN.org. If you have any questions you can contact June at Public Health (507) 444-7650 or your local school district.

June Piepho is the Family Connections and Follow Along Program Coordinator.

Blooming Prairie Living

Heimerman brothers advance to speech sectionals

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Bop! Bam! Sock!

Those are the sounds of the Dynamic Duo, Batman and Robin.

Those sounds will not necessarily be replicated by brothers Camden and Charlie Heimerman but they do represent the impact the two brothers have in high school duo speech interpretation competition.

For the second year in a row, Charlie, an eighth grader, and Camden, a senior, advance from the sub-sectionals in Fairmont to the Section Speech Tournament Friday, April 7 in St. Peter.

Camden and Charlie’s piece is titled “Shrinkage” by Andrew Messer. “The brothers put a lot of time and effort into their competition,” remarked speech coach Michelle Southworth.

In duo competition, partners “really have to play off each other,” explained Coach Southworth. “They can’t touch one another or look at one

another during the routine,” Southworth said. “They are in a very competitive category,” she continued.

Southworth said other 2A speech coaches have said that Blooming prairie is in one of the toughest sectionals in the state.

The piece involves a lot of memorization and is “very funny, and enjoyable,” Southworth says. It is less than 10 minutes in length.

The theme for the script centers around Charlie trying for a job with a huge company. He faces some rigorous psychiatric testing for the high-pressure job. “I don’t want it,” Charlie says.

The brothers advanced to sectionals last year, too. “Camden graduates and Charlie will need to find a new partner,” Southworth said.

Southworth says, as brothers, the duo gets along well. She remembers two years ago when Camden was a sophomore and advanced to sections in humorous interpretation. He was able to take a friend with him and

chose brother Charlie.

That exposure to speech competition must have appealed to Charlie as the next two years, he made it to sectional competition.

The Heimerman brothers say the competition will help them in the future when interviewing for a job. “Hopefully, it will not be as crazy as this act,” Charlie remarked. “It’s a good experience doing it in front of people,” Camden said.

Charlie plans on participating in an upcoming school musical, yet to be identified. Camden is out for baseball and works as a custodian at Blooming Prairie High School. Both plan to accompany their family on a trip to Washington, D.C. this summer.

Looking to the future, Camden plans to attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, majoring in music education. Having four years of high school remaining, Charlie says he has no idea what his college plans will include.

Southworth said she was very pleased with the

performance of all BP students at the sub-sectionals.

Other school competitors were:

Creative Expression (they write their own piece) -- Bryan Fristedt (senior) and Jillian Wigham (9th grade).

Duo (interpret a script) -- Tommy Donnelly and Ethan Grant (9th grade); Maggie Bruns and Allison Krohnberg (9th grade) -- they did not compete because Allison was ill but Maggie went to support her team.

Informative (write their own) -- Jacob McHenry (9th grade).

Humorous (interpret a script) -- Payton Fristedt (7th grade) and Rose Johnson (senior).

Poetry (interpret Poetry) -- Samantha Wurst (junior).

Prose (interpret a cutting of a book normally) -- Baylee Sorensen (9th grade).

“All the kids did a great job this year,” said Coach Southworth. All students did a public speech showcase on Sunday, March 26. “I am always amazed by how busy



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Charlie Heimerman, an eighth grader, and his brother Camden, a senior, are part of a duo competition for high school students. The brothers advanced to the sectionals in St. Peter April 7 following their participation in sub-sectionals at Fairmont.

the kids all are and what they can still produce,” Southworth said.

Angie Carlson, BP Elementary School teacher, is assistant coach for the speech team.

Wrench Warmers practice five days a week to excel

ROBOT: from page 1B

mentor last year and moved into the assistant coaching position this year, helping the team with programming.

One-half of the BP robotics team appeared at the demonstration with all team members providing a synopsis of how the robot is built and how it functions.

The Wrench Warmers built a robot to compete in this year’s new “FIRST Robotics” game called “Steamworks.”

With the use of gears and a boiler system, the team controlled a robot to collect points and get their airship flying. The Wrench Warmers competed in Duluth on March 1-4.

Prior to the regional competition, team members practiced daily from from 3-6 p.m., five days a week and often stayed beyond their practice time.

“We jumped into the program, feet first,” recalls

Coach Sarah. “The kids just love robotics and are very passionate about having the program in the school,” she added. Statistics show there are 6,771 robotics teams in the world.

Team member Viridiana Villarreal, a freshman, worked the controls of the robot and showed how it maneuvers and shoots a wiffle ball toward a designated goal.

Viridiana first became involved with the program by working with the media component. She said she thought this was a good way to become involved with robotics. She created the Wrench Warmers website at www.wrenchwarmers6022.com.

At practice competition in Caledonia, Viridiana was asked to drive the robot. “It was a big overwhelming but I dealt with it,” she says.

Viridiana and other team

members said involvement on the robotics team has motivated them to possibly choose work with robots as a future vocation. “These robotic experiences have helped me learn more about myself,” she believes.

Viridiana said she thinks robotics will help her make a career choice and it may lead to her gaining a scholarship for future education.

During the demonstration, various members of the team spoke about their involvement.

In competition, Viridiana said she learned not to underestimate anyone. “A team can have 100 members and still end up on the bottom,” she said. She said her team was in the top 10 of regional competition midway into the competition.

Three of Wrench Warmers team are seniors: Luke De La Cruz, Thomas Burke and Rachel Peterson. All other

under classmen hope to return to the team next year.

Blooming Prairie also has a junior high team and some of those team members likely will join the high school team next year.

All team members said they had made friends during their robotics involvement and said the experiences have also helped them interact with others.

De La Cruz said he hopes to attend Minds & Technology College next year in Rapid City, SD. He has applied for scholarships.

He said working with robots has given him “a lot of knowledge about building robots.” He hopes to become a mechanical engineer. He also plans to return to Blooming Prairie as a robotics team mentor. In his spare time, De La Cruz plays outfield for the Blossoms baseball squad.

Coach Oelkers encourages

the robotics team members to become involved in other activities at school, too.

Sponsors of the Wrench Warmers include Minimizer, Farmers & Marchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie, Boeing, Metal Services of BP, the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation and Solidworks Corp.

Martin Larsen, Minimizer engineer, and Matt Steiner, programer from IBI Data in Bownsdale, have been key advisors for the Wrench Warmers team.

During competition, team members are paired with two other teams. Competition results in three teams vs. three teams.

The first 15 seconds of competition, the robot is placed on autonomous programing and then the following 2 minutes and 15 seconds is focused on actual competition with the driver in

control of the robot.

The competition can get hectic some times, says one of the team members. “We broke one of the mounts on the robot,” he explained.

At Duluth, the Wrench Warmers were in the top 10 up until the 12th match.

Showing their baseball theme with pinstripe shirts and caps, team members worked hard to win the imagery award.

“It’s not just about building a robot, it’s more than that because it involves public speaking and working with one another,” commented coach Sarah. “The competition provides a cool environment and a neat experience,” she continued.

“It’s called coopertition and you do the best you can,” said assistant coach Brandon.

Does it cost to be involved in the robotics program? Yes. The cost is the \$85 school activity fee.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Walk 150 miles this summer to celebrate BP birthday

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

“Looking fabulous at 150” will be the slogan for the 150-mile walk planned to honor Blooming Prairie’s 150th birthday this summer.

Members of the BP Sesquicentennial Committee met last Thursday to review event plans for the 150th.

A 150-mile walk is planned, allowing participants from May 1 to Sept. 1 to complete 150 miles of walking or running, or a combination of both.

Participants can sign up at Sportstitch, the chamber office and F & M State Bank by May 1. An option registration will provide participants with a shirt.

Early signers will receive a free July 4th button.

The committee discussed the recent Speakeasy event and said it was indeed a success and should be continued next year. Next year’s tentative date is March 10.

Nancy Vailancourt said LeMar Nelson is progressing in work on a Sesquicentennial book, The Last 25 years.

A cemetery tour is planned for Saturday, May 20. It is hoped that characters can be found for the tour.

The committee discussed possibly sponsoring a horseshoe tournament and bean bag tournament at Central Park during the 150th celebration.

The possibility of a quilt show was also discussed.

Old time photos will be taken Friday, April 28 at the City Center.

Holli Naatz gave an update on the sale of mugs and cake pans. Orders are still being taken at the chamber office or F & M Bank.

Committee members attending last week’s meeting were: Becky Noble, Holli Naatz, Howard Lestrud, Sarah Esplan, Mary Kittelson, Nancy Vailancourt, Rachel Klemmensen, Linda Klemmensen and Nola Wradislavsky.



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A Honor Roll

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Deyle, Aidan
Domeier, Anton
Fischer, Raquel
Groskreutz, Wyatt
Ihrke, Bailey
Ihrke, Bree
Jacobson, Erin
Jeno, Torrence
Klemmensen, Mason
Kofstad, Katheryn
Lageson, Jackson
Lembke, Taya
Prigge, Sawyer
Schultz, Sidney
Soulisak, Mayla
Strom, Josie
Thompson, Ethan
Wayne, Eva
Wencl, Neela
Wilkenson, Grace
Beck, Jaxon
Dobberstein, Alex
Dutton, Marlee
Eads, Severin
Gushwa, Elsabet
Hagen, Ashley
Harpel, Cora
Horejsi, Jordan
Knudson, Brenlee
Kormann, Cassie
Kruger, Kylee
Kyllo, Ava
LaCanne, Miranda
Martin, Rhys
Mueller, Matthew
Nicholson, Cameron
Nielsen, Brennan
Olson, Jack
Peterson, Anna
Peterson, Porter
Petsinger, Nikolas
Stenzel, Clay
Stork, Sophie
Utpadel, Journey
Vaale, Torri
Vanek, Nathan
Witikko, Alisa
Arndt, Cloie
Baker, Elli
Barber, Alexis
Blowers, Bridgette
Crabtree, Hanna
Gaona Quezada, Luisa
Huisman, Hannah
Jacobson, Anna
Johnson, Kendall
Klemmensen, Emma
Knudson, Madison
Martin, Cassidy
Nissen, Cambria
Riewer, Caden
Schlaak, Kordell
Stencel, Carter
Strom, Lorelei
Tufte, Grace
Butler, Mackenzie
Combs, Alexandra

Deyle, Addison
Domeier, Jayna
Fell, Evan
Ferber, Mason
Gushwa, Agro
Jameson, Emmablu
Karl, Elizabeth
Kath, Summer
Kofstad, Grace
Kormann, Madison
Maloney, Maggie
Peterson, Paige
Prigge, Annie
Sepulveda, Aracelis
Stene, Holly
Williams, Mia
Anderson, Alexis
Christopherson, Olivia
Finseth, Jayna
Goette, Caitlin
Horejsi, Rachel
Ignaszewski, Lexie
Johnson, Aubrey
Knutson, Mackayla
Kraay, Dalton
Mrotz, Sophia
Schlinger, Sydney
Smith Vulcan, Tanner
Stenzel, Hailey
Strom, Karenna
Tufte, Spencer
Westrum, Hailey
Wobschall, Brooke
Worrell, Laura
Anderson, Brianna
Crabtree, Emily
Crabtree, Katelyn
Harden, Kelly
Katzung, Michelle
Lewer, Benjamin
Lundberg , Benjamin
Malekas, Sofia
Mortensen, Justin
Mortenson, Sadie
Nielsen, Lillie
Olson, Chancellor
Peterson, Nikita
Prigge, Emily
Reese, Kollin
Schoenrock, Betsy
Staloch, Cole
Stenzel, Christopher
Techau, Nathaniel
Tollefson, Emma
Wayne, Tali
Aaseth, Natalie
Agrimson, Chad
Johnson, Maurya
Lewison, Grace
McKay, Jennifer
Podratz-Waters, Brianna
Prigge, Samuel
Raimann, Kendra
Ramaker, Gretchen
Schultz, Jack
Wagner, Madison
Wagner, Marnie
Winter, Klarissa
Witikko, Benjamin

B Honor Roll

Beckmann, Evan
Borchert, Faith
Boyd, Avyana
Butler, Natalie
Cain, Jared
Chambers, Alexis
Christensen, Samuel
DePew, Dylan
George, Sarah
Hanna, Lucas
Howe, Nash
Ingvaldson, Dylan
Johannsen, Treyvin
Langfitt, Kyleigh
Mudgett, Bryce
Nelson, Vada
Nissen, Charlie
Nolan, Zander
Pittman, Clair
Schaefer, Evan
Schlaak, Brady
Smith Vulcan, Tatum
Smith Vulcan, Trinity
Strand, Brooklyn
Swenson, Spencer
Utpadel, Will
Wobschall, Ashley
Zimmerman, Katelyn
Ackerman, Makayla
Arvis, Eric
Baas, Madalynn
Barber, Keira
Bogue, Hunter
Budach, Bo
Combs, Autumn
Huisman, Isaiah
Johannsen, Madison
Johnson, Asa
Kath, Cole
Lenort, Trevor
Lewison, Lex
Malakowsky, Tylar
Malecha, Cooper
Peters, Ethan
Raimann, Ashton
Rocha, Brittney
Roesler, Ralph
Schoenrock, Benjamin
Svoboda, Graci
VanWinkle, Haley
Wilson, Tyrone
Woollard, Ulrich
Anderson, Abigail
Beauvals, Caden
Besser, Morgan
Blatti, Jacob
Chicos, Riley
Christenson, Tory
DeLaFosse, Abigail
Duncan, Trenten
Fischer, Aubrey
Gushwa, Tewodros
Hagen, Zachary
Hill, Avery
Hinderscheit, T'Shayla
Hoelscher, Andrew
Hutzel, Austin
Johns, Sarah
Johnson, Ashton
King, Julia
Lee, Katie
Loken, Dylan
Martin, Josh
Martinez, Maricela
Neitzel, Zachary
Nydegger, Daniel
O'Brien, Christopher
Peterson, Natasha
Pittman, Charles
Purdie, Brianna
Reyna, Evan
Routh, Thor
Schultz, Riley
Solland, Cary
Stafford, Jonah
Staloch, Nicklas
Techau, Courtney

Tonkin, Jenika
Wilkie, Kayliegh
Adams, Mikayla
Cliff, Katie
Jensen, Angelle
Knudson, Paige
Koziolek, Karter
Malakowsky, Tiara
Marcks, Cherysh
Medrano, Destiny
Mely, Jade
Olson, Journey
Retallick, Naomi
Rosevold- Wisler, Andrey
Schumacher, Cierra
Simon, Tristan
Anderson, Jaden
Arndt, Kylie
Bailey, Lucas
Beck, Jager
Buckmeier, Alexander
Budach, Hannah
Bueltel, Madisyn
Buendorf, Devin
Deml, Lawren
Dobberstein, Bennett
Gullickson, Shaun
Hogstad, Jack
Jacobson, Tyler
Jameson, Ellarose
Kyllo, Graham
Lenort , Ross
Mahlman, Darian
Massie, Chloe
Mosher, Dylan
Nelson, Caitlyn
Peterson, Rebecca
Schuller, Jacob
Stork, Jake
Thompson, Kallie
Tufte, Hunter
Bell, Lillian
Broitzman, Cole
Dahle, Gabriel
Dobberstein, Evan
Erickson, Chad
Ferris, Christian
Galindo, Natalia
Harpel, Caleb
Herrmann, Lauren
Kubiatowicz, Brett
Lembke, Kylie
Malakowsky, Jason
Mattson, Mercedes
McMann, Brenden
McShane, Jamie
Misgen, Payton
O'Brien, Nathaniel
Olson, Aaron
Peterson, Perry
Possin, Kyra
Rhoades, Makenzi
Strand, Brendon
Utpadel, Jerret
VanWilgen, Erin
Baker, Oakley
Blaschko, Alex
Christenson, Collin
Collins, Rachel
Dickerson, Mercedes
Enger, Spencer
Fischer, Carter
Gaona, Luis
Holz, Jacob
Johns, Grace
Jongbloedt, Jason
Jongbloedt, Jillian
Koziolek, Koleton
Morgan, Isaac
Olson, Gunther
Raimann, Tyler
Retallick, Nora
Riecke, Anna
Rogne, Jorden
Rudau, William
Schlinger, Aubrey
Spooner, Kallie
Surat, Maci
Torp, Cecelia
Urban, Dalton



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How working in retirement can affect your social security benefits

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm considering retiring later this year and starting my Social Security benefits, but would also like to work part time. Will this affect my benefits, and if so, how much?

Ready to Retire

Dear Ready,
You can collect Social Security retirement benefits and work at the same time, but depending on how old you are and how much you earn, some or all of your benefits could be temporarily withheld. Here's what you should know.

Working Rules
Social Security says that if you're under your full retirement age – which is 66 if you were born between 1943 and 1954, or 66 and 2 months if

you were born in 1955 – and are collecting benefits, then you can earn up to \$16,920 in 2017 without jeopardizing any of your Social Security if you don't reach your full retirement age this year. But if you earn more than the \$16,920 limit, you'll lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over that amount.
In the year you reach your full retirement age, a less stringent rule applies. If that happens in 2017, you can earn up to \$44,880 from January to the month of your birthday with no penalty. But if you earn more than \$44,880 during that time, you'll lose \$1 in benefits for every \$3 over that limit. And once your birthday passes, you can earn any amount by working without your benefits being reduced at all.
Wages, bonuses, commis-

sions, and vacation pay all count toward the income limits, but pensions, annuities, investment earnings, interest, capital gains and government or military retirement benefits do not. To figure out how much your specific earnings will affect your benefits, see the Social Security Retirement Earnings Test Calculator at SSA.gov/OACT/COLA/RTeffect.html.
It's also important to know that if you do lose some or all of your Social Security benefits because of the earning limits, they aren't lost forever. When you reach full retirement age, your benefits will be recalculated to a higher amount to make up for what was withheld. For details and examples of how this is calculated, see SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking2.html.

For more information on how working can affect your Social Security benefits see SSA.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html, or call the Social Security at 410-965-2039 and ask to receive a free copy of publication number 05-10069, "How Work Affects Your Benefits."
Tax Factor
In addition to the Social Security rules, you need to factor in Uncle Sam too. Because working increases your income, it might make your Social Security benefits taxable.
Here's how it works. If the sum of your adjusted gross income, nontaxable interest, and half of your Social Security benefits is between \$25,000 and \$34,000 for individuals (\$32,000 and \$44,000 for couples), you have to pay tax on up



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to 50 percent of your benefits. Above \$34,000 (\$44,000 for couples), you could pay on up to 85 percent, which is the highest portion of Social Security that is taxable. About a third of all people who get Social Security have to pay income taxes on their benefits.
For information, call the IRS at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you a free copy of publication 915 "Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits," or you can see it online at IRS.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p915.pdf.
In addition to the federal government, 13 states – Colorado, Connecticut, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia – tax Social Security benefits to some extent too. If you live in one of these states, you'll need to check with your state tax agency for details.
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

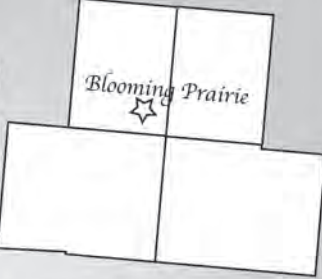
10 Years Ago
Elise Slinger, Editor
April 10th, 2007
More than once Sam has wondered, "Just what has Barb gotten me into?" Back in February of 2004, Sam and Barb Brewington bought the "old Trom farm", just three-quarters of a mile north of town on 100th Avenue. The land that surrounds the Brewingtons' homestead was originally purchased in 1880 from the Minnesota Central Railroad Company by Ole Knutson, and the house that the Brewingtons have recently renovated was built in 1936 by Herman Olson. It had several owners over the years including the Donald Trom family who lived there for many years. It all didn't stop there though. All of the outbuildings received a new coat of barn red paint with the house and barn getting a new roof. Sam also replaced most of the doors and all of the windows in the barn.
The past month four of the townships that surround the village of Blooming Prairie held their elections. In upcoming weeks, the Times will profile these townships and those who are serving on their boards. This week the Times is featuring

the Blooming Prairie Township, where Annette Motl is the newly elected Clerk. Motl was originally appointed to the position of Clerk in May 2006 after the resignation of Tom Trotman. After serving in the position of Clerk for almost a year, she was then elected to the post this March.
20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
April 8th, 1997
Most Minnesota dairy princesses reign just one single year, but it was different for Wendy Balzer. Balzer, Steele County's Dairy Princess for 1996-97, will be retiring her crown this Friday, but it will be the end of a two-year run in the spotlight. In 1995 she and three of her Blooming Prairie classmates ran for princess title, guaranteeing a local girl as a top candidate. That experience pushed Blazer to run again, this time against two opponents. Chances are her prior months of work helped her chances, but she made the most of the opportunity.
Chances are Steele County residents, especially children, will be seeing a lot more of Sparky the Dog. Sparky, a Dalmatian, is a character representing

the National Fire Protection Association, will now be part of the Steele County Safety Camp held annually each summer. The Owatonna Fire Department recently purchased a uniform that can be worn by all five of the county's fire departments.
50 Years Ago
Victor and Vernon Krejci, Editors
April 6th, 1967
Milo Hoel, was one of thirty-one teachers awarded certificates of excellence at the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award Luncheon, held at the Holiday Inn Central, Minneapolis, Monday April 3rd. Mr. Hoel is a teacher of bookkeeping, general business and driver's education in the Blooming Prairie school system.
Six local students from Blooming Prairie were among the 106 Austin State Junior College students named to the Dean's list for the Winter Quarter. He list included sophomores Arthur Hansen, Kathleen Harty, and Esther Pechacek; freshman named were Mary Becker, Ronald Nelson, and Audrey Smith. Hansen was awarded special recognition for an average above 3.5.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
April 9th, 1942
An elderly gentlemen, whose identity was never learned, raised a rumpus on Main Street here this morning when he refused to pay his taxicab fare after being driven from Austin to here. After considerable verbal battle with the two cab men who brought him here, police were called in. Marshall Glen Dennis suggested that the man cool his heels in the village jail pending proper settlement. The taxi rider thought this over and decided to pay the fare. And everybody was happy, except the elderly fellow. He thought he had been robbed.
A roving deer, from parts unknown, has been seen frequently the past week in the Newry community. Julius Olson reported this week having seen the deer leap two fences and come up into his farm yard. He said he believed it might have come from Owatonna where a deer was reported missing from it's herd there.





We have the news you want to know and the hometown coverage you expect.

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Steele County Times Professional Directory

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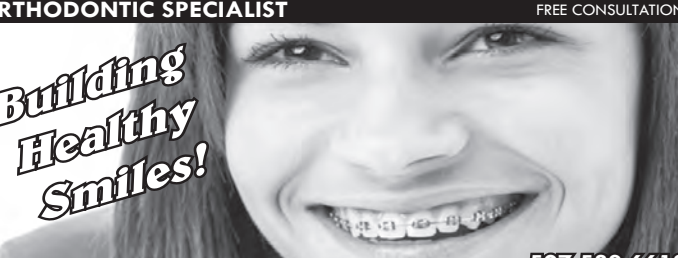

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES
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Area Church Spotlight

First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, MN

Pastor's corner: God Really Wants Hear From You!

While trying to teach one of my young daughters about prayer, the conversation went something like this...

"Sweetheart, what is one thing you'd like thank God for today?"

Without skipping a beat she smiled and said, "Candy."

And I said, in my best dad's voice, "No honey, something really important."

She crossed her arms and said, "Daddy, candy is really important to me!"

Philip Yancy, in his book Prayer, says that prayer is like... "A child who crawls into her father's lap with a fantasy

Christmas list, yet, may not get everything she desires. But, the very fact that she crawled into his lap, making known her deepest desires, helps cement the bond of love the father cherishes above all else."

Yancy concludes, "We do far better to act like a trusting child, presenting foolish requests and letting the Father make judgments, than to fret about inappropriate petitions."

You may know how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. He said that prayer is like approaching a loving father, who just happens to be in heaven.

So, in light of my daugh-

ter's wisdom, informed by my own experience, as advised by good teachers (including Jesus straight from the Bible), I would say: Pray about what is really important to you. And, remember that nothing is off limits. So, pray!

You can come to God just as you are; you don't have to be something or somebody you are not! You can be happy, you can be angry, you can be hopeful, you can be worried, you can be doubtful, you can be feeling insecure, or be rock solid in your faith. It's all okay to God. In fact, God really wants to hear from you!



Rev. Jeff Sandgren
Interim Senior Pastor
First Lutheran Church,
Blooming Prairie

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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., Blooming Prairie
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., Blooming Prairie
Jeff Sandgren, Interim Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com

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

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

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

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

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

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

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

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday

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. Indehar
(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. Indehar
(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 Sunday
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

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784

stcolumbanuschurch.com
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

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.litomyslwebs.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

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m., & 10 a.m.

Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m.- 10 p.m.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

205 NW Second Ave., Medford

(507) 451-6353

Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor

Deacon Patrick Fagan

Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.

Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

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.

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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

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815 E. University, Owatonna

Loren Olson, Pastor

Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor

(507) 451-4734

www.owatonnaumc.org

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

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Sundays 10:00 AM

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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

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www.destinycc.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

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404 31st St. N.W., Austin

Bishop Rick Bremner

(507) 433-9042

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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

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CommunityLiving

Obituaries

Richard D. Kubista, age 90 of Blooming Prairie

Richard D. Kubista, age 90 of Blooming Prairie, died Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Born Aug. 15, 1926, to George and Mary (Nelson) Kubista in Steele County, Richard attended country school and Blooming Prairie High School, graduating in 1944. After working at farm-related jobs, he entered the U.S. Army in 1949.

Following basic training, he served in the Army Band at Fort Montmoth, New Jersey, as a drummer and was the drum major for official parades. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1952.

Richard married Evelyn Hansberry July 25, 1953. They have lived in Blooming Prairie in the same house for the last 63 plus years. Richard worked at Ag related businesses before completing his work years as

maintenance supervisor at Prairie Manor Care Center.

When still in high school, Richard began playing drums with an old-time band (Golden Aces) which he and his classmates formed. He continued playing while in the service. When back in this area, he played with the Happy Danes, Gardy K. and the Swinging Laendlers for many years.

Richard was an active member of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, American Legion Post 52, Knights of Columbus St. Isidore Council and a longtime member of Lion's Club.

Richard is survived by his wife, Evelyn; his children, Richard (Gayle) Kubista of Delano, JoEllen Lomen of Apple Valley, David (Mary) Kubista of Jordan, and Roger (Andre) Kubista of Zumbrota.

He is also survived by 11 grandchildren; six great grand-

children; sisters and brother, Glenda Hanson of Owatonna, Eleanor Franke of Anchorage, Alaska, Norma Rausch of Bella Vista, Arkansas; and Ron Kubista of Hutchinson; brother-in-law, Michael (Regina) Hansberry of Western Springs, Illinois; many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Ruth.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with celebrant Father Tom Niehaus. Rosary was at 3:45 p.m., Monday.

Visitation was from 4:00 to 7 p.m., Monday at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and at the church one hour before the service. Interment was at St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery in Blooming Prairie with military honors by American Legion Post 52.



Memorials are preferred to St. Columbanus Elevator Fund or Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Richard E. Miller, age 80, of Austin

Richard E. Miller, age 80, of Austin, died Thursday, March 30, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born Nov. 22, 1936, in Austin, the son of Donald and Agnes (Lysne) Miller.

Following his graduation from Blooming Prairie High School in 1954, Richard enlisted in the United States Navy, serving until 1957. On April 26, 1958, he married Mildred Rauenhorst at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Easton, Minnesota.

The couple raised 7 children. Richard worked for the U. S. Postal Service as a mail carrier and clerk, retiring in 1993. He belonged to St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin, as well as the Blooming Prairie Gun Club, the U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, and the USS Toledo Association.

Richard enjoyed the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved watching the Minnesota Twins and especially treasured the time spent with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Richard will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Mildred Miller of Austin; his children Julie (Patrick) Cochlin of Blooming Prairie, Thomas Miller (Barb Taylor) of Austin, Carol (Ken) Trembley of Cottage Grove, Richard (Gayle) Miller II of Blooming Prairie, Mary Miller of Waynesboro, Virginia, Michele (Brad) Ayers of Bothell, Washington, Ann Krueger of Austin.

He was also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brothers-in-law Cyrus Kirk of St. Paul, Ray (Sharon) Rauenhorst of Easton; sisters-

in-law Lorraine (Harold) Hasing of Blue Earth and Evelyn (Thomas) Thielen of Ames, Iowa. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Donald (Judy) Miller, 2 sisters, Mary Jean Kirk and Marcia (Royce) Daniel, and brother-in-law Leo Rauenhorst.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, April 3, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin with Father James Stefes officiating. Visitation was held from 1:00-4 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. There was a 1 p.m. prayer service at the funeral home Sunday.

Interment was held at the St. Columbanus Catholic Cemetery, rural Blooming Prairie. Memorials can be directed to St. Augustine Catholic Church or the Salvation Army Food Shelf.



Worlein Funeral Home of Austin has assisted the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Sandra Lea Wagman, of Blooming Prairie

Sandra Lea Wagaman was called to heaven as an Irish angel back home March 30. Sandra has moved on to fulfill her promise to her family to watch over, guide and protect us forever.

She was a gift blessed to Ernest Allen and Betty Clark Feb. 6, 1943. She married Carl Wagaman Aug. 28, 1965. Sandy was an accomplished artist and poet who touched many souls throughout her life. She gave all and asked for little.

She leaves behind husband Carl Wagaman of 51 years, sister Sharon and Jim Andrews, two sons, Steve and Mary Wagaman, Scott

and Angie Wagaman, and two daughters Sherrie and Jassen Hoffmann, Shauna and Matt Christiansen.

In addition, she is survived by 11 grandchildren Jon and Marisa Wagaman, Cody and Cory Wagaman, Ariel and Alex Christensen, Jadden, Jarren Kallen Hoffmann, Walter and Emmit Christiansen and many nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers Michael and Keith Clark.

Memorial Service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, at Worlein Funeral Services in Blooming Prairie, facilitated by pastor Lindsay Stolen of

Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church.

Visitation took place one hour before the service at the funeral home. Burial will be at a later date. Memorials to

be given to the University of Minnesota Raptor Center in St. Paul.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude

to all our relatives, friends, and neighbors for the flowers, food, cards of sympathy, and memorials sent at the time of the loss of our husband and father, Clinton Christianson.

Special thanks to the Prairie Manor Staff, Hospice, Pastor Lindsay Stolen of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church, and Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home.

It is such a comfort to know that so many people share our loss.

-The Family of *Clinton Christianson*

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6th Dick Klemmensen Arlene Helleck	Anniveraries 5th Sam & Kristen Romeo Jeff & Becky Severtson
7th Dorothy Johnson Kaylee Farr Ethel Christianson Payton Esplan	7th Stuart & Brenda Yentsch
8th Tamara Larson	10th Chad & Julie Eischens

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BP's Hagen named team MVP, 2C

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LITTLE THOUGHTS
ON THE PRAIRIE



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Final sports banquet

I stepped away from coaching a few years back so that I could watch my boys finish their basketball careers. Since they were young, I always had a ball in their hands, would take them to practices when I was coaching and always fanned the flames of their passion for the game.

I also made sure that they understood that, although basketball was my life, it was a small reflection of life itself. It was always such a parallel to me. Passions generally are. How “what I do” equates to “how I live.”

It was never just a silly little game where a small leather ball went through a cold metal ring. For me, the passions and the parallels started at a young age in a backyard with a basketball hoop mounted over a garage. I learned from that point on, the ideas of finetuning and defining a craft, the ability to work with others on a team, the facing of competition, the time limits, the boundaries, the learning, the mentoring, the adrenaline of handling a victory and the humility of tasting defeat.

All things that equate perfectly to life and in every job I have ever worked. Principles I learned on the court are the principles I am still guided by today. I feel that sports in general gave me a pretty fair template for everything else.

Last week I watched my youngest son take that walk from the midst of his peers to receive his accolades for what he contributed to for the 2016-17 Awesome Blossoms. I had gone through sports banquets with all my kids, and watching each one come to the end of a high school career has left a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye.

This year was the last sports banquet for me and like the template of the game itself,



the clock had wound down for Seth and I would have

THOUGHTS
Continued on page 2C



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Top: Owatonna's Tyler Wencel (19) attempts to corral the puck during the first half of Section 1/3's game Friday in the CCM Ted Brill Great 8/HP 18 All-Star Game at Woog Arena in St.Paul. The games were played with two 26-minute halves. Bottom: Mitch Wiese of Owatonna waits to poke a pass during the second half of the Section 1/3 game Friday.

Owatonna's Mitch Wiese, Tyler Wencel compete against Minnesota's top prospects in CCM Ted Brill Great 8/HP-18 All-Star Game

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul - While most of their classmates are enjoying spring break, Tyler Wencel and Mitch Wiese took to the ice to compete.

All because they love the game of hockey. The two juniors of the Huskies' boys hockey program were invited to play in the 2017 Ted Brill Great 8/HP 18 All-Star Game at Doug Woog Arena, which started competition on Friday.

The all-star game, which sported a tournament-like schedule, was comprised of players from all eight sections, who were then split into divisions. The seniors completed the Great 8 squads, while Wencel and Wiese were in the HP 18's or juniors who were selected.

"It's a pretty good honor," noted Wiese. "It's kind of nice to skate with the best guys in the state."

Wencel, who was recently, selected to the Big Nine's All-Conference team after an 18-goal season added, "it feels good."

Over the next three days, the two Huskies played a total of four games. Friday and Saturday were the division round robins while on Sunday, they played in a crossover game

against a team from the Great 8 division. Wiese stated that despite only practicing together for a matter of two days, that regular season play factored into on-ice chemistry.

"It's kind of nice skating with players you know because you know they play," he added. "So that makes it a little easier."

With scouts nearly having their faces pressed to the glass along the boards, the two

"It's a pretty good honor. It's kind of nice to skate with the best guys in the state."

-Owatonna's Mitch Wiese

Huskies played.

And, they played well.

Despite falling in their first contest 7-4 and going 0-4 on the weekend, both Huskies made their presence known.

Watching along the boards, you could tell



CCM

Continued on page 2C

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Huskies Round up

Owatonna boys track and field competes in Griak Indoor Classic

Team Scores

1, Mounds View 136. 2, Hopkins 89. 3, Henry Sibley 74. 4, Edina 59. **5, Owatonna 45.** 6, Holdingford 44. 7, Acad. Holy Angels 32. 8, Minn. Edison 28. 9, St. Paul Como Park 17. 10 Silver Bay (WM. Kelley) 8. 11, st. Croix Prep 6. 12, Minn. State Acad. 5. 13, Minn. Roosevelt 1.

Owatonna Results

60 meter dash
4, Alex Raichle, 7.42
6, Jason Williamson, 7.44
21, Zach Williams, 8.21
**Also competed: Darik Elstad*

400 meter dash
4, Jaden Dowhaniuk, 56.21
13, Zander Johnson, 1:00
15, Jacob Slater, 1:01.01
**Also competed: Owen Koslosky, Jacob McMaines*

800 meter dash
9, David Crawford, 2:19.71
14, Logan Bauer, 2:28.5
17, Peter Fast, 2:33.65

1600 meter dash
10, Ross Stevensen, 5:04.47
12, Caeden McCartney, 5:14.79
14, Conner McCartney, 5:24.78

3200 meter dash
7, Bryce Knutson, 11:23.2

60 meter hurdles
11, Brandon Schmidt, 10.03
12, Dalton Kubista, 10.11



13, Andrew Jackson, 10.14
**Also competed: Zach Barrett*

4x400 meter relay
7, Owatonna (Scott Kingland, Dowhaniuk, Elstad, Koslosky), 3:58.92

4x800 meter relay
4, Owatonna (Stevensen, Bauer, McCartney, Jaden Rosacker), 9:38.01

1600 sprint relay
8, Owatonna (Williamson, Rosacker, Dowhaniuk, Koslosky), 4:20

High jump
5, Dalton Kubista, 5-06
6, Scott Kingland, 5-04
**Also competed: Andrew Jackson*

Long jump
6, Steven Ekard, 18-05.5
11, Roosevelt Rios, 17-10.5
13, Scott Kingland, 17-01.5

Triple Jump
1, Dalton Kubista, 40-10.25
7, Scott Kingland, 35-02.25
9, Steven Ekard, 34-03.5

Shot put
9, Chandler Buckhalter, 38-03.75
15, Chris Lewis, 32-02.25
17, Benjamin Stelter, 29-00.75
**Also competed: Cole Bergeman*

Two Huskies compete against state’s best

CCM: from page 1C

that both players had a keen awareness for what was taking place on the outside of the boards.

And quite frankly, it was hard not to notice.

Scouts from the college ranks to the NAHL were watching every moment with a sense of urgency, holding a pen and the rosters for the teams tight to their body.

While the two Huskies didn’t make any flashy plays that if recorded, would go viral on social media or even make the local news, the two played the game the same way they have all season long.

With a strong presence of fundamentals.

Despite failing to secure himself a stat on the score sheet for the weekend, Wiese displayed his natural ability to nudge opponents off the puck and hold the blue line in the offensive zone. He said afterward that at the end of the day, you still have to play the game and referred to being a ‘no-name’ as a call for motivation.

“You kind of have to,” Wiese said referring to playing with a chip on his shoulder. “No one knows who you are so you just have to make yourself noticed.”

Wencl on the other hand, managed to continue to add to his career season.

In four games, he registered two assists. In Friday’s loss, he

managed to fire seven shots on net. After being asked his feelings on his hard work being noticed, he calmly added, “It’s special.”

While both players will have another year in a Huskies’ sweater, Wencl agreed with Wiese’s statement on the importance to the weekend on their futures.

“You kind of get a little bit of a jump on everybody recruiting-wise because you’re out here skating,” Wiese added. “Not everyone is doing this.”

While their senior season won’t official start for roughly six months, there’s no better start than be face the top players in the state.

9 players letter, Hagen named team MVP for Blossoms Boys basketball

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

At the awards program last week for the 2017 Awesome Blossom basketball team, Coach Nate Piller spent several minutes thanking a host of people instrumental to the basketball program.

“It takes a lot of people to make a successful season,” he stated, “and although our record was a losing one, I felt that because of the way the boys played and respected the game, the season met my expectations.

“I want to thank my fellow coaches, the parents of these athletes for their support, and the players for the way they played the game and heeded the coaching they received. Thanks everyone.”

Nine players lettered this season, including Seth Bedenbaugh, Ben Smith, Zach Piller, Jake Ressler, Kaden Thomas, Nick Thompson, Cameron Kubista, Max Romeo, and Gabe Hagen.

Freshman Gabe Hagen earned MVP honors for the team and

made the All-Conference team, as well as the Academic All-Conference squad.

Tim Wolf also made the Academic All-Conference team. Seth Bedenbaugh received the Most Dedicated Player award and was a Honorable Mention All-Conference pick.

Jake Ressler took home the Defensive Player of the Year honors.

Several players had individual awards presented. Hagen led the team in scoring with 128 points or 11.3 points per game, with Ressler finishing second.

Ressler pulled down 176 rebounds for a 7.0 average and led the team in blocks with 94. In fact, that marked a single season record in blocks.

Hagen also led the team in assists with 63. Cameron kubista followed Hagen with 44, and Ressler was right behind with 43. Kubista had 40 steals for the season, and Max Romeo and Hagen had 36 and 26 respectively.

The following marks went into the history book for boys’ basketball. Hagen led the team

in 2-point field goal percentage at 54.7 percent. Kaden Thomas made 53.7 percent, and Seth Bedenbaugh 52.7 percent.

Ressler connected on 3-point field goal shooting with a fine 38.8 percent, and Romeo followed at 25.5 percent. Thomas had the best free throw shooting percentage at 73.3 percent, hitting 22 of 30 attempts.

Several entries entered into the basketball archives. Hagen’s 54.7 field goal average placed 18th, and Romeo’s 38 three-pointers rank 11th.

Ressler’s 38.78 three-point average puts him 10th, and his 94 blocked shots shot him to number 1 in that category. Bedenbaugh’s 2-point field goal average of 52.7 in a career ranks him 11th.

The team’s two-point 47.6 average ranks it 7th, and the 121 three-pointers made ranks it number 6 in the record book. That isn’t bad for a team that finished 4-8 in the conference and 10-16 overall.

Saying goodbye to basketball

THOUGHTS: from page 1C

to witness him walk off the court a last time. Whether it’s their last game, or last play or last band concert or last steps out of a high school – the banquets and moments to congratulate bring closure.

We put the BP boys basketball season to rest. We put my last son’s final year in the books and it was a very good run. The night was filled with pizza and salads and juice and as with every one of the sports banquets I have attended, the boys descended upon the food table as hungry locusts and every parent there had a story about how much their boys could eat.

There were speeches by the coaches and tears in their eyes as they spoke as if at a funeral service for a loved one, they eulogized the season. And it

is, of sorts, laying to rest this specific team that will never all play together again as that team.

The team was exciting this year. The awards given out on that night proved it. Seven records went into the school statistical archives including a single season record by junior, Jake Ressler, with 94 blocks. The team had four players in the All-Conference lists and nine letters were awarded. And oh, the things the boys learned this year.

I have said it many times, there was absolutely no “give up” in the hearts of the Blossom boys. Whether it was the tip with the score tied or the end of the game, down by 15, they played like there was no clock.

It was a year when we

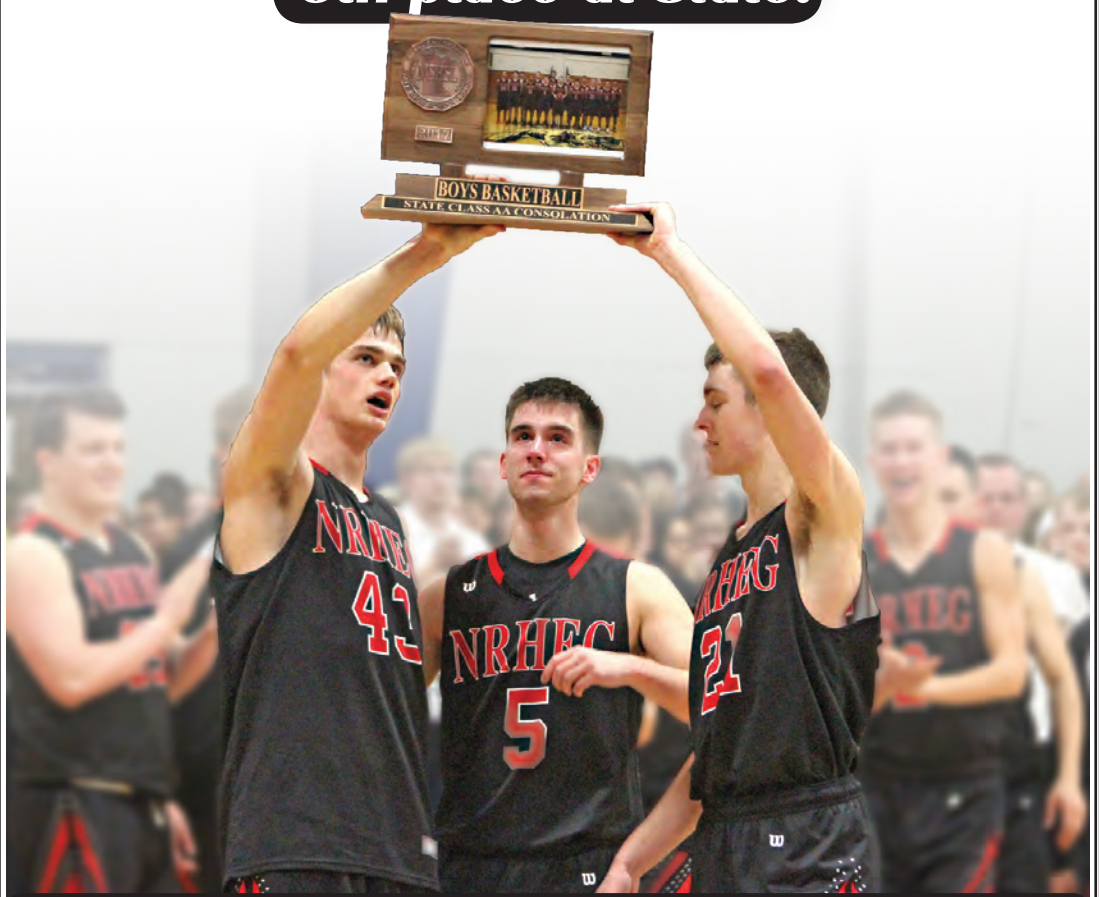
had to say “goodbye” to Coach Nelson who is retiring and gave perhaps the most touching swan song in the history of BP sports. It was a year when the team crowned freshman, Gabe Hagen as the team MVP and the exciting prospect hit all of us that the bulk of scoring and rebounding returns next near as the underclassmen provided the majority of both.

Personally I would like to thank the coaching staff for all the hours, all the work and all the teaching they provided for the boys and especially my son. Whether it was to win with humility or learn how to walk through adversity while maintaining their integrity. The life lessons were not wasted on this group.

And life. Goes on.

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STARS OF STEELE

Tyler Wencl



Continuing to add to his stellar junior season, Wencl also made an appearance in the CCM Ted Brill Great 8/HP 18 All-Star Game in St. Paul.

In four games, he registered a +3 and two assists.

Mitch Wiese



While he may not have made any highlight reel plays, Owatonna junior Mitch Wiese played lights out hockey at the CCM Ted Brill Great 8/HP 18 All-Star Game.

In four games, he registered a +2 and was a mainstay on defense.

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Steele County Times’ Boys All-Area team

Player of the Year



Oakley Baker
NRHEG (Sr.)

While Owatonna’s Dalton Kubista had a heck of a season of his own, when you score more than 2,000 points in your career, you practically win by default.

The future Johnnie was as hot a shooter who stepped on the court of the state tournament.

Although, he saved arguably his best game for his last, scoring 40 points to help lead NRHEG to a fifth place finish.

Baker was also selected to play in the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Assosication All-Star Game.

Rising star



Gabe Hagen
Blooming Prairie (Fr.)

Gabe Hagen who came into the Blooming Prairie boys varsity basketball team as a freshman, didn’t start his first game. Hagen was the leading scorer for 8 of the 22 games he started this year and was leading rebounder in 12 games. .

He was a unanimous All-Conference selection, was awarded an Academic All-Conference award and was the Most Valuable Player for the team.

In addition, he never missed a game this year, was the team leading scorer with 11.3 ppg, was second on the team in rebounding with 6.3 rpg, led the team in assists with 63, led the team in 2 pt. FG% with a 54.7 average, and was second on the team in blocks with 11.

His stats in his first year also won him a place in the Blooming Prairie archives as his single season field goal percentage was 18th in school history. He also ended up as the ninth leading scorer in the Gopher Conference with 128 conference points.

Sixth man of the Year



Benji Lundberg
NRHEG (Jr.)

As a member of the Panthers’ ‘Big 3’ Lundberg was the oil that kept the engine running. In seven post season games, the junior reached double each time, with an 18-point performance against St. Cloud Cathedral in the opening round of the Class AA state tournament leading the team.

First team

Oakley Baker	NRHEG	senior
Tyler Raimann	NRHEG	senior
Jake Ressler	Blooming Prairie	junior
Dalton Kubista	Owatonna	junior
Jay Sullivan	Owatonna	senior

Second team

Gabe Hagen	Blooming Prairie	freshman
Andrew Jackson	Owatonna	junior
Seth Bedenbaugh	Blooming Prairie	senior
Chad Agrimson	NRHEG	senior
Benji Lundberg	NRHEG	junior

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Steele County Times’ Girls All-Area team

Player of the Year

Sixth man of the Year



Julia Worke
Blooming Prairie Fr.)

Julia Worke from Blooming Prairie is a freshman that plays wise beyond her years. She turned heads early with her ability to crash among the tall trees in the paint, and ended up tied for fourth place in team rebounding with 85 boards. Her 72 defensive rebounds also placed her fourth. Worke had 107 points this year and her 4.1 ppg average put her fifth on the team. She had a 57.1 percent free throw rating, but did not shoot over 10 this year. She led the team in three point shots made with 23 and was second in the team in 3 point shooting percentage with 22.1 percent. As a solid all-around player, she shot 40.5 percent in field goals, she dished out 42 assists, she was second on the team in blocks with 15 and had 14 steals.



Sydney Schultz
Owatonna (Jr.)

While the Huskies were knocked out in the opening round of the Section 1-A AAAA tournament by Farmington, there’s a strong argument that Owatonna may have not been in that position if not for their scoring machine. Reaching the 1,000-point club in mid-January, Schultz averaged 22.6 ppg, 9.1 rpg and 2.1 bpg.

Rising star



Betsy Schoenrock
NRHEG (So.)

Averaging a double-double (20.1 ppg, 11.1 rpg) Schoenrock was a catalyst for the Panthers’ offensive success this season. While seniors Marnie and Maddie Wagner were almost a given from beyond the box, any errant shots landed into the palms of the towering sophomore.

First team

Marissa Larson	Blooming Prairie	Senior
Betsy Schoenrock	NRHEG	sophomore
Sydney Schultz	Owatonna	junior
Marnie Wagner	NRHEG	senior
Maddie Wagner	NRHEG	senior

Second Team

Mikayla Spinler	Medford	senior
McKenna Hein	Blooming Prairie	junior
Samantha Wurst	Blooming Prairie	junior
Emma Kniefel	Medford	sophomore
Jenna Zeman	Owatonna	junior



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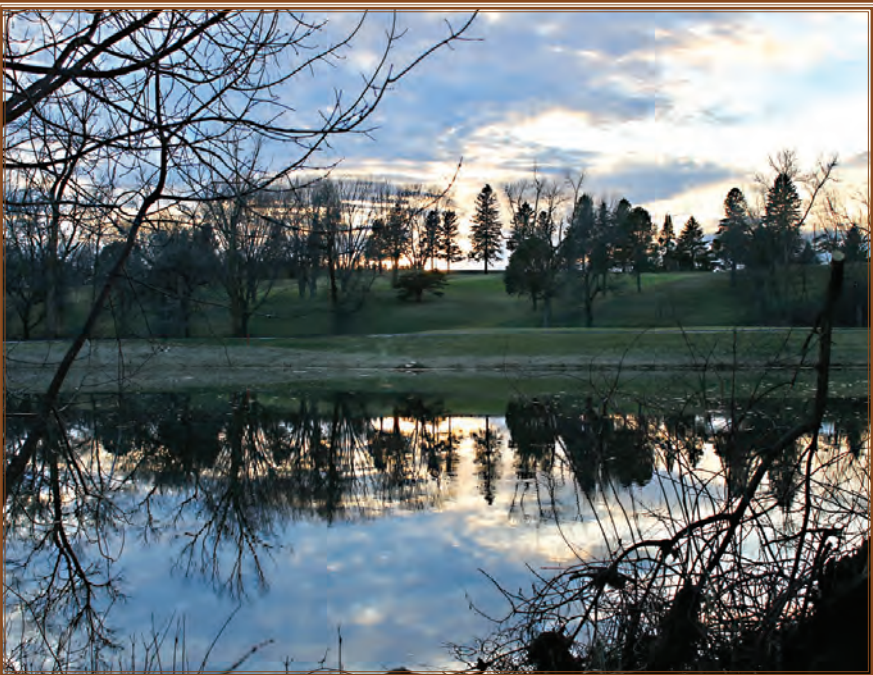
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Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Along the trails of Lake Kohlmeier, the sun breaks through clouds onto a holding pond. The spring has created a tug-of-war between sunny days and a lingering winter bluster.

PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS

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High: 57°
Low: 30°

Wednesday



High: 51°
Low: 27°

Thursday



High: 51°
Low: 27°

Friday



High: 60°
Low: 39°

Saturday



High: 68°
Low: 49°

Sunday



High: 67°
Low: 42°

Information provided by The Weather Channel

PANTHER OF THE WEEK

Mack Gilliland is this week's Panther of the week. He is the son of Aaron and Lisa Gilliland and they reside in Hartland. He has two brothers, Brooks and Trevor. Mack is in Mrs. Knudson's Kindergarten class.

Mack shows his panther pride in many ways every day. Mack works hard to accomplish work, he plays amazingly well with his friends/peers, and is always willing to help someone out. Mack constantly talks about sports. He loves them all: wrestling, football, basketball, baseball and hockey. Many of his drawings are about the Minnesota Vikings. Keep up the great work Mack!

Movie Review: Power Rangers

played by Elizabeth Banks, who wants to claim a crystal of ultimate power that would leave the Earth lifeless if stolen.

If you grew-up with the show, you'll like the film. It's a fun romp down memory lane. It brings enough new material to excite with different interpretations and backstories, but also knows when to blast the original theme song and just let the nostalgia take you away.

The film's more mature feel, Israelite's biggest gamble, works surprisingly well. There's a little dissidence seeing such a campy original show turned into more serious fare, and it takes a few tries before anyone can say the phrase "power rangers" in a way you take seriously. Overall, however, the focus on the tougher realities of high school set against a fight for their lives makes these rangers more sympathetic and better mirrors than the originals ever were.

The best update by far goes to the blue ranger, played by RJ Cyler, who is now a teen on the autism spectrum. His disability isn't just a throwaway plot point either. It informs all the decisions his character makes, without being his only character trait. He's not endearingly precious. They treat his condition with the humane humor people who cope with disabilities or illness will recognize and appreciate.

The movie hits a few rough patches in its editing and pacing. It's not always clear how time is passing or whether a dream-sequence has been entered.

There are less fight scenes or giant robot stand-offs than lovers of the original might have hoped for, but the climax of the film does make good on the build-up.

Whether you should see the movie is in the title. If the franchise hasn't already grabbed you, the movie's cracks will probably keep you from suiting up. If Power Rangers was your childhood or guilty pleasure, well then, it's Morphin' Time!

Rated: PG-13

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Recipe Corner

Hot Artichoke-Garlic Dip

14 oz. can of quartered artichokes, chopped	1 c. mayonnaise
1 c. fresh grated Parmesan cheese	garlic powder, to taste
4 oz. Mozzarella cheese	2 T. parsley
	2 T. green onion

Combine all ingredients.
Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes or in a crock-pot.
Heat thoroughly, stir occasionally.
Serve with crackers or cocktail bread.

by Linda Kaplan

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Tips on dealing with hazardous waste during livestock handling

Properly disposing of livestock medical containers and the needles and syringes used to administer them is both a matter of good stewardship and safety.

Rob Eirich, Extension Educator, Director of Beef Quality Assurance,

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, says having a thorough understanding of safety hazards related to each product and the proper disposal of product containers is a good first step in cleaning up after processing cattle or other livestock.

“Carefully read product labels,” Eirich says. “With the products we’re using in livestock handling it’s as important as ever to understand the hazards they can pose. Be prepared to respond to a product-related accident before it happens.”

Storing products at the proper temperature is key to preserving the product quality and effectiveness. Because product storage requirements vary from one brand to another, it’s risky to omit a thorough review of each product’s label.

“Different antibiotics have different storage temperature ranges,” Eirich says. “We can’t assume we know how to handle a product without carefully reading its label. Talk to your veterinarian about safe handling and any need for training before using injectable products.”

When treating even a single animal, safety recommenda-

tions include not working alone, properly restraining animals and handling loaded syringes with great care.

Loaded syringes should never be carried in a coat or pants pocket. Needles should be covered until they are used. Children and bystanders should be well away from the work area and handlers should have a well-marked exit route in case of an emergency.

Everyone working with products should have a clear idea of their role and responsibility in the activity.

When working with injectable products, a protective cover should be on needles before their use. Used needles should never be used to refill a syringe.

“Typically needles need to be changed every time you refill a syringe with a product,” Eirich says. “That may happen with every 10 to 20 head of cattle. If you don’t change the needle and use it to refill a syringe, you risk contaminating the product in the bottle and each animal that receives an injection of that product.”

Used needles, when examined under a microscope, reveal that pieces of animal hide, manure or even mud can cling to needles used with injectable products.

Blood borne illness such as anaplasmosis can be passed from one animal to another by reusing needles due to residue from an infected animal that

clings to the needle and comes in contact with subsequently treated animals.

“Be sure you change needles frequently,” Eirich says.

Broken or damaged syringes should be disposed of immediately in an appropriate sharps container. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cleared sharps disposal containers are available through product sellers and online. Use of a proper container helps reduce the risk of

the container should be considered to be full. Once it’s full, the container must also be disposed of properly.

“You’re likely to find sharps containers at a veterinary clinic or animal health supplier,” Eirich says. “Once that container is full, it should be disposed of in a dumpster or garbage receptacle. Laundry detergent bottles can be used because they’re made of thick, heavy plastic.”

If a laundry detergent bottle is

people pour quick crete into it and let that harden before they dispose of it to ensure no one is injured by the sharps inside it,” Eirich says. “So it can’t be removed, the cap may be super glued on so it can’t be removed once the bottle is full.”

All sharps disposal containers should be made of heavy-duty plastic and have a tight-fitting and puncture-resistant lid. The container should also be leak resistant and remain upright and stable during use. A proper label is necessary to provide warning of the hazardous waste inside the container.

Eirich recommends that glass product bottles are carefully handled once they’re empty to avoid breaking them, increasing the risk of cuts and exposure to residue inside the bottles.

“If you’re boxing them up as they’re emptied, be sure they’re not breaking in the process,” he says.

When sharps aren’t disposed of properly, they can injure family members or waste handlers, increase the risk of contamination and infection and pollute the environment.

Sharps disposal may be regulated by the state. Agencies responsible for overseeing disposal of medical waste can answer disposal questions. Veterinarians, hospitals, pharmacies and physicians may also be able to provide disposal guidelines.

Injectable livestock medica-

tions that require proper container disposal include antibiotics, vitamins, minerals and mastitis tubes. Oral medication containers include de-wormers, antibiotics, vitamins and minerals. Topical medications are sprays, de-wormers and ointments.

Vaccine labels contain manufacturer’s recommendations for container disposal or partially empty containers. Most can be burned or disposed of in a sanitary landfill.

Unused products should never be dumped down a drain or on the ground. Disinfectant should be added to unused portions of live or modified-live vaccines to reduce accidental exposure to unintended populations.

If glass containers are broken, they should be placed in a rigid cardboard box and clearly labeled as broken glass. Outdated product should be disposed of properly, which may mean returning it to the manufacturer or the place of purchase.

Other waste products related to livestock treatment are bandages and medical gloves. The items should be secured in leak-proof bags before they’re disposed of in the trash.

“Keeping an appropriate sharps container at hand all the time makes it more convenient to properly dispose of hazardous waste as necessary,” Eirich says.

Researchers test drones to spot invasive plants in Minnesota

Flying, unmanned vehicles could help combat Oriental bittersweet

Researchers with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota Extension are turning to the skies to help spot and stop invasive plants from spreading across the state. A new project is examining the capacity of drones to help scientists find areas of the state that are being destroyed by Oriental bittersweet.

Oriental bittersweet is an invasive vine that is wrecking numerous forested areas in the Twin Cities metro area and southeastern Minnesota, including Memorial Park in Red Wing. The vines spread into tree canopies and then smother and break trees.

Oriental bittersweet vines can be controlled with herbicides; however, finding the vines is labor intensive and can be challenging on steep terrain. That’s why researchers hope drones can help in the effort.

“It would be more efficient to develop a way to survey and detect bittersweet from the air,” said Monika Chandler, MDA Invasive Species Specialist. “This would give us a great leg up in containing and controlling this invasive vine.”

Tests currently being conducted will help researchers determine the appropriate sensor to use, calculate the impact of light conditions, and find the best flying pattern.

“This research applies leading-edge technology to a real-world problem. Early detection is a critical component of invasive species management and testing drones adds to the tools in our invasive species toolbox,” said Angela Gupta, Extension educator in natural resources management and utilization.

If successful, scientists could use drones to search for Orien-

tal bittersweet in bluffs, river valleys, and other hilly areas. Knowing the exact location and size of the area covered by the vines would save time and resources as officials try to remove the invasive plants.

The drone research project is a joint venture between the MDA, U of M, Conservation Corps of Minnesota, and St. Croix River Association, and is funded through a grant by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.



injury and infection from sharps.

Appropriate containers should be made of rigid plastic and include a line that indicates when

used, the label should be peeled off and the word “Sharps” should be clearly written on the bottle.

“Once the bottle is filled, some



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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: \$96,911.10
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 23, 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 sale said 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 23, 2017, or the next business day if November 23, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
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(651) 209-9760
(17-0368-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

4/4, 4/11, 4/18
4/25, 5/2, 5/9

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Margaret A. Gauthier and Joseph G. Gauthier, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$187,500.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 20, 2010
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 14, 2011 as Document Number A000376625 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$94,225.34
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at southeast corner of Lot 12, in east half of Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, (said point of beginning being in the center of Lincoln Street); thence north 107 feet; thence west 101 feet; thence South 107 feet; thence east 101 feet to the place of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 826 LINCOLN AVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-015-4203
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 27, 2017.

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

May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 2, 2018.

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

M O R T G A G O R (S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1786-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy L. Bruce and Jeffrey S. Bruce, wife and husband and Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Netbank
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on June 2, 2016 as Document Number A000407852 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$115,608.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 7, 2005
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2005 as Document Number A000337053 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$102,496.32
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 5, in Crooker and Parkers Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 807 N ELM

AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1738
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Netbank
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-105-0502
T R A N S A C T I O N AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100014440002491538
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017.

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

M O R T G A G O R (S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1553-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 26, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$122,604.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Carolee R. George, 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 December 27, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000354404
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 2, Country View Estates, City of Ellendale
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 602 Dutton Drive, Ellendale, MN 56026
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-115-0202
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,528.57
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 12, 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 12, 2017, or the next business day if November 12, 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 13, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1553-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

17-106085

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,

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Josh Dale and Holly L. Dale, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 27, 2011 as Document Number A000380851 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$189,560.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 7, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 21, 2009 as Document Number A000368421; as amended of record by document recorded on November 8, 2011 as Document No. A000381093 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$218,820.12 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the North Half of Southwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 105 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East, assumed bearing, 468.00 feet along the West line of said Southwest Quarter to the True Point of beginning; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 202.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 58.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 100.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 0 minutes 115.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 124.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 86.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 178.00 feet to the West line of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East 259.00 feet to said True Point of Beginning. Containing 1.42 acres, more or less. Containing 1.13 acres, more or less, excluding highway easement. Subject to a public highway easement along the West line thereof. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 16411 SOUTH WEST 52ND AVE, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-3064 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-036-3101 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100052221010839741 THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Josh Dale Dated: March 6, 2017 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-0279-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: March 6, 2017 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.

Curt N. Trisko, Esq. Samuel R. Coleman, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (16-1415-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28 4/4 4/11, 4/18

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: MORTGAGOR(S): Steven W. Davis, a single person MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$109,382.00 DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 18, 2009 DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 21, 2009 as Document Number A000366739 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota. THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$99,423.50 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The West 1/2 of Lot 1 of the Extension of Block 22 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota. AND All that part of the East Half of Lot 1 in the extension of Block 22, Original Town (now City), Owatonna, Minnesota, described by: Beginning at the southwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00'00" E, assumed bearing, 2.40 feet along the south line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 00° 13' 07" E 132.49 feet to the north line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00' 00" W 3.00 feet to the northwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence S 00° 02' 27" E 132.49 feet to beginning, Steele County, Minnesota. STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 231-233 RICE ST E, OWATONNA, MN 55060-3012 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota TRANSACTION AGENT: None NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2207 TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part. PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED. MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None Dated: March 13, 2017 WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq. N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq. *Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.* Attorneys for Mortgagee The Academy Professional Building 25 North Dale Street St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (17-0279-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 02/28/2017 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Glynn/Gnemi to approve the agenda with changes. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Glynn to approve bills with changes. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Krueger to approve the consent agenda items. Ayes all.
- Approve the Minutes of February 14, 2017 Board Meeting and February 23, 2017 Work Session.
- Approve Personnel Report.
- Approve estimate for Insulation Removal, Sanitizing and Replacement with Reichel Insulation in the amount of \$23,911.28.
- Approve quotes for Gravel Hauling from Rod Anderson & Sons at \$85.00 per hour, Timm's Trucking Inc at \$88.00 per hour and Loken Excavation & Drainage Inc. at \$88.00 per hour as needed for 2017 belly dump trucking rates.
- Approve quotes from Seykora Asphalt at \$82.00 per hour, Wolff & Sons at \$82.00 per hour, Owatonna Groundsmasters at \$84.00 per hour, Met-Con Trucking at \$85.00 per hour, Loken Excavation & Drainage Inc at \$85.00 per hour and James Bros. at \$85.00 per hour as needed for 2017 quad axle supplemental trucking.
- Approve the award of bids for Seasonal Materials consisting of Plant Mixed Bituminous and Aggregate Materials needed for highway maintenance purposes.
- Approve ModSpace Lease Renewal for the highway construction materials test lab at a rate of \$356.16 per month through 2017.
- Approve technical and engineering services agreements with Somerset Township for the replacement of Bridge No. 74508 and construction of new Bridge No. 74J23.
- Authorization to advertise for bids for 2017 Striping Contract CP 074-017-001 and set bid opening for April 13, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. in the County Boardroom.
- Authorization to advertise for bids for 2017 Bituminous Construction Contract which includes bituminous pavement rehabilitation projects and set bid opening for April 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the County Boardroom.
- Authorization to advertise for bids for Clinton Falls Township Bridge SAP 074-599-031 and set bid opening for 10:00 a.m. on May 4, 2017 in the County Boardroom.
- Authorization to advertise for bids for 2017 Bituminous Maintenance Overlay project and set bid opening for 10:15 a.m. on May 4, 2017 in the County Boardroom.
- Authorization to solicit bids from a list pre-qualified for the construction of phase 4F-G landfill cells and closure of phase B-C areas.
- Approve lease purchase of John Deere 1575 lawn mower from Ag Power with lease payments of \$533.75 per month for 36 months and a payoff of \$12,285.00.
- Accept the informational update on the OSHA penalty and progress of correcting the violation at the Courthouse.
- Accept the informational update from Parks & Recreation for advertising lawn mowing at County Parks & Landfill.
- Accept the informational update from Environmental Services for the 2018 Landfill Waste Delivery Contracts and 2017 Landfill Waste Delivery Assurance Options.
- Accept the informational update from the Policy Committee to continue to investigate possible incentives for business development including working with CEDA, businesses and the township.
- Accept the Food Service Agreement between A'viands Summit Food Service and Steele County Sheriff's Office effective February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018.
- Accept Public Safety Policy Committee Minutes.
- Accept Public Works Minutes.
- Accept Land Use & Records Minutes.
- Accept Probation Services Dashboard.
- Approve the annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant Agreement between the State of Minnesota and the Steele Co Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$2,015 effective January 1, 2017 through June 30 2018.
- Glynn/Krueger to add Rick Gnemi as an alternate to the Cannon River Watershed 1W1P policy committee. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Gnemi to approve the Public Health Department Organizational Structure. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Krueger to approve Northland Securities as Steele County's Financial Advisor to assist the County with specialized services related to the County's membership in SCCL and the operation of the KODA facility. Ayes all.
- The Public Hearing on increasing Passport Photo fees was called to order at 5:15 p.m.
- County Administrator Laura Elvebak reviewed and explained the reason for the increase.
- The hearing was then open to questions from those in attendance. There were no questions from those in attendance.
- Glynn/Gnemi to close the hearing at 5:18 p.m. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Abbe to approve the Passport Photo increase to \$14. Ayes all.
- SEMCAC Executive Director, Wayne Stenberg provided an update on SEMCAC's Steele County Impact Report FY 2016 and the Annual Public Report. Head Start Coordinator, Terri McLaughlin provided an update on SEMCAC's Head Start program.
- County Engineer Anita Benson provided an update on the Public Works project.
- The original Task force members were present to provide background knowledge and insight about the project from their prospective.
- Gnemi/Krueger to set a Board meeting for March 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the contract termination and building design of the Public Works Building project. Ayes all.
- Abbe/Gnemi to award the proposal from Rocon Inc. in the amount of \$185.00 per hour for Project Manager Services relating to the damages at the Steele County Courthouse. Project to start March 6, 2017. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Krueger offered a Resolution authorizing the GIS Department to publish its public geospatial data on a website in a commonly recognized and easily produced form, available for download by anyone at no cost, subject to accepting the terms. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Glynn to authorize the Chair to sign the 2016 Annual County Feedlot Officer Report. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Krueger authorizing the return of unused funds from the 2014 Erosion Control Ordinance Development Grant and the 2015 Septic System Upgrade Grant in the amount of \$22,765 to the State of Minnesota. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Krueger to approve the purchase of an adjustable standing desk not to exceed \$900 in the Treasurer's Office to be funded by the Compliance Fund. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Abbe to approve seeking bids for two new squad cars for the Sheriff's Office. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Glynn offered a Resolution to approve final payment to Minnowa Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$201,388.21 for SAP 74-612-39 and SAP 74-612-40 (CSAH 12) contingent on receipt of final IC134 and executed final pay request document from the contractor. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS		02/28/2017	
A'viands, LLC	14,367.53		
Central Farm Services	4,058.98		
City of Ellendale	4,157.51		
Compass Minerals America	8,555.51		
CPS Technology Solutions	2,575.00		
Freeborn County Auditor-Treas	12,209.01		
Hewlett Packard Enterprise	3,577.00		Intereum Inc
	2,867.65		
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	3,483.75		
Kronos Incorporated	3,170.30		
League of Minnesota Cities	2,200.00		
Local Government Information Systems	42,078.00		
Marco Technologies LLC	5,958.15		
MN County Attorneys Assn	4,126.00		
Motorola Solutions Inc	4,342.47		
Office of MN IT Service	2,177.79		
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	4,125.96		
Steele County Treasurer	12,271.10		
Waseca County Auditor-Treas	81,810.84		
115 Warrants under \$2,000	48,711.72		
Total:	\$266,824.27		

Motion by Gnemi, seconded by Commissioner Glynn to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 6:25 p.m. Ayes all.

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 03/14/2017 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Glynn/Brady to appoint Jody Hartle as Clerk. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Abbe to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Krueger to approve the consent agenda items. Ayes all.
- Approve the Minutes of February 21, 2017 Board Meeting, March 2, 2017 Work Session and March 7, 2017 Special Meeting.
- Approve the Bills.
- Approve Personnel Report.
- Approve the Interpreter Agreement with Julie Yearling and Steele County

Public Health Department to conduct Spanish language interpretation services for the period of 01/01/2017 through 12/31/2017.

- Approve the Physical Therapist Agreement with Greg Schroeder and Steele County Public Health Department to contract Physical Therapy services through the Home Health Program for the period of 01/01/2017 through 12/31/2017.
- Approve the Minnesota City Participation Program Joint Powers Agreement and Application with the Owatonna Housing and Redevelopment Authority.
- Set the Public Hearing date for the Steele County Fee Schedule at 5:15 p.m. on April 11, 2017.
- Accept Community Services Committee Minutes.
- Accept Internal Central Services Minutes.
- Glynn/Gnemi to approve licensing agreement with eConnectDirect for the use of their investment software and database and to approve a non-corporate resolution form to use Multi Bank Securities to purchase investments. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Krueger offered a Resolution to accept a donation from Arkema in the amount of \$200. Ayes all.
- Glynn/Abbe to approve Russ Guse as the temporary Ditch Inspector for Steele County with fees being paid out of the Ditch fund accounts as per the Ditch Inspector Agreement. Ayes all.
- County Administrator Laura Elvebak gave an update on the Courthouse damage. The Building committee has reviewed the updates and recommend seeking a revised proposal from the Architects to be based on a per hour and availability since the scope has changed from when the previous proposal was done.
- Krueger/Gnemi authorized the Building Committee to decide what Architect to hire and what work to do. Ayes all.
- County Engineer Anita Benson gave an update on the Public Works Building. The Board will decide on the Building pad at the next Board meeting.
- Glynn/Krueger offered a Resolution authorizing Southeastern Minnesota Housing Network as an entity to be charged with the administration of funds made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Program. Ayes all.
- Krueger/Abbe offered a Resolution to accept a donation of 30 Children's Books by the Kiwanis Club of Owatonna and four Baby Blankets by Regina Klecker. Ayes all.
- Gnemi/Krueger to table the request of adding a Maintenance Tech position to the Highway Department until further review of their overall Organizational Structure.

LISTING OF BILLS		03/14/2017	
30th Place LLC	19,946.89		
A'viands, LLC	5,063.63		
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc.	8,434.49		
All Systems Installation Inc.	5,137.00		
Businessware Solutions	2,019.57		Central Farm
Services	5,350.54		
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc.	4,439.00		
Express Services Inc.	2,340.00		
Four Seasons Centre	3,052.50		
Independent Emergency Services LLC	13,634.12		
Innovative Office Solutions LLC	2,303.22		
JR's Advanced Recycler Inc.	5,595.80		
Kappy's Auto Restoration	4,871.19		
Kiesler's Police Supply Inc	4,786.98		
Kris Engineering Inc	5,785.25		
Kwik Trip Inc	3,781.01		
MN Home Care Association	2,021.81		
MVTL Laboratories Inc	4,534.70		
Owatonna Groundsmasters Inc	5,854.36		
Owatonna Public Utilities	15,272.41		
Rochester Sand & Gravel	2,733.75		
SCR Southern-Rochester	2,971.56		
Stonebrooke Engineering Inc	19,892.32		
Waste Management of WI-MN	51,579.25		
156 Warrants under \$2,000	48,243.17		
Total:	\$249,644.52		

Motion by Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 5:10 p.m. Ayes all.

4/4

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA February 21, 2017

An informational financial presentation was given by Mike Hoheisel from Robert W. Baird & Company in the High School Media Center at 4:30 p.m.

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 – The Robotics Team gave a demonstration.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools, Elementary Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal; Members of the BPTA; Member of the Press; Students

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

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

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignations, Employment, Donations Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignations, employment, and donations. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Final Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the final seniority lists for the teaching staff as presented. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Education Programs and Positions Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve a resolution discontinuing and reducing education programs and positions. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Prom DJ Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve "Midwest Sounds" as the DJ for Prom which will be held at the St. Croix Boat and Packet in Stillwater, MN. Cost paid by the Junior Class. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

Committee Reports A report update was given on the committees: Education Foundation; Technology; Wellness; and ZED.

Enrollment Data Enrollment for the 2016-17 school year as of February 15, 2017, is 408 at the elementary school and 314 at the high school (308 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

Discussion held regarding Mr. Hoheisel's presentation on school finances regarding an operating referendum and how the School Board shall proceed. At this time, legislation regarding the state education budget is unknown. Administration is doing a great job.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, March 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 Monday, March 20, 2017, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 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

4/4

BP City

**Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
April 10, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

**Board of Appeal & Equalization -
6:30 P.M.**

Call to order
Presentation by Steele County
Assessor
Public Comments
Adjourn

**Regular City Council Meeting –
7:00 P.M.**

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of March
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. Request for a Temporary
Liquor License – BP
Servicemen’s Club
2. Request for a Temporary
Liquor License – BP
Servicemen’s Club
3. Request for a Temporary
Liquor License – Chamber of
Commerce July 2nd- 4th
4. Chamber of Commerce 2nd-
4th of July request
5. Servicemen’s Club Request
for a Street Closing for a Special
Event
6. Accept Donation – Claremont
Area Chamber of Commerce
7. Accept Leona Helmsley Grant
– LUCAS 3 Device
8. Change the Date of the May
and June City Council Meetings

City Administrator’s Report
1. City Administration Office
Carpet
2. League of Minnesota Cities
Annual Conference in Rochester
June 14-16

City Attorney’s Report
Council Members’ Reports
Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

BP School

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

**6:00 a.m.
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Regular School Board Work
Session–High School Board
Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 17, 2017 Open
Public Forum–High School Media
Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, April 17, 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
II. 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 • Resolution Relating to the
Termination and Non-Renewal of a
Teaching Contract
C •Student Insurance Program
D •MSHSL Membership Resolution
E •Title I Resolution
F • Class Sizes/Sections
G • Operating Levy**

**VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION
AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY**

**A • Committee Reports
B • Enrollment Data
C • Dates to Note**

**VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

4/4

BP School

**REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
MINNESOTA
February 16, 2017**

A regular school board work session
was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday,
February 16, 2017, in the Board
Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools;
Elementary Principal

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion
was held on agenda items for the
February 21, 2017, regular school
board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Estate

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE**

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

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

**Court File Number:
74-PR-17-527**

**Estate of
Lester Joseph Imker, Jr,
Decedent**

It is Ordered and Notice is given
that on May 8, 2017 at 10:45 a.m.
,a hearing will be held in this Court
at 111 East Main, Owatonna,
Minnesota, on a petition for the
formal probate of an instrument
purporting to be the decedent's
Will dated July 6, 2016 , and for
the appointment of Brenda Lee
Budde , whose address is 7149
SW 92nd Avenue, Ellendale, MN
56026 as personal representative
of the decedent's estate in an
unsupervised administration.
Any objections to the petition must
be raised at the hearing or filed with
the Court prior to the hearing. If the
petition is proper and no objections
are filed or raised, the personal
representative will be appointed
with the full power to administer
the decedent's estate, including
the power to collect all assets; pay
all legal debts, claims, taxes, and
expenses; sell real and personal
property; and do all necessary acts
for the decedent's estate.
Notice is further given that, subject
to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all
creditors having claims against the
decedent's estate are required to
present the claims to the personal
representative or to the Court within
four (4) months after the date of this
notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,

/s/ Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
3/24/17

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator
3/24/17

SMITH, TOLLEFSON,
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Benjamin M. Cass (#353279)
108 W Park Sq., Ste. A ~
P.O. Box 271
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 451-6540
Facsimile: (507) 451-1846

4/4, 4/11

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- “Be back later”
- Hoover’s office
- Brew
- Philo and Reglis are two (“Star Wars”)
- Actress Remini
- Moghul emperor
- Alaskan glacier
- Constrictor
- Prohibit
- Ancient Brittonic tribe
- Chinese pastry
- Razorbill is of this genus
- Beloved holiday decoration
- Dutch football club
- Aggressive dog
- Small piece of glass
- “South Park” creator — Parker
- Leisure activity
- Someone’s story
- Record-setting swimmer
- Hillside
- Unit of measurement
- Famous for its potatoes
- Insect secretion
- Gate in Marrakesh
- Cain and —
- A set of moral principles
- Repair
- Two-terminal semicond-

CLUES DOWN

- Sea
- Cleans things
- More skinny
- Supervises flying
- Talk rapidly and excitedly
- Intestinal
- Don’t know when yet
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Chinese and Vietnamese ethnic group
- Wild cattle genus
- Rock formation
- Makes up
- Resembles a pouch
- Having an aerial quality
- Windpipe
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Bitterly regret
- Soft creamy white cheese
- Renamed when EU was incorporated
- ‘___ death do us part
- Sound unit
- Men proud of their masculinity
- Clergy member’s vestment
- Hello
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- Marks
- Derived from benzene
- Low-melting alloy
- Lost blood
- Quantitative relation
- Academic degree
- Many subconsciouses

Let’s get you movin!



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





TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

IRS offers help to students prepare

You must have information from your tax return in order to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or apply for an income-driven repayment plan.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) used to access your tax information for the FAFSA and income-driven repayment (IDR) plan applications is currently unavailable.

This does not limit an individual’s ability to apply for aid or an IDR plan.

You should always retain a copy of your tax return, either electronically or on paper, and keep it in a secure place.

If you did not keep a copy of your tax return, here are some options:

Access the tax software product you used to prepare and file your 2015 return. You may be able to access your account to download/print a copy.

Contact the tax preparer/provider who filed your 2015 return if you used a tax professional.

Download your tax transcript (a summary) at Get Transcript Online. Review the rigorous identity authentication requirements for Secure Access before attempting to register.

Use Get Transcript by Mail and a transcript will be mailed to the address on your return within five to 10 days.

Call our automated line at 800-908-9946 to order a transcript by mail.

If you filed an amended tax return, Form 1040X, you should use the adjusted gross income and earned income listed on your revised tax return.

Getting Your Alternative Documentation For IDR Applications

IDR plan applicants must submit alternative documentation of income to their federal loan servicers after they complete and submit the online IDR application. The process for submitting the alternative documentation of income is explained to borrowers as part of the online IDR application. As a general rule, alternative documentation of income consists of copies of pay stubs or most recently filed tax returns.

Additional Resources

For more information about the FAFSA and IDR process, see www.studentaid.gov.

FAST

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Ellen Stebbins
Accountant - EA, RAP, ABA, ATP

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507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

Legal Notice

Attention: Food Service Management Companies

Blooming Prairie School District #756 is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company would provide management services according to requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Education.

To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact: Nancy Clark at 507-583-4426 x431 or nclark@blossoms.k12.mn.us

Food Service Management Companies may submit proposals to:
Mr. Barry W. Olson, Superintendent
Blooming Prairie School District #756
202 4th Avenue NW
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Blooming Prairie School District #756 reserves the right to reject any proposal for a sound, documented reason or to reject all proposals if there is an insufficient number of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie High School, 202 4th Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 4, 2017. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Blooming Prairie School District #756 and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

3/29 - 4/4

STOCKWELL ACCOUNTING

802 N Elm Ave
Owatonna, Minnesota

(507) 451-1873

STRUSS CPA

420 N Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

(507) 451-0611

WWW.STRUSSCPAS.COM



WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE

LISA ACKERMAN
Certified Tax Prepaer/Accounting Services

1122 South Oak, Owatonna MN

507-451-3399 | wats@gofast.am

Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Animal. On March 27, a citizen reported that a cow carcass was found on a gravel road at 670th St. and 110th Ave. in Claremont at 3:07 p.m. It appeared that the cow was butchered and dumped in a tarp.

CRIME BRIEF

ATV operator arrested after injuring rider

A man operating an ATV has been charged with driving drunk after injuring a rider in Owatonna.

Scott Simon faces felony criminal vehicular operation resulting in substantial bodily harm and three-degree DWI in connection with a personal injury ATV crash March 26.

Police, fire and paramedics responded to the crash at Elm and School Street. When they arrived, they found a 34-year-old rider lying in the street. He suffered broken ribs and a collarbone.

The investigation found that one ATV operated by Simon was pulling another ATV in the street because it wouldn't run, police said. As the machines were making a turn off Elm Avenue, the tow strap tightened up



Scott Simon

causing the rider on the second machine to fly off. The rider momentarily lost consciousness.

Officers conducted a DWI investigation with Simon and found he was allegedly intoxicated. He provided a breath test showing his alcohol level was at .11, according to police. He was arrested and held in jail.

POLICE BLOTTER Steele County

March 24

Drugs. Police responded to drug activity at Broadway St. W. and Cedar Ave. N. at 12:07 a.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 7:44 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 700 block of Riverwood Dr. SW at 12:34 p.m. Hit and Run. At 3:07 p.m., police assisted the State Patrol with a hit and run accident resulting in property damage in the 700 block of Havana Rd. SE.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 7:08 p.m.

March 25

Warrants. Police made warrant arrests in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:11 a.m. and in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 1:22 p.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 1:16 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Ridge Rd. NE at 9:16 a.m.

DWI. At 5:42 p.m., police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Elm Ave. S. and School St. E.

March 26

Drunken Driving. Officer made a DWI arrest in the 500 block of Oak Ave. S. at 1:04 a.m.

Theft. A theft was reported in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:50 p.m.

Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of 13th St. NE at 4:53 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff March 24

DWI. Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Elm Ave. S. and 18th St. SE at 11:44 p.m.

March 25

Suspicion. At 5:39 p.m., deputies responded to suspicious activity at 62nd Ave. SW and 28th St. SW in Meriden Township.

Jail Incident. Deputies assisted with a jail incident at 8:09 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 20 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Cecilia E. Boyd, 28, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of a controlled substance. She was sentenced to \$131 and 48 months in Shakopee State Prison.

Andrew Kirven Jr., 26, Mounds View, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession pistol without permit. The defendant was sentenced to \$581, 16 days in county jail, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, 30 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

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

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Linda L. Deboer, 67, Hollandale, stop sign, \$131; Oduro A. Ongach, 18, Anoka, speeding, \$131.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Justin R. Kremmin, 29, Owatonna, failure to display registration on snowmobile, \$106.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Corey M. Anderson, 39, Waseca, revoked license, \$281; Erick J. Aviles Sandoval, 22, Robbinsdale, speeding, \$221; Russell A. Becker, 51, Dellwood, speeding, \$121; Daniel A. Born, 33, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Brooklynn K. Bowman, 25, Fort Dodge, IA, speeding, \$141;

Tyler P. Bremer, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Xavier J. Buckhanan Jr., 41, Albert Lea, speeding, \$141; Mark L. Fowler, 64, Fairmont, speeding, \$121;

Brandon A. Goff, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$181; Lacey L. Goodell, 25, Bovey, speeding, \$221; Daniel K. Gulbranson, 25, Gilbert, speeding, \$141; Yunxi Guo, 29, Ames, IA, speeding, \$221; Kathleen D. Hoffman, 67, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Justin E. Ingalls, 20, Westby, WI, speeding, \$141; Jacob G. Karas, 34, Inver Grove Heights, speed-

ing, \$131; Lavada Keys, 30, Belleville, IL, speeding, \$131; Paul S. Lin, 25, Irving, TX, no license, \$181; Thomas B. Michurski, 48, Parkville, MO, speeding, \$141;

Todd G. Novak, 53, Montgomery, speeding, \$121; Maria E. Palmer, 23, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Nicholas R. Peterson, 30, Two Harbors, speeding, \$131; Marco A. Rangel, 27, Gaylord, speeding, \$131; Jimmie L. Schaefer, 63, Walters, speeding, \$121; Michael B. Sibulkin, 41, Las Vegas, NV, speeding, \$131; Russell E. Waldschmidt, 36, New York Mills, cancelled license, \$281.

Owatonna Police Department

Amanda J. Anderson, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Oscar I. Cortez Carreon, 31, Owatonna, disorderly conduct and domestic assault, \$411, 7 days in county jail, obtain employment, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation;

Yussuf M. Dere, 33, Faribault, stop sign and permit violation, \$181; Joseph E. Katra, 22, Faribault, DWI, \$656, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Lucas K. McWilliams, 31, Rochester, seat belt and no insurance, \$306;

Juan R. Mendez, 24, Waseca, stalking, \$131, 120 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Anthony J. Moore, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Grace A. Neff, 18, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Mary G. Omot, 40, Owatonna, permit violation, \$131; Rogelio Salazar, 43, Owatonna, open bottle, \$381; Jack W. Schneider, 24, Rochester, aid and abet theft, \$81, 52 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA, obtain permission to leave the state, 70 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation;

Sebastian R. Schumacher, 22, theft, \$131, 90 days in county jail; Deborah L. Tisot, 54, Owatonna, DWI, \$281, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Brian K. Warn, 52, Rockford, possession of marijuana, \$1,081, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 5 years of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Dale A. Andersen, 74, Pine Island, speeding, \$121; Lake M. Bechtell, 63, Greenwood, speeding, \$121; Tony W. Beck, 45, Pine Island, speeding, \$121; Dejuan L. Boclaire, 43, Faribault, no license and no insurance, \$381;

Cole A. Broitzman, 16, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Zachary P. Cates, 22, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; Jacob C. Christenson, 31, Clarks Grove, speeding, \$121; David R. Dalweg, 49, New Ulm, speeding, \$121; Bridget C. Fischer, 28, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Tristen E. Frank, 18, Owatonna, speeding, \$121;

Gage L. Gillard, 17, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey A. Iaquinoto, 53, Austin, speeding, \$121; Anthony M. Jackson, 35, Griffin, GA, no license, \$181; Tristen T. Johnson, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$281; Brooke A. Krohn, 40, Geneva, speeding, \$121;

Chris J. Oberle, 42, Milwaukee, WI, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, submit to Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 2 years of supervised probation; Nash C. Petranek, 27, Clarks Grove,

speeding, \$121; Shannon M. Prostrollo, 43, Medford, speeding, \$121; Billy J. Sackett, 39, Dodge Center, speeding, \$131;

Sebastian R. Schumacher, 22, collision – failure to notify owner of damage property, \$381, 90 days in county jail; Shelby M. Senger, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Janice M. Thom, 80, Faribault, speeding, \$221;

Lawayn A. Trom, 64, speeding, \$141; Roxann Voigt, 61, Pine Island, speeding, \$281; Ryan S. Wetzstein, 19, West Concord, speeding, \$121; Raymond J. Wiest, 53, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 184 complaints during the week of March 22 – 28. Some of them include:

March 22

Larceny. Deputy took a report of a theft of a laptop in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 1:12 p.m.

Suspicion. A West Concord citizen reported an attempted scam incident in the 53500 block of 140th Ave. at 4:30 p.m.

March 23

Suspicious Activity. Deputies found suspicious activity in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield at 3:18 a.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 200 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 7:57 a.m.

March 25

Train. At 4:43 a.m., deputies received a train complaint from 3rd Ave. SE in Dodge Center.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 11900 block of State Hwy. 30 in Blooming Prairie at 2:16 p.m.

Welfare Check. Deputy completed a welfare check in the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 9:35 p.m.

March 26

Suspicion. At 6 p.m., deputies received a report of a possible dog snatcher at 8th St. NW and 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

March 28

Domestic. Deputies assisted with a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Eugene St. in West Concord at 1:21 a.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a juvenile complaint from the 500 block of Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 2:12 a.m.

Harassment. At 10:21 a.m., deputies took a report of harassing texts and letters in Claremont.

Larceny. A citizen reported that a rear license plate was taken off a vehicle in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 12:03 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 20 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Robert J. Schirmer, 51, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property. He was sentenced to \$17,611.24 and 17 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

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

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Richard O. Alberts, 72, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32;

Tammy S. Bernatz, 53, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Cassey M. Cullen, 32, Sergeant, speeding, \$120; Bradley S. Germundson, 55, Mantorville, parking violation, \$32;

Troy D. Homme, 44, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32; Brett L. Jenö, 23, Kasson, possession of paraphernalia and marijuana, \$180; Lamanda M. Johnson, 21, Hollandale, speeding, \$120; David A. Lambert, 32, Rochester, receiving stolen property, stay of adjudication, \$900 and 1 year of supervised probation; Erik F. Torres-Amacende, 25, invalid license, \$180; Rico D. Williams, 30, Rochester, revoked license and registration violation, \$380.

Kasson Police Department

Bradley C. Curtis, 54, Kasson, parking violation, \$32; Rebekah J. Hale, 23, Adams, controlled substance crime and obstruction of legal process, stay of adjudication, \$1,055, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Frederick W. Kahn, 74, Rochester, failure to yield to pedestrian, \$180; Christina M. Smith-Gabby, 35, Kasson, speeding, \$120.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Oliver T. Ballinger, 25, Dodge Center, speeding, \$130; Gary M. Landers, 76, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120; Jennifer D. Neumann, 39, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Robert D. Pettey, 81, Mantorville, speeding, \$120; Daniel R. Schmidt, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$120; Tyler J. Vangrinsven, 20, Claremont, speeding, \$140; Ronald Wimbish, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140; Drew S. Wohlfiel, 24, Kasson, speeding, \$130.

West Concord Police Department

Sandra D. Braswell, 52, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Amanda J. Greene, 27, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; James A. Herold, 50, West Concord, parking violation, \$32; Rachel A. July, 39, West Concord, revoked license, \$280; Teresa M. Wilcox, 35, Hayfield, revoked license, \$280.

ARREST Steele County

Owatonna Police

Scott Allan Simon, 43, arrested at 6:10 p.m. March 25, DWI, held for court.

Sonny San, 30, arrested at 1:25 a.m. March 26, DWI, held for court.

Keith Allen Lindl, 21, arrested at 8:24 a.m. March 29, probation apprehension and detention arrest, body only.

Casandra Maria Eveillard, 37, arrested at 6:43 p.m. March 30, felony terroristic threats, held for court.

Jake Michael Karow, 30, arrested at 10:32 p.m. March 30, warrant arrest, body only.

Steele County Sheriff

Tanya Marie Ackerman, 44, arrested at 10:38 a.m. March 24, warrants arrest, \$40,000 bail.

Brendan Antonio Beaulieu, 20, arrested at 6:39 a.m. March 25, warrant arrest, \$300 bail.

Jesse Ray Skelly, 34, arrested at 3:25 p.m. March 26, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Matthew Roger Schrom, 45, arrested at 5:50 p.m. March 26, warrant arrest, body only.

Kaylee Janae May, 18, arrested at 11:17 a.m. March 27, failure to appear warrant arrest, \$300 bail.

Jonathan Antonio Aleman, 23, arrested at 7:28 a.m. March 28,

Enough is enough with distracted driving, safety experts say

Extra enforcement begins next week on Minnesota roadways

Reaching down for an item that fell on the floor, turning around to settle the kids down, and picking up the cell phone for an incoming call. They all seem harmless until a driver with their eyes off the road leads to a crash.

Too many people are dying on Minnesota roads because drivers are not 100 percent committed to keeping their eyes on the road. In 2015, distracted driving contributed to 7,666 injuries and 74 deaths in the state.

For the first time, law enforcement across the state is extending the extra enforcement period to two weeks to conduct over-time patrols for distractive driving. Starting April 11. Blooming Prairie and Owatonna Police Departments and the Steele County Sheriff's Office will take part in the extra enforcement along with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across Minnesota. The distracted driving campaign that runs through April 23 is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS).

“Would you run down the middle of the highway with your head down? Are you okay with others around you basically driving with their eyes closed?” said Capt. Eric G. Rethemeier Owatonna Police Department.

“Now is the time to change the culture, put down the phone, tune out the distractions and speak up if you see others on the road risking the lives of other motorists,” Rethemeier said “Together we can do this. We can stop distracted driving before it's your loved one you are saying goodbye to.”

Too many people are not making driving the number one priority behind the wheel.

- More than 86,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2011 – 2015, contributing to one in four crashes in Minnesota.

- Distracted driving contributes to an average of 65 deaths and 215 life-changing injuries a year (2011 – 2015).

- During the 2015 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign, law enforcement cited 909 drivers for texting and driving, an 80 percent increase over the previous year.

Posting on Facebook, checking that box score or Googling information on a device while driving are all against the law under Minnesota's “Use of Wireless Communications Device” statute, which is commonly referred to as the texting and driving law.

Distractions that could lead to a crash also include fiddling with controls for music, eating and drinking, children fighting or an adult passenger's behavior.

Distracted Driving Consequences

- With Minnesota's “No Texting” law, it's illegal for drivers to read, send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

- \$50 plus court fees for a first offense.

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

- Tammy Hess – DWI – no bail
- Faithful Hill – damage to property - \$1,000 bail
- Roger Hinchley – theft - \$500 bail
- Thomas Hitchcock – suspended license - \$500 bail
- Justin Hoag – theft - \$500 bail
- Brandy Hodges – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail
- Brittany Hoverkamp – disorderly conduct - \$1,000 bail
- Renant Hubbard – controlled substance – no bail
- Andrew Hull – DWI - \$3,000 bail
- Spencer Hutchinson – aggravated DWI – no bail

- Trung Huynh – drugs – no bail
- Nicolas Ibarra – DWI – no bail
- Tammy Jackson – motor vehicle registration - \$500 bail
- Michelle Jarvis – worthless check - \$1,000 bail
- Angela Jellum – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Darrel Jensen – cancelled license - \$6,000 bail
- Jose Jimenez Jr. – domestic assault – no bail
- David Johnson – dishonored check - \$1,000 bail
- Justin Johnson – sell simulated drugs - \$5,000 bail
- Candyce Jones – false name - \$500 bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Farr, Garza celebrate Steele-Waseca Drug Court graduation

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

It was a day to long remember as Steele Waseca Drug Court participants Desirae Farr and Martin Garza celebrated their graduation after two years of dedication to the program.

“Drug court saved my life,” professed Desirae Farr, 33, of Owatonna.

Garza was in agreement with Farr about the impact Drug Court had on his life. “It put my life on track and helped me take a long look at myself,” said Garza.

With her father John and brother Landon in attendance at a makeshift courtroom setting in the Steele County Administrative Center in Owatonna, Desirae shed tears of happiness.

Garza’s girl friend Carissa attended the graduation ceremony. “I am so proud of him,” she said.

Farr grew up in Geneva and Garza spent his earlier years in Blooming Prairie. Both now reside in Owatonna.

Farr and Garza, both dressed in judicial robes, waited in the wings as 18 other participants of Steele Waseca Drug Court appeared before Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel.

Judge Bueltel exchanged journals with the participants and reviewed successes and some failures they outlined. “Keep up the good work and we will have you graduating in a short while,” Judge Bueltel congratulated one of the Drug Court enrollees on his 433 days of sobriety.

“If it wasn’t for this program, I wouldn’t be alive,” Desirae said. “It’s not easy but it’s been worth it,” she continued.

Desirae’s sponsor Kathy Pena of Owatonna held a cell phone in front of Desirae to allow her to listen to her sister Chris send congratulations from a remote location. “I’m very proud of you,” Chris echoed to Desirae.

Judge Bueltel presented plaques of achievement and souvenir coins to Desirae and to Martin. “You’ve turned into a good person; stay strong and keep in touch,” Judge Bueltel said to Desirae. He acknowledged that she “got off to a rocky start” with the program.

“You worked the program hard and you have turned into a great employee,” Judge Bueltel told Martin, a cook and baker at The Colonel Restaurant of Owatonna.

In offering plaudits to the two graduates, Judge Bueltel also reminded them they were both still on probation. He encouraged them to stay connected with the Steele Waseca Drug Court alumni program.

Nicole Erdman, Steele County’s first graduate of Drug Court, and some other court graduates were in attendance to celebrate graduation with Desirae and Martin.

“I’m really thankful for this program,” said Desirae’s father John as he choked back emotions of gratitude.

“I am so proud of my sister because you can’t do something like this by yourself,” remarked Landon Farr. “She’s put in a lot of hard work into improving her life,” he added.

Desirae’s sponsor Kathy Pena said she has sponsored four Drug Court participants. In leading others to recovery, she proudly says she has been sober for 5 1/2 years. “Working with these people has also helped me because I’m not perfect,” she said.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh addressed the two graduates, saying he hoped they recognized what they had accomplished and gained through the program.

After acknowledging other congratulatory remarks including those written from U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar and those spoken in the court room, Judge Bueltel challenged Garza: “OK, Martin let her rip.” Martin said the program helped him become a better person.

“You two have put in a lot of work and we are willing to continue helping you,” offered Jessica Bedney, Minnesota Department of Corrections probation agent.

Court services officer Dave Wright directed comments at



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Desirae Farr and Martin Garza became the 17th and 18th graduates of the Steele Waseca Drug Court on Wednesday, March 29. The graduates are shown with District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel.

both graduates saying “It’s all about quality of life from now on.”

As part of the graduation ceremony, Steele Waseca Drug Court coordinator Nicole Grams outlined some history of the program and recited statistics pertaining to the road to recovery by Farr and Garza.

Disirae faced the risk of serving 27 months in prison for a criminal violation. She started the Drug Court program on Aug. 29, 2014 and continued for 944 days.

She appeared at 51 court hearings and totaled 568 hours of recovery. Desirae took an excess of 210 tests and has logged 604 days of sobriety.

Martin faced a risk of 36 months in prison following four DWI convictions. He started Drug Court on Oct. 24, 2014 and continued for 888 days. He attended 90 court hearings, exceeded 5231 recovery hours and took 250 tests. His sobriety total was listed 888 days.

Planning for the Waseca Steele Drug Court began in 2013. The program is a response to a growing need in these two counties to work effectively with high risk and high needs adult offenders with optimal results.

Many funding grants have been given to the Drug Court program in Steele and Waseca counties.

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 Grams.

The Steele Waseca Drug Court has served a total of 100 participants since it started, with 32 either withdrawing or being terminated based on new criminal behavior or rejection of services. In most cases, it has resulted in a transformation of behavior, said Grams.

Desirae became the 17th graduate and Martin became the 18th graduate of SWDC. Today, DC has 52 participants.

The Drug Court requires court attendance ranging from weekly to monthly, contingent on each of four phases.

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.

Participants submit to a minimum of twice weekly random drug testing. All must complete treatment, make meaningful connections in the recovery community, obtain a valid driver’s license, gain a GED/diploma, gain employment and be in compliance with child support and with payment of fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

Grams reported the combined total of sobriety among the SWDC group at 14,453 days, or 39 years.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month.

BLUE MONDAYS!!

The Exchange Club of Steele County invites you to participate in Blue Mondays in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Wear the color blue every Monday in April!

Crossword solution

B	B	L							F	B	I			
A	L	E						T	A	A	L	S		
L	E	A	H					B	A	B	E	R		
T	A	N	A				B	O	A		B	A	N	
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(11AM RIBBON CUTTING AND LUNCH)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH
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