STEELE COUNTY
TIMES

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Breakfast on the Farm brings fun



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

It was all smiles and giggles for little Elin Harthan of Owatonna as she petted a calf Saturday morning at the Breakfast on the Farm event at the Kasper Dairy Farm. The 2-year-old ventured to the farm with her grandmother, Pam Kubat. Nearly 1,200 people came for the pancake breakfast. The promotion was held in conjunction with June Dairy Month and sponsored by the Steele County American Dairy Association. For a full story on the event, please turn to page 5D.

Strawberries are a hand-picked success



Staff photo by Marissa Larson

Tim and Melody Randall picking in their strawberry field. Their family has been farming in Hollandale since 1986.

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff Intern

As a farmer's daughter, I have grown to appreciate all aspects of agriculture. Particularly, I highly regard farmers who practice safe, ethical, and altruistic methods that yield healthy foods. Melody and Tim Randall couldn't better exemplify this type of agriculturist.

The Randall's, of Hollandale, began hog farming back in 1986, but that came to an end when a twister took out their barn back in March. For this, they are glad that they decided to kick off their strawberry farm last spring.

STRAWBERRIES
Continued on page 3A



Staff photo by Marissa Larson

Melody Randall holds a container of freshly hand-picked strawberries. They grow four different varieties.

Swiss tradition continues in Dodge County

Berne church kicks off another season of wood-fired pizzas

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Fun, entertainment and yes, pizza will once again be taking center stage this summer at the tiny little church by Berne in northern Dodge County.

Beginning last week and continuing every Wednesday through August, Zwingli United Church of Christ in Berne will be firing up the pizza ovens and serving thousands of wood-fired pizzas. This will be the sixth season of pizzas and entertainment at Berne.

"It's a neat setting for all ages—kids to senior citizens," said organizer Angela Organ. "It's fun and exciting. It's almost like a public service for us."

New this year to the pizza nights, Organ said, will be specialty pizzas. For the month of June, Berne will offer bacon cheeseburger pizza. "We had a survey on our Facebook page and it came out number one," she said, noting that there will be seven different kinds of pizzas offered each week.

Another major change this year is that two bands will be featured each week. The bands will perform at 5:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

On Aug. 2, there will be an Artisan Market featuring art vendors from all over southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Organ pointed out that "a lot of good" comes out of pizzas. A whole pizza costs $22 with proceeds going to help keep the church alive and benefiting various community organizations throughout the region. There are 12 charities the group supports.

As many as 1,500 people are expected at each pizza night with the first few weeks in June being the least busy. "It gets busier and the crowd grows every week," Organ said.

The Berne church held Swissfest for 58 years before cancelling it in 2012. Organ came up with the new format to carry on the Swiss tradition after visiting a pizza farm in Wisconsin.

Berne is located along Highway 57 about five miles north of Mantorville.

Assistant Co. Engineer resigns

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff intern

The Steele County Transportation Department is growing short on staff with the resignation of Assistant Steele County Engineer Becky McCarty.

The problem began on April 11 when the department's maintenance manager and supervisor were both placed on paid leave while the county board decided how the department could best be re-organized to save costs.

After this week, the department will be even more deficient. On May 31, Steele County Public Works Director and County Engineer, Anita Benson, sent in a letter of resignation to the Director of Human Services.

A week had barely gone by before McCarty made the decision to step down from her position as well. McCarty was hired last August, and will be finishing on June 14.

Along with Benson and former Administrator Laura Elvebak, McCarty is the third employee to resign from Steele County over the duration of the past two months. This puts the Transporation Department short five staff members, including a maintenance position the county has yet to fill.

Elections held for Steele-Waseca Cooperative

Three incumbent directors were re-elected to the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) board, June 6, during the co-op's 81st annual meeting at its headquarters in Owatonna.

Re-elected to three-year terms were District 7 Director John R. Beal of Faribault, District 8 Director Ronald D. Sommers of Northfield, and District 9 Director Renee J. Malecha of Dundas. Beal and Malecha were elected by acclamation since each were unopposed.

Steele-Waseca's 2016 Youth Tour delegates, Abigail Hansen of Owatonna and Karsten Singh of Northfield, shared their experiences in Washington, D.C., to the 702 members and guests in attendance. The co-op's 2017 Youth Tour delegates, Hannah Singh and Brant Wieber, both of Northfield, were recognized as they travel with Minnesota's Youth Tour delegation to Washington, D.C., June 10-15.

SWCE General Manager Syd Briggs updated the membership on the business

ELECTRIC
Continued on page 3A

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INSIDE A: 2A ..... Opinion; 4A ..... Summer Fun
B: 1B ..... Hometown Living; 8B .. Straight River Days
C: 1C ..... Sports; 4C Senior Focus
D: 1D .. Farm Page; 4D ..... Car Care

Vol. 125, No. 46 Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Expansion of police force

We have a police chief in Blooming Prairie who is very talented. Greg Skillsted was a local Dancing With The Stars winner with his wife, Allyson in 2016. He is very plugged into our community and even does his magic show for the Fourth of July festivities.

What he can't do is make a speeding ticket or a seat belt violation magically disappear. And when he's not around, we are all on the "honor system." Just a reminder to click it and slow down – especially with the kids out for the summer and the explosion we are going to see in the next few weeks with our sesquicentennial celebrations in full bloom.

The point of discussion now within the council is whether to go forth with more of a full-time police presence in Blooming Prairie.

We realize that this is a small town, but one thing about our police force is that they are not intimidating nor are they "Andy and Barney." An added police presence would be a welcome move to our community to not only secure a greater amount of safety, but also to be able to provide greater services to our community.

The BP police do things that perhaps others take for granted, such as lead the processions for parades, funerals and special events. They are also always in training to keep up on the most modern police equipment, policies and law requirements.

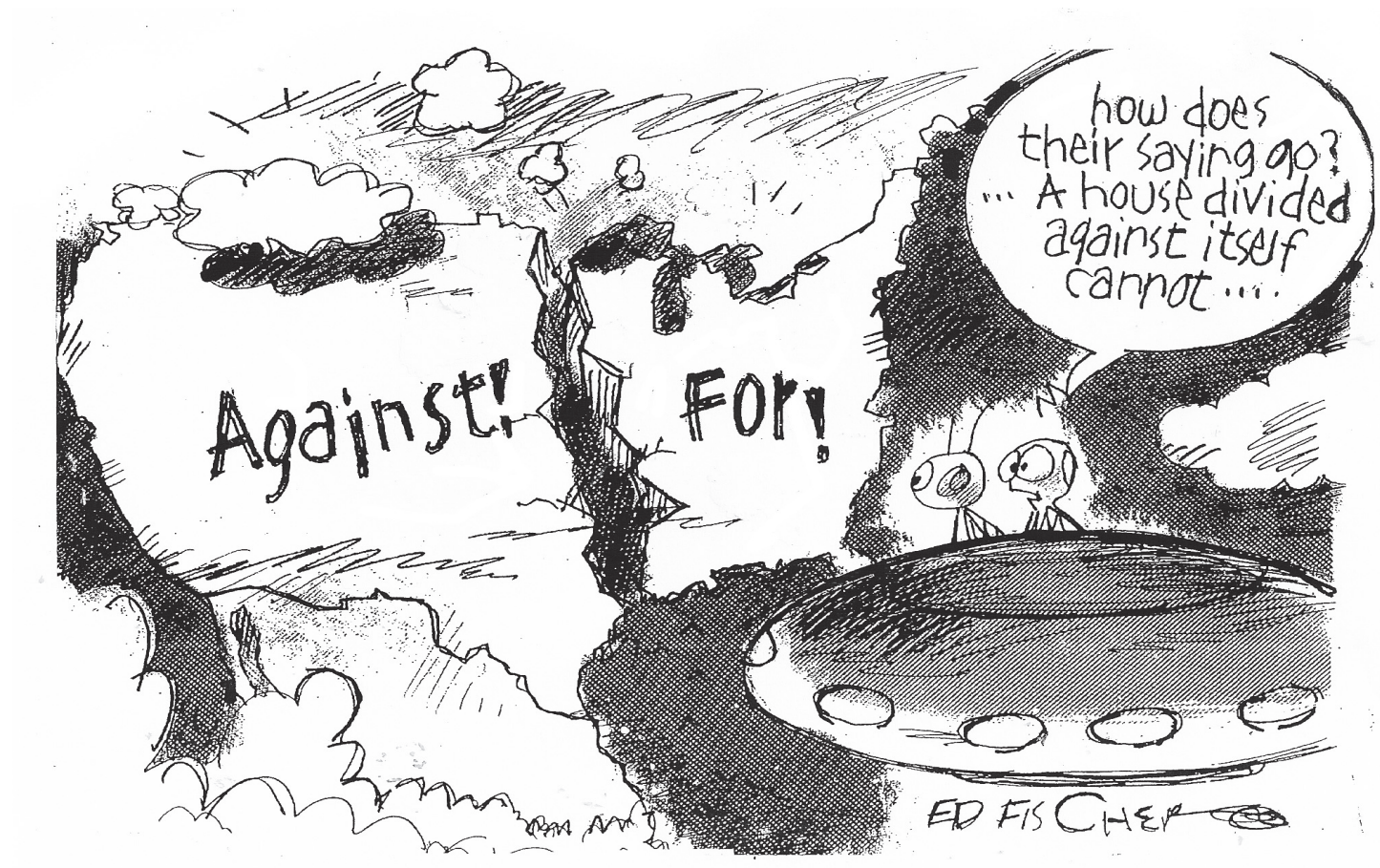
And most of all, they are always there for the kids, participating in special programs, informational teaching, class projects and field trips.

With an influx in people moving to BP and all the activities we see throughout the year, it would be a logical move, not only for the stress put on the existing force, but also for the citizens who are experiencing a town growth spurt.

BP police, we applaud you for all you do for our community, and we sincerely hope that more help is on the way.



Chief Greg Skillsted



Newspapers still top choice for local news

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Over the past few weeks, I've heard some interesting comments from a couple of local business people about newspapers. They're comments that infuriate me to no end.

But perhaps more importantly the comments make me realize how lacking of knowledge people are when it comes to community newspapers.

"Papers are going to be dead in five years," said one middle-aged businessman.

Another business woman offered, "I'm not going to advertise because I got 300 plus likes on Facebook and don't need to."

Earlier this year, I also encountered a local marketing expert who was willing to cut his company's print advertising by thousands of dollars. Luckily, the owner stepped in and quickly put a halt to it.

These particular business people are attempting to justify in their minds that the Steele County Times offers no value for them to advertise.

It's time for a reality check, and a little education to go with it.

A recent survey conducted for the National Newspaper Association, which this newspaper belongs to, found that people prefer newspapers for their local news over TV and the Internet. The majority of those who responded said they preferred newspapers for news about their local community.

For all those digital and social media geeks out there, here's where things get even more interesting. For community news, local newspapers beat the internet by 3-1, which only received 11 percent of the audience share. Social media came in at just 5 percent, as did radio.

More than half of the respondents said they read a newspaper that covers their community specifically. Four percent read their local paper online only, and 7 percent read it online and in print, bringing the total to almost 70 percent who read a local paper.

Among the popular sections that draw people to the local newspaper are school news (61 percent), editorials or letters to the editor (60) and local sports (46).

For the local public officials who don't see any value in publishing their notices, 81 percent say they read public notices at least some of the time. Contrast this with the number of people who visit their local government website: 46 percent said they never visit their local government site. And just 25 percent said they visit their local government website somewhat often to very often.

And now to those business people who are reluctant to advertise in the newspaper. The local paper is important for those who shop locally. Almost 80 percent said they find their community paper valuable for local shopping and advertising information.

I hope you're getting the idea by now that the local newspaper is an important part of people's lives.

Contrary to what the middle-aged business guy wants to believe, newspapers, especially weekly community papers like the Times, are in no danger of dying. They are thriving. It aggravates me when I hear such ignorance.

Nobody is going to cover a community as well as the local newspaper. Quite honestly no other media organization really cares about a community as much as the local paper does. Simply put nobody else does what we do, or as well as we do.

The local newspaper offers a niche that can't be found anywhere else. Community residents turn to the local paper to find out about their acquaintances, friends, neighbors and yes, even their enemies.

From local government to business openings to high school sports, community papers give local readers exactly what they want: information about what's going on in their immediate surroundings. Goggle can't do it, Facebook can't do it, and Craigslist certainly can't do it.

To the business woman content with her Facebook likes, I hope you think about the not so digital people and the fact that social media is nearly dead last when it comes to finding out community news, especially accurate and reliable news.

If you're a local business or organization looking to hit the masses, your local newspaper is still the best choice and greatest value. The most recent national survey proves that newspapers are still king for local news.

Community newspapers will continue to go in hot pursuit of being a vital thread in the fabric of our nation.

Jasinski named "First-Term Legislator of the Year"

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) has announced Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault) is the recipient of its 2017 First-Term Legislator of the Year award.

The award is given annually by the 90 member cities that make up the CGMC to a legislator who has exhibited outstanding leadership on issues that affect Greater Minnesota.

"It is incredibly humbling to receive this award," said Sen. Jasinski. "Anyone who lives outside the metro area knows we have different needs – and a different way of life – than Minneapolis and St. Paul. I'm just trying to make sure we are not forgotten.

"I pride myself on working hard for Greater Minnesota, because it's where my constituents and I call home. Any time you can be recognized for your work, it is a tremendous honor."

"As the President of the CGMC, it is with great pleasure and pride that we name Sen. Jasinski as our 'First-Term Legislator of the Year" for 2017," said Sara Carlson, Mayor of Alexandria and President of the CGMC.

"He exemplifies everything we look for when selecting our honorees: an energetic, hard-working, passionate legislator, who gets in office and right away tries to get something done for their district and for Greater Minnesota.

"We are proud of his work this year and look forward to even more success in the years to come."

The award will officially be presented at the CGMC legislative dinner on Thursday, August 3 in Fergus Falls.

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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. (Daily)
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

Second Front

New Ag Extension Coordinator

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff Intern


Claire LaCanne

Sometimes we say, "I wonder who is in charge of that?"

If this question were referring to farm programming and investigating the role of insects in fields, your answer would be Claire LaCanne. On May 1, she became the University of Minnesota's newest Ag Extension Coordinator.

She grew up in Faribault and completed her undergraduate degree at Augustana in Sioux Falls. From there, she went on to pursue a Master's in natural resources management, with an emphasis in entomology and agroecology at South Dakota State University. When asked what sparked her interest in this area of study, her response was, "I became interested when I began working in an entomology lab. I soon found myself to be very fascinated with insects. Specifically, I wanted to discover their roles in the ecosystem and agriculture (agroecosystem)."

Being fresh out of school, she finds herself learning more about her position. She is in charge of programming for dairy farms, which is most demanding in the summer and winter. She coordinates organic crop days, as well as leading pesticide applicator training. Her favorite part of the job is dealing with many different situations and operations on a daily basis. She thoroughly enjoys offering farmers technical support with agriculture-related questions.

Currently, she is doing a lot of programming, but in the future hopes to expand her skill set. She is looking forward to technical training this summer, through which she will learn more about livestock. The appreciation she has for the ag community and rural lifestyle has driven her will to pursue more. She plans to become involved with crop and soil health, as well as cover crop programming. Perhaps at the top of her bucket list as the Steele and Rice County Coordinator is to investigate how insects fit into the agriculture ecosystem, and what they do in fields. She loves working with the farmers, which may explain why she someday would like to farm livestock and crops. "My husband grew up on a farm and my dad milks cows, so I've always cared a lot about farms," she said.

It's only been a couple months since she attained her degree, but LaCanne has already made it clear that she is beyond eager to chase after her dreams. Area farmers are very lucky to have such a passionate individual educating and assisting them with all of their programming needs. LaCanne is excited about her career and can't wait to make big strides for the innovation of this ever-changing field.

Incumbents elected

ELECTRIC: from page 1A



Submitted photo

Elected to the SWCE board of directors, June 6, were incumbents (left to right): John Beal, District 7; Ronald Sommers, District 8; and Renee Malecha, District 9.

of the co-op during the past year and how that enhanced member equity.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the co-op's board of directors met for their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected: Gary W. Wilson of Owatonna, president; John Beal, vice president; Renee Malecha, secretary/treasurer; Ronald Sommers, assistant secretary/treasurer; and Duane R. Edwardson of Ellendale, chaplain.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has nearly 11,400 service locations in a nine-county area including: Blue Earth, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, LeSueur, Rice, Steele and Waseca counties.

Randall's strive to grow strawberries chemical free

STRAWBERRIES: from page 1A


Staff photo by Marissa Larson

Melody Randall pushes aside leaves to get a good look at the strawberries. She and her husband are hoping to produce 5,000 pounds of berries in their inaugural season.

Because the first year doesn't yield a harvest, I had to ask; what better timing? If it weren't for their decision to start crop farming, they would have no source of income. "Our initial reason for starting the berry farm was for money." However, they were quick to point out the transition of motives. "Now, it's all about getting involved with the rest of our community. Having berries all the time is a bonus."

Just as I was, you may be wondering why they chose strawberries, of all crops. I was fascinated to learn that they both grew up in Washington state, where strawberries are a huge commodity. Their solid backgrounds have set them off on a great start. Nonetheless, living in Minnesota presented them with a hurdle. Because they don't have irrigation systems, the Randall's had to stick with varieties that didn't require a ton of water. The team of two hand-planted a whopping 5,200 plants over the course of a few days. "Once you get going, you get good at it," chuckled Tim. On top of planting four different varieties of strawberries, they gave raspberries a shot, as well.

From my perspective, the best thing about their farm is the fact that everything is happily completed by hand. "We love working together to make this happen." Their production goal is a minimum of 5,000 pounds, coming from a ¾ acre field. They have set a goal to be chemical-free, which is not as easy as it may seem. "The weeds have been our biggest struggle; they become uncontrollable, which is why we sometimes spot-spray areas that we simply cannot keep on top of." It would be impossible for them to do this alone, which is why they have hired workers that come and get their hands dirty, too. They hope to soon be organically farming. This is the epitome of dedication, and I have so much respect for this couple because of their commitment to provide chemical-free berries to their buyers.

They were kind enough to sample me some strawberries that didn't compare to any I have ever tasted before. I highly recommend contacting the Randall's for a number of reasons. Besides tending to the best berries around, they truly care about the people they meet as a result of their business. By no means are they egotistic about their success. "We pray for the wellbeing of our crops." They give it to God, and share it with the community. Picking is in full swing, and by mid-July, the season will already be over. This means that if you want to get your hands on some locally-grown strawberries, you should give them a call at (507) 402-3414. You can also find them at the Freeborn Farmer's Market on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. They will be at the Bridge Community Church in the afternoons of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday as berries allow. If you get the chance to meet this couple and hear their story firsthand, I think you as well, will find yourself in admiration of their upright philosophies on farming.

Editor's Note: Marissa Larson is an intern with the Steele County Times and grew up on her parent's farm, where she's learned much about trends in agriculture.



How spending decisions impact your happiness



CAROLYN WHEELER

School is out and families are planning summer activities, leisure time outside with family and friends, a family vacation, or maybe thinking about getting that used boat your neighbor has for sale. What impact would our decisions have on our "Happiness" meter? How do our decisions impact our sense of wellbeing?

Social Psychologists Michael Norton of the Harvard Business School and Elizabeth Dunn of the University of British Columbia authored Happy Money in 2014. According to their research, if you think money can't buy happiness, you're not spending it right.

Happy Money explains why you can get more happiness for your money by following five principles, from choosing experiences over stuff to spending money on others. And the five principles can be used not only by individuals, but by companies seeking to create happier employees and provide "happier products" to their customers. Dunn and Norton show how companies from Google to Pepsi to Charmin have put these ideas into action. Along the way, the authors describe new research that reveals luxury cars often provide no more pleasure than economy models, that commercials can enhance the enjoyment of watching television, and that residents of many cities frequently miss out on inexpensive pleasures in their hometowns. By the end of this book, readers will ask themselves one simple question whenever they reach for their wallets: Am I getting the biggest happiness bang for my buck?

When we spend on things like a TV or a phone, it often leads to activities that are typically done in silence such as watching shows alone or using apps to play solitary games, Norton says. "It seems odd that things that disappear could make you happier than things that stay," according to the authors. What do they recommend from the five principles?

Buy experiences. Don't bother with material things. A new car may make you happy for a while, but the joy soon palls. Spend your money on experiences instead – go on holiday, see a show or dine out with friends. Such experiences will make you happier than owning stuff, and give you something to talk about at parties.

Make it a treat. Because human beings quickly habituate to the status quo, even enjoyable experiences eventually become boring. So try to dole out your pleasures. Make your morning coffee a special treat rather than a daily routine. Instead of staring at the TV for hours, save your viewing for special shows. Break out of a rut by rewarding yourself and your partner with the occasional date night.

Buy time. Time is too precious to waste shopping: it should be used for activities that produce lasting effects on happiness. Ignore those who say, "Time is money." You won't enjoy visiting a museum, or gardening or playing with your kids if you spend the time dwelling on the money you would be earning if you were working instead.

Pay now, consume later. Where possible, Dunn and Norton suggest exchanging "buy now, pay later" for "pay now, consume later". Not only are you less likely to get into debt, the pleasure of anticipation provides an extended source of happiness. If you book and pay for your winter ski holiday in the autumn, you can dream about the slopes for months before you depart. When you finally get around to going, it will be so long since you paid it will seem as if the holiday were free.

Invest in others. If happiness is your goal, then the single best thing you can do with your money is to spend it on someone other than yourself. Investing in others allows you to connect with other people and to make an impact on the world – and it is good for your health as well.

Dunn and Norton also contend that people benefit from spending on others, not on themselves. When people give money away, they experience a significant boost of pleasure. In one study, the best prediction of people's happiness was not how much they devoted to personal spending, but instead how much they gave to others. Even small children have been found to be happiest (as measured by their facial expressions) when they give their treats away. Indeed, giving has been found to be associated with improved health. Dunn and Norton urge that the benefits of giving are highest when givers feel that giving is their own free choice, when they feel personally connected with the recipients, and when they think that the gift will have a real impact.

Happiness (as someone wise once said) cannot be sought, it sneaks up on you – the effect of having something useful to do, someone to love and something to hope for. The Beatles were right all along: money can't buy you love and it can't buy happiness either.

Below are some links for further information on this research. How about having a family night viewing and discussing this topic? Empower and inform your family to make financial decisions that can have a long term positive benefit: buy experiences, buy time, make it a treat, pay now and consume later, and invest in others.

http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/02/25/mpr_news_presents

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzVwjJTPN8Q&noredirect=1

Editor's Note: Carolyn Wheeler is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, and Executive Director at South Central Human Relations Center.



FESTIVALS • FAIRS • 4TH OF JULY • SERVING DODGE AND STEELE COUNTY COMMUNITIES • PARADES • PICNICS • FIREWORKS • SWIMMING

JUNE

Straight River Days

JUNE 15-17 – Medford. This celebration is a chance to enjoy the weekend in the City of Medford. The events include the Miss Medford Pageant, parade, 5K run/walk, citywide garage sales, volleyball tournament, craft fair and the Muni Street Dance. There are activities for all ages. Visit www.straightriverdays.com

June Bloom

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. June 17 – North Park, Dodge Center. As a Celebration of the Arts, June Bloom showcases all arts and craft forms including prose, poetry, live music, photography, quilting and anything handmade. The crowning of the Dodge Center Ambassadors will also take place.

Harry Wenger Marching Band Festival

11 a.m. June 17 – Downtown Owatonna. Sit back and enjoy marching bands from around the state compete in the band festival. For more information, visit www.owatonnabandfestival.com

Ellendale Days

June 22 – 25 – Ellendale. Enjoy a variety of events in this annual celebration of Ellendale's history. Polka music will be heard and good food enjoyed. Event information will be posted at www.ellendalemn.com

Stage Coach Days

June 24 – 25 – Mantorville. Reminisce about Minnesota's history as it was in the early days. There will be historical demos and displays, costume contests, theater, art show, wine and food tasting and a tractor pull. Visit www.mantorvilletourism.com for more information.

JULY

Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration

July 2 – 4 – Blooming Prairie. Blooming Prairie is famous for its citywide Independence Day parade and activities, and this year will be even more special in honor of the city's 150th Anniversary. The city pulls out all the stops for the event. Events include antique tractors and tractor pulls, tractor shows, car shows, run/walk events, competitions, many forms of entertainment and plenty of food and drink. For more information, contact Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce at 507- 583-4472.



Fourth of July Fireworks

10 p.m. July 4 - Owatonna Fairgrounds. Free seating is available in the fairgrounds grandstand.

Clean Water Festival

July 10 – 14 – J.C. Hormel Nature Center, Austin. Educational presentations, activities and games are part of the celebration of clean water. Families can learn more about the importance of water.

Hayfield Fire Dept. Chicken Fry

July 14 – 15 – Hayfield. This event hosted by the Hayfield Fire Department features a parade, music and street dance, volleyball and softball tournaments, fireworks and of course - chicken. For more information, visit www.hayfieldmn.com.

Steele County Historical Society Extravaganza

July 16 – Village of Yesteryear, Owatonna. This free event celebrates 30 years of historic demonstrations, music, theater, games, food and fun.



Dodge County Free Fair

July 19 – 23 - Kasson. The fair will include many of the classic fair activities and opportunities to get involved, including a carnival, farm animals, petting zoo, grandstand shows, beer garden and of course – fair food. For more information, visit www.dodgecountyfreefair.com, contact dodgecountyfair@kmtel.com or call the fair office at (507) 634-7736.

Steele County Relay for Life

Starting at 6 p.m. July 21 – Steele County Fair Grounds, Owatonna. Take part in a plethora of activities and help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If one would like to get involved, contact Joel Holst at joel@steelecountyrelay.org or 507- 213-9950.

Survival Days

July 21 – 23 – West Concord. This weekend long bash is designed with activities to celebrate survival, family and friends. There will be a tractor pull, car show, parade, music, dancing, food and drink. The community will also crown a new Miss West Concord. More information may be found at www.westconcordmn.com

Gus' Station Car Show & Breakfast

8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. July 22 – Steele County Historical Society, Owatonna. Cars will be shown off from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. There is a $5 registration fee per vehicle and free admission for attendees. Participants will vote on the top vehicles for a trophy. A $10 breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., which includes egg bake, fresh fruit, rolls, coffee or milk. At 12:30 p.m., cars will depart on a cruise to the Ellendale Muni for live music, food and drink specials. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the restoration of Gus' Station.

Secret Garden Tour

July 23 – Owatonna. The gardens on tour will be dispersed in the Owatonna Area. Maps of the gardens on tour will be available at the Owatonna Arts Center on the day of the tour. If one would like to share their garden for the tour or have any questions regarding the event, contact the Owatonna Arts Center at 507-451-0533 or oacboard@oacarts.org.

Art on the Hills

July 29 – 30 – Owatonna Arts Center, Owatonna. Come and enjoy some of the local community's art ranging from jewelry to photography to sculptures, and everything in between! Vendors will be available at this event. Visit www.oacarts.org for an application to be apart of this art fair.

Litomysl Summer Festival

July 30 – Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Litomysl 9946 SE 24th Avenue, Owatonna. This country-style festival kicks off with mass and then the day continues on with Czech traditions including polka music, food and other festivities. See the website for further information www.litomysl.webs.com

AUGUST

Freeborn County Fair

August 1 – 6 – Albert Lea. This fair is known for its top notch entertainment and performers! There are other classic fair activities as well. For more information, visit www.freeborncountyfair.com or call 507-373-6965.

Dodge County Relay for Life

Starting at 6 p.m. August 4 – Dodge County Fair Grounds, Kasson. Take part in a plethora of activities and help raise money for the American Cancer Society. If one would like to get involved, contact Sarah Finley at sarah.finley@cancer.org or 507- 424-4611.











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Mower County Free Fair

August 8 – 13 – Austin. Fair festivities will liven up the area with carnival rides, musical entertainment, animals, food and much more! For more information about the fair, visit www.mowercountyfair.com. For general questions, email info@mowercountyfair.com or call the fair office at 507-433-1868.



Festival in the Park

August 10 -13 – North Park, Kasson. This week is chalked full of fun events, including the week-long medallion hunt, movie in the park and concerts. There are many ways to flaunt your skills and compete in activities such as the Rib and Chicken Cook Off, Kasson Festival Run, corn hole tournament, eating contest, chalk contest and if one really felt so desired to do so – a belly flop contest. Food and craft vendors will also be present. Visit www.kassonfestivalinthepark.com to find out more and for general questions call 507-634-4307.

Pirate Festival

August 12 – 13 – Morehouse Park, Owatonna. Coming to Minnesota for the first time, the Pirate Festival will provide mateys with entertainment, activities and vendors. Don't forget your eye patch! For more information, visit www.iowaminnesotapiratefest.com.



Steele County Free Fair

August 15 – 20 – Owatonna. Scream and Moo with Much to Do in 2017! More information will come prior to the fair. Visit www.scff.org, call 507-451-5305, or e-mail steelecountyfreefair@scff.org for more information.

Riverbend Music Fest

August 25 – 26 – Owatonna. Come out and enjoy two days of camping, beer and music. For a band schedule or for more information, check out www.riverbendmusicfest.com.

ArtWorks Festival

August 26 – 27 – Austin. This free two-day event celebrates visual, performing and literary artists with ties to Austin and the surrounding area. Many family activities and demonstrations like glassblowing and metalwork make the festival interactive. For more information, visit www.austinareaarts.org/festival-about/.

Chuck Wagon Supper & Old Fashioned Hoedown

5 – 8 p.m. August 26 – Owatonna. The Steele County Historical Society presents a cowboy themed night of food and entertainment.

SEPTEMBER

Big Iron Classic

September 8 – 9 – Kasson. The Big Iron Classic is the Midwest's largest "Working Class" truck show, and it is the area's largest charity contributor of toys. To find out more, visit www.bigironclassic.com.

Marigold Days

September 9 – 10 – Mantorville. Join in Mantorville's merrymaking in celebration of the Marigold, a species native to the Americas. There are a lot of events and activities scheduled. These events will take place in various places around town and include the antique and flea market, the flower show, the quilt show, the car show, melodrama performances, music, a 5K run, a baseball tournament, fireworks and a parade. The schedule of events and locations can be found at www.marigolddays.com.

Fall Craft Show

September 9 – 10 – Four Seasons Centre, Owatonna. Come to this two-day event and shop for hand-made crafts.

Harvest Fest

September 15 – 17 – Dodge Center. Be part of the 20th Anniversary of the "People's Celebration" in Dodge Center, and enjoy events including live music, tractor and car shows, games and activities and food and drink. Check out the Facebook page "Harvest Fest (Dodge Center, MN)" for more information.

Zumbro Bend Rendezvous

September 21 – 24 – Riverside Park, Mantorville. With various demonstrations from the Fur Trade Era (1740-1840), this event gives a glimpse of early American history. There are two education days for school groups and the public is welcome to come on September 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on September 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit www.zumbrobendrendezvous.org for more information.

Culturfest

September 23 – Wilson Elementary School, Owatonna. This event celebrates dance, music, craft and food of many cultures. The mission of this event is to enrich the community's cultural understanding!



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All Summer

Berne Wood-Fired Pizza Nights

5 – 8 p.m. Every Wednesday in June, July and August – Zwingli United Church of Christ, Berne. Spend your summer nights out in Berne enjoying a delicious wood-fired pizza. Two bands provide music entertainment throughout the night. There are some picnic tables, however bringing your own lawn chairs or blankets are encouraged. All profits support the church and chosen charities. Check out their Facebook page (BerneWoodFiredPizza) for more information.

Owatonna Movies in the Park

8:15 p.m. June 16; July 14; August 11 – Central Park, Owatonna. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy a movie under the stars. Movies will begin at sunset, and pre-movie activities will begin one hour before. Concessions will be available. Featured movies are Trolls in June, Great Outdoors in July and Voters' Choice Movie in August, which will be announced at a later date. Rainout dates are the following nights.

Farmer's & Artisan's Markets

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Every Tuesday May – October – Riverside Park, Mantorville. Farmer's Market

7 a.m. – 12 p.m. Every Saturday through October 28 – Central Park, Owatonna. The market features fresh vegetables, flowers and fun hand-crafted items from more than 80 vendors.

11 @ 7 Concert Series

7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Every Thursday until August 10 – Central Park, Owatonna. This concert series features local music for the community to enjoy. Bring a lawn chair, sit back and relax.



Mantorville Melodramas

7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon June 16 – September 9 – Mantorville Theatre Company at the Historic Opera House, Mantorville. For the 45th Summer, Mantorville Theater Company will put on four different melodrama shows for the whole family to enjoy. For more show information or to buy tickets, visit www.mantorvillain.com

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- Grand Coulee Dam
- Seattle City Tour
- Pike's Market
- Ghiradelli Square
- Mount Rainer
- Columbia River Gourge
- Rogue River Boat Ride
- Mount St. Helen Visitor Center
- 2 nights at Fishermans Wharf
- San Francisco City Tour
- Giant Redwood Forest
- 1 night in Reno, Nevada
- Great Salt Lake
- Temple Square
- Mormon Tabernacle
- Smoke Jumper School Tour
- 1 night in Deadwood, SD

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- Miller and Anheuser-Busch Breweries

New York City.....Aug 12-19.....$1659
Best Of South Dakota....Aug 31 -Sept 3.....$559
Mackinac Island.....September 6-10.....$699
Washington, DC.....Sept.9-17.....$1239
Memphis/ Nashville.....Sept. 17-25.....$1419
Norsk Hostfest.....Sept. 27-Oct. 1.....$809
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Community Living

Obituaries

Martha Marie Kramer, 90 of Hayfield

Martha Marie Kramer, 90, died June 7, 2017, at Field Crest Care Center in Hayfield.

Kramer was born May 24, 1927, the daughter of August and Agnes (Styndl) Borchert in Blooming Prairie.

Kramer first saw her future husband, Leonard at her dad's farm auction. Richard and June Trom later introduced them. They were later married June 20, 1948. Kramer and Lenny loved dancing at the Terp in Austin, the Monterey in Owatonna and Zeiners in Bixby. Kramer enjoyed woodworking, antiquing, garage sales, sewing and gardening.

Kramer is survived by her children, Annette (Richard) Wolf, St. Cloud; John Kramer, Hayfield; Nancy (Tom) Bartlewski, Red Wing; Sharon (Ted) Nelson, Kimberly, Wisconsin; Mary (Raughn) Oakland, Brownsdale; Kathy (Don) Gerhart, Rochester; Larry (Christina) Kramer, Shakopee; David (friend, Andrea) Kramer, Hayfield; and 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Leonard; one grandson; two great granddaughters and seven sisters.

The memorial service will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 14, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church, 109 Main Street East in Hayfield with Reverend Kirk Johnston officiating. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church. Czaplewski Family Funeral Home in Hayfield oversees arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to the First Presbyterian Church. Blessed be her memory. www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com



Death Notice

Dr. William B. "Bill" Gruhn, 72 of Columbus, N.C.

Dr. William B. "Bill" Gruhn, 72, of Columbus, North Carolina, died Sunday, June 4, 2017, at the Elizabeth House Hospice in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Memorial Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, with pastor Jeff Sandgren officiating.

The Gruhn family will greet friends from 10:00 to 11 a.m. Wednesday morning before the service at church.

Interment will be in the First Lutheran Cemetery, rural Blooming Prairie.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Online condolences may be expressed at www.worlein.com.

Dean's List

University of Minnesota
Lauren Starkson
School of Nursing

Minnesota St. - Moorhead
Jacob Busse
Waseca H.S. 2014
Construction Management, Pre-Engineering
Toni Glynn
Owatonna H.S. 2012
Elementary Inclusive Education
Jack Luebbe
Medford H.S. 2016
Psychology
Madison Lykken
Owatonna H.S. 2014
Graphic Design
Paige Radue
Owatonna H.S. 2014
Early Childhood Education

Graduation

Brittany Reese, of Owatonna has graduated from the University of Findlay. Reese received the following: Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

Reese was invited to walk in the University's commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 6.

More than 1100 graduates earned doctoral, master's, bachelor's or associate degrees for the academic year 2016 - 2017. The University of Findlay is one of the largest private colleges in Northwest Ohio with a total enrollment of more than 4,000 students.

Quilt of Valor awarded on Memorial Day



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

CORRECTION: Photo of Terry Hughes in the May 30, 2017. The Steele County Times incorrectly identified the creators of Terry Hughes' quilt. It should read: Terry Hughes of Blooming Prairie was one of 17 veterans receiving a Quilt of Valor from BP service groups.
His quilt was pieced by Chris Butler and quilted by the Calico Hutch. He is shown with his two daughters, Tanya Hughes, left and Nikki Hughes, right and with Dorothy Trom, far right.

Thank you

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 mother, Adeline Christianson.

A special thanks to the Prairie Manor staff, MCHS Austin Hospice, Father Thomas Niehaus of St. Columbanus Catholic Church, and Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home.

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

-The Family of Adeline Christianson

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Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

June 13
Shelley Prihoda, Julie Strand
Tim Andrews, Jordan Paulson
Hailey Hensrud
Karen Kruckeberg, Tommy Meyer
June 14
Buddy Thompson, Katie Ingvalson
Aden Doocy, Connie Haberman
June 15
Hailey Hensrud, Karen Kruckeberg
Tommy Meyer
June 16
Jason Hoveland
Michael Hines, Daniel Hanson
Paul Haberman
June 17
Colin Campbell, Doug Miner
Nancy Vaillancourt
Logan Konz, Cierra Coughlin
June 18
Chris Klemmensen
Emma Kormann
June 19
Anthony Sorensen, Sarah Krell
Cortney Easton, Roger Amundson
June 20
Carter Bumgarner
Brooklyn Simon, Sue Zweiner

Anniversaries

June 13
Maylon and Marilyn Heinz
Brandon and Stephanie Emanuel
June 14
Nolan and Linda Christianson
June 15
Mary Ann and Ernie Betlach
Frank and Norma Henefield
Bob and Diane Hanenberger
Joe and Lisa Kubista
June 16
Jim and Kristi Fiebiger
Bruce & Tammy Wolf
Gloria & Ken Trom
June 18
Paul and Haley Tollefson
Herman and Connie Lembke
Pat (Buck) and Julie Cochlin
Jared and Kristine Smith
June 19
Aaron and Ashley Anderson
Nathan and Lori Arndt
June 20
Tom and Tammy Harber
Josh and Ellie Jones

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SEMCAC senior menu

June 13
Beef tips over mashed potatoes
Oriental blend vegets
Mixed greens salad
Dinner roll
Fruit cup
Crab pasta salad over lettuce
Fruit salad
Batter Bun
Crumb Cake
June 15
Baked Fish
ALT: Beef Patty
Rice Pilaf
Orange glazed carrota
3-bean salad
Flavored Ice Cream
June 16
Father's Day
Bratwurst on a bun
ALT: hamburger
Over browned potatoes
Baked Beans
Strawberry Phoo Phoo
June 19
Taco salad
Dinner roll
Dessert
June 20
Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans w/ BBQ sauce
Fresh Melon Wedge

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Nettie's Apple Cake

Recipe Corner

Ingredients:

4 c. apple	2 c. flour
2 c. sugar	1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
2 eggs	1 tsp. salt
3/4 c. cooking oil	2 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla	3/4 c. nuts

Instructions:
Peel and slice apples, put in large bowl and sprinkle with sugar. Stir often so they make juice. Do not cook. Let stand 1 hour. Beat eggs, add cooking oil and vanilla. Pour over apples. Mix flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nuts. Mix well and add to apple mixture. Coat pan lightly with Pam. Bake in 9x13-inch pan for 40 minutes at 350°.

by Norma Hegal



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Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1918 NUMBER 5

Soldiers Close Three Local Saloons by Order of Governor

SAVE NEW POTATOES

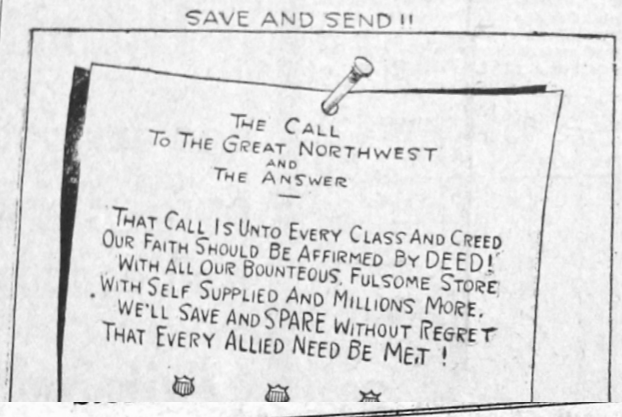
EAT OLD ONES FIRST AND SAVE FOOD FOR NEXT FALL AND WINTER.

Victor Hendrickson, local Food Administrator has received communication from the Food Department directing him to request the public to save and eat the old potatoes before using the new ones. Let the new ones grow, at least until July 26th. Do not sell, buy or eat new po-

SECOND STREET TO BE IMPROVED

COUNCIL MEETS IN REGULAR SESSION — MANY BILLS PASSED.

The regular monthly meeting of the village council was held last Monday evening. Members present: H. H. Wilberg, president; Councilmen E. Nel-



GOVERNOR TAKES SITUATION INTO OWN HANDS

Places of P. F. Coggins, W. R. Carroll and Geo. E. Thomas Now Guarded by Men in Uniform.

Hundreds of Townspeople and Farmers Who Had Driven in Their Automobiles Were Grouped About the Soldiers as They Went About

BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1946

VOLUME LIII.

Blossoms Stop Geneva By 5-4 Score

Howard Nelson, Doris Nelson Are Married Saturday

In a simple but impressive

Six Squads Tied In Twilight Shoot

With the half-way reached in Blooming Prairie's twi-light blue six squads are in the race for totals of 94 Blooming Prairie eeds and First

during the first shoot are: ohnnie Johnson, nd, 18; Chet ne Ulland, 17; 18. Total 92.

Merville Bray, son, 20; Palmer erholt, 17; Jake 94.

L. B. Hanson, Tracy Smith, 21; Don Thurs-2.

Glenn Dennis,

Lillie Hanson Weds Orville Rothgarn Sunday In Owatonna

On Sunday, June 30th at 3:30 p. m., at the Trinity Lutheran church, Owatonna, Miss Lillie Hanson of this vicinity, became the bride of Orville Rothgarn, of Owatonna.

Rev. Olin Fjelstad read the double ring ceremony. Mr. Albert Westby, Owatonna, sang "The Lord's Prayer" by Malotte and "O Perfect Love."

The bride wore a white moire taffeta gown which had a sweetheart neckline, fitted bodice and a long train. Her veil was of finger-tip length.

A rhinestone cross and rhinestone earrings, gift of the groom, were worn by the bride. Her bouquet consisted of white gladiolas and red roses.

Miss Violet Throndson of West Concord, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. She wore an aqua taffeta gown and a gold

Geneva Farmer Injured By Bull

Gunnar Johnson and his son, Dorence, narrowly escaped death last Friday evening on their farm 3½ miles east of Geneva when both men were attacked without warning by an infuriated bull.

The elder Johnson was attacked first but fortunately was able to hold the animal off with a pole. The enraged bull then turned on the son, whirling him into the air three times. Dorence had presence of mind to grab the bull by the nose ring and in that manner was able to stave off further charges. Mr. Johnson was able to get a bull rope which he snapped through the ring and tied the animal up.

Mr. Johnson went to the Clayton Johnson farm home to summon help and upon returning found his son laying near the house with his clothes in shreds. The injured man was rushed to

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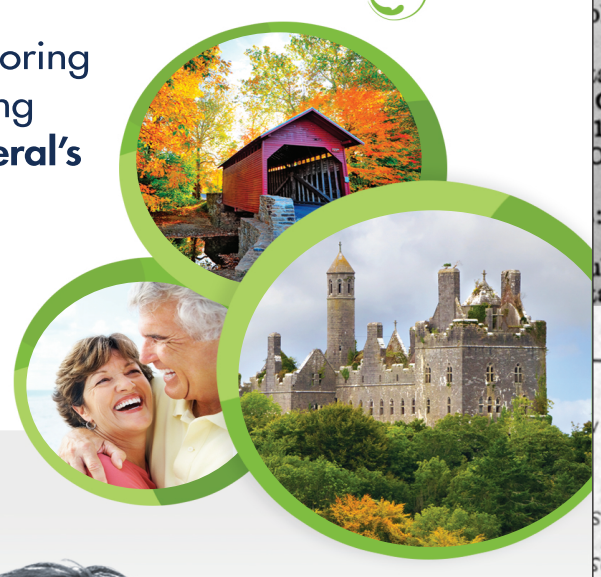
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Hometown Living

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, June 13, 2017



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Fanny Brice, played by Emma Hellevik, is welcomed home to her neighborhood after her big break in the song *Henry Street.* Director Linda Karnauskas enjoys how the musical shows all the support Brice received from her friends and family.

Escape with LTO's *Funny Girl*

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

If days are feeling dark, The Little Theater of Owatonna (LTO) is hoping to brighten them with its musical production, *Funny Girl* by Isobel Lennart.

The show, under the artistic direction of Linda Karnauskas, opens this weekend. The musical is a semi-biographical telling of the life of Fanny Brice, an actor and comedian, who's in love with Nick Arnstein, a gambler who's in prison for embezzlement at the beginning of the show. Told as a long flashback, Brice reflects on how the two met and wonders if they can still have a future together.

The musical is famous for numbers like "*Don't Rain on My Parade*" and "*People*." Originally performed on Broadway with Barbra Streisand as Brice to much success, the musical was also turned into a movie with Streisand reprising her role and winning an Oscar for her performance.

At technical rehearsal on Sunday, the cast was on point, as the crew stitched together the final elements of the show. There was an air of certainty and focus in the theater, as Karnauskas sat several rows back in the audience watching carefully and whispering minor corrections over her radio headset.

This is Karnauskas's third directorial outing and first

FUNNY GIRL
Continued on page 3B

Vacation bible school big hit with BP kids

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff Intern

This past week, the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, hosted its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS).

The event took place from Tuesday through Thursday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.. The afternoons were full of games, snacks, crafts, singing and dancing for the kids participating.

Freshman, Baylee Sorensen, has volunteered her time at VBS for the past two years and has thoroughly enjoyed it, "My favorite part is when the kids are singing and dancing, just seeing them smile and enjoy it makes it all worth while."

Sorensen was one of a handful of teenagers who dedicated their time to helping out the younger kids.

The workers accompanied the kids as the pastor presented the verse of the day, they would sing songs, then have a snack prepared by the parents working. Following that, they would head outside for games. When they returned inside, a different craft to complete awaited them each day. To conclude the day they headed back to the sanctuary for more song and dance.

When asked what she thought the kids learned the most, Baylee said, "They were able to see their friends and learn about God in a fun way through music."

Seeing firsthand, I could tell how much the kids enjoyed VBS. They asked politely for their snacks, and treated workers with respect. It was also impressive to see how well the workers interacted with the kids.

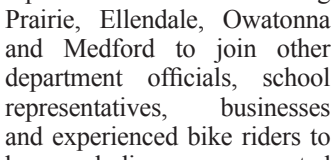


Staff photo by Seth Bedenbaugh

The children at First Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School sat outside with the staff and enjoyed cupcakes. The church plans to offer the program again next year.

The First Lutheran Church will be continuing the tradition of VBS around this same time next year.

Medford kicks-off summer



LOIS M. NELSON

School is out and everyone is enjoying the beautiful, weather days that have been here for the most part of June.

In Medford, the pool is open and has been well initiated! The Medford Farmer's Market is underway on Thursdays, 3:00-7:00pm into October. Come and check them out.

Maybe your family would consider biking to the pool, park, Farmer's Market or anywhere in your area each week?!

Park Board member, Grace Bartlett, her husband, Dustin—both avid bike enthusiasts and myself participated in the Bikeable Community Workshop on May 16, sponsored by the Department of Health and Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota.

It was a great opportunity for all four community representatives from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Owatonna and Medford to join other department officials, school representatives, businesses and experienced bike riders to hear and discuss a concerted effort-county wide for bikeable roadways and paths that should connect all our communities. Planning and design of roadways and their maintenance (nothing worse than hitting a pot hole as you are making a left-hand turn into traffic!) is critical as we work on all our road, street and bridge infrastructure.

Families and younger people are expecting walking and biking opportunities. In Medford, we do have a 'trail plan' that was developed prior to the work on West Central and the multi-use path resulted with funding coming from the state. Now, we are in discussion with the county

SUMMER
Continued on page 6B

Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo brings scales to libraries

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Something slithered into the Owatonna and Blooming Prairie libraries last week.

The staff of the Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo brought some scaly friends for kids to meet. As crowds of children gathered around, the staff pulled out turtles and bearded dragons to show off.

After asking the kids what the largest snake in the world was, they called up volunteers to stand at the front of the crowd. While they didn't have giant Anacondas for the kids to hold, they did bring out a python and wrap it around the arms of the volunteers to show how long snakes can grow.

At the end, children were allowed to come up and take a closer look at the animals and pet the python after being assured it wasn't slimy.

Two boys in Blooming Prairie were thrilled to see the serpents.

"I like the biggest snake," said Otto, 6, noting his favorite part about snakes

SNAKES
Continued on page 3B



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

At the Blooming Prairie Branch Library a line of kids wrapped around the room for a chance to pet the python brought by the RAD Zoo staff. They could pet its body, but were told to be careful of the head.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

At the Owatonna Library, four volunteers were called up to help demonstrate how long a python could stretch its body out over. The length helps the snake in the constriction of the prey it catches.

Blooming Prairie Living

Checkmate champions



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

If you have a chess set that is only collecting dust in your home, please consider donating it to the Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

We have some chess sets but would like to have more so that many can take part in our summer chess tournaments at the same time.

Local sixth grade students learn and practice playing chess throughout the school year. They don't want to lose those skills over the summer, plus they want to settle the question once and for all over who is the best chess player in town!

While the tournaments are geared to those former 6th graders, other youth players are also welcome.

Play will be held at 1 p.m. on the following dates: Wednesday, June 21; Tuesdays, July 11, July 25, and August 8; and Thursday, August 31.

There will be treats to eat thanks to the Friends of the Library.

Let's keep those brain cells working throughout the summer by playing chess!

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Ribfest kicks off summer

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

With the annual B & G Club ribfest just a couple of weeks away, Unit Director Marcy Sundine has also announced a very ambitious schedule of activities for the summer program at the club.

Last year over 80 kids participated in the summer schedule, and that many are expected to join in the education and fun again this year.

The annual ribfest will be held on Saturday, July 1,with an even bigger and better event planned. Three bands will entertain throughout the afternoon and evening, and the grounds will be open from 3 to 11 p.m. Approximately ten cookers will be demonstrating their skills at ribs, steaks, and chicken wings.

Several games will be available for kids at the Firemen's Park across the street from the ribfest, and beverages will be sold by the BP Servicemen's Club, along with raffle tickets.

The ribfest is the first of four days of celebration that will accompany the 150th birthday party in the city park on Sunday, July, 2, and the Fourth of July festivities taking place on July 3 and 4.

The entire schedule of activities will culminate with the annual parade in the afternoon and the fireworks display Tuesday night at dusk.

At the ribfest, prizes will be awarded for best ribs, best BB sauce, best chicken wings, and most popular ribs, and there is even a contest for a kids' hamburger cook-off.

Wristbands are $25 in advance at several businesses in town or $30 at the event. That entitles one to unlimited samples of ribs and pulled pork, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Potluck String band, Neal Elder, and the Thrillbillies all will perform and entertain during the afternoon and evening

As far as the summer program at the club is concerned, June 9 will mark the opening of Pine Springs pool and the first visit there for club members.

On June 19, a class in cooking matters will take place, with sign up at the club or by email.

The club members will take a field trip to Brookside Campground June 21 (see Sundine to chaperon).

June 22 will be Dental Day at the club, and members should have forms filled out and turned in to the club by Monday, June 19. That is just scratching the surface of all the events and programming that will take place at the club this summer.

Sign-up sheets for all summer activities will be available at the club, and they need to be completed for participation in the activities.

Meal calendars have now been sent. An exciting summer has been planned at the club, and members are encouraged to be a part of the program. The staff at the club is well trained and accessible to all, and the enthusiasm of the employees will rub off on kids.

It promises to be a great summer of fun and activity.

They're out in the barn

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Where's everybody? They're out in the barn.

That was the story of Blooming Prairie graduating senior Taylor Christianson, as she celebrated her high school graduation on June 3 in her grandparents' barn.

"My grandparents (Sue and Jeff Zwiener) have this beautiful red barn that was just perfect for my graduation party," explained the 18-year-old BP graduate who actually lives in town.

Taylor is the daughter of Terri and Dennis Zwiener and Mike Christianson.

More than 300 visitors came to Zwiener's barn to participate in a party with a rustic theme.

Taylor said the idea of having the graduation party in Zwiener's Amish-built barn was her mother Terri's brainstorm. "It's a big, two-story barn and really went well with our rustic theme," said Taylor.

Taylor used wooden blocks to accent photos displayed on tables throughout the barn. Pallets with Christmas lights also gave the barn a festive theme.

For the silverware, Taylor and her family tied the napkins together with twine string.

Taylor's entire family including brother Bo, 11, helped decorate for this barn-raising event.

Taylor's party was still going on beyond the 6 p.m. closure. "We had tons of people there, including family, friends, and coaches," Taylor said.

"It hadn't set in like hey, I'm graduating," she admitted.

Taylor attended Baccalaureatte on May 31 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church and received her diploma at graduation ceremonies on June 4.

What does high school graduation mean to Taylor? "It means moving on to the next chapter of your life and becoming your own person on your own," she reflected.

Graduation was over but Taylor was still busy with her school activities, mainly the sectional golf tournament. Taylor was vying for another trip to the state golf tournament. She played her first varsity match as a seventh grader.

Taylor's father Mike got her interested in golf at age 7. "I had these Snoopy clubs as a kid," she recalls.

Her best score during her golfing career came at the Victory Links golf course in Byron when she shot a 76.

Music was another activity Taylor chose. She played clarinet in the high school band.

Her next chapter will include college at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. Taylor plans to study nursing and play golf. She begins her college career on Aug. 23.

This summer, Taylor plans to life guard at the Blooming Prairie swimming pool. She also has worked at Sportstitch in BP.

Taylor loves to listen to all kinds of music. "I like pop, country and rap; it depends on my mood," she says. She also likes to hang out with friends. "I don't like to stay home," she confesses.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Taylor Christianson of Blooming Prairie had a unique location for her graduation party on June 3. She hosted guests in her grandparents' barn located just south of BP. Taylor chose a rustic theme of the barn for her party that drew over 300 guests.

Cancer Corner

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Support the fighters, Admire the survivors, Honor the taken.

Support Scott Easton's battle with brain cancer

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

How would you like to win a seven-night Florida vacation?

Support Blooming Prairie resident Scott Easton in his battle with brain cancer and become eligible to be a winner of the trip.

Raffle tickets are available at $10 each and may be purchased in advance at Koster's Car Korner in BP, or by contacting Tess Koster at 507-438-7374, or Rita Braaten at 507-475-3613. The grand prize is a $2,000 value. You need not be present to win.

A silent auction with lots of attractive items will be featured during the evening.

A taco/nacho bar will be available at $5 per person in advance, or $6 at the door.

Easton was diagnosed last February with brain cancer. He underwent surgery to remove the tumor and has followed up with a series of radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

"I'm happy with every day I am given," says Easton matter of factly. He said the family support and that from friends has been a plus for him during his journey against cancer.

The Fort Myers Beach vacation package (lodging only) is donated by Rod and Tess Koster of Koster's Car Corner. It can be used during the next year. The Kosters have five rentals in Flordia, this one being the newest.

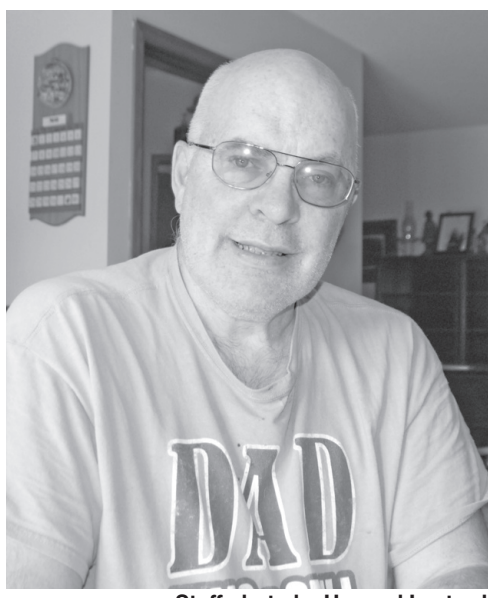
The idea of a benefit came from Rod Koster, a half brother of Easton.

All proceeds will go toward the Easton family's medical bills and expenses.

Donations for the silent auction may be dropped off at the Pizza Cellar or Koster's Car Korner.

The drawing for the vacation will be made at 6:30 p.m. at the Pizza Cellar.

Look for a feature story on Scott Easton in next week's Times.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

A benefit for Scott Easton, who is fighting brain cancer, will be held on Saturday, June 24 at the BP Pizza Cellar.

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Spend your Fourth in Blooming Prairie

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

For four of the most fun days of summer, the town of Blooming Prairie and community will be the perfect place in which to celebrate a very special occasion, plus enjoy the traditional old-fashioned Fourth of July festivities for which the town has become famous. It should be an entertaining and activity-filled time, with something for everyone included.

The celebration will begin with the annual ribfest on Saturday, July 1, sponsored by the local boys and girls club. This promises to be a taste fulfilling time, with BBQ ribs, pulled pork, chicken, and steaks all part of the gourmet schedule. Three bands will entertain throughout the afternoon and evening, and kids' activities will be held in the Firemen's Park directly across from the Servicemen's Club.

Sunday, July 2, The BP Chamber of Commerce will host the celebration of 150 years of Blooming Prairie. A kiddie parade, blessing in the park and a picnic, a group picture, a balloon release with cake and ice cream, and live music by a former resident's Walters Wheelhouse band will culminate the day's events. And that is really just a start to the four days of fun.

On Monday, July 3, the antique tractor show will begin the day, with a tour of the schools available in the afternoon, and other activities to take place in the city park. The beer garden opens at 4 p.m., with a pedal tractor pull, concessions and music in the pavilion, and Greg Skillestad's magic show in front of the Showmobile. A teen dance in front of the Showmobile, and a street dance, with music by the High Street Band will conclude the day's activities.

Then on Tuesday, July 4, a host of activities will take place on the traditional holiday. Concessions, an Awesome Blossom walk/Run, trolley rides, and the BP Lions Club breakfast will begin the festivities. The annual tractor pull contest begins at 9 a.m. west of Victory Field, as well as the Sweet Rides Car Show and the popular kid's races south of the pavilion.

The BPRA Moon Walk is back at the city park, as is the beer garden, concessions, and fine arts fair, Dale Earnhardt Jr. car show, and the water wars stand west of the park. A beanbag tournament, a Just for Kix performance, a pickle and pie judging contest, and a Stix of fury concert will precede the annual parade.

The parade is a huge part of the annual celebration and has been prominent since the Old-fashioned Fourth of July originated in the 70's. What had been the Petunia Festival morphed into the new holiday and has been a part of the activities ever since. A Grand Marshall (or Grand Marshalls) has been chosen by the Chamber of Commerce each year, and the two plus hour parade has featured many units not ordinarily associated with such extravaganzas, but it attracts thousands of onlookers into town.

At some points in the 80's and early 90's as many as 30,000 people have attended. One year, a tour group from Pennsylvania attended the celebration just to be a part of an Old Fashioned Fourth Of July. The four days of fun culminates with the fireworks display in the evening.

Despite some years in which finances have almost scuttled the annual show, the community has been able to carry on the tradition, and it is hoped that fireworks can remain as the climax to the yearly panorama of events. To find a time schedule for all the events, those schedulers are available in the local paper, the chamber office, or various businesses in the community. Come spend the four days or part of them in Blooming Prairie. As mentioned earlier, there is literally something for everyone at the BP Old Fashioned Fourth of July.

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Owatonna Living





Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Left: The practice room at LearningRX is an open space with colorful puzzles spread throughout the room. There's even a small trampoline that students can jump on as a reward for completing drills
Right: Darci Stanford is manages the learning center in Owatonna. She also teaches courses in Child Development at South Central.

Whipping brains into shape this summer

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Everyone knows summer is the time to get out and get active. But while there's plenty of ways to bend the body, Owatonna newest workout place is all about stretching the brain.

Learning Rx is a brain-training center that opened its doors in Owatonna on May 15. Darci Stanford owns the center.

A teacher of courses in Child Development at South Central, Stanford is no stranger to molding minds. She's lived in Owatonna for 10 years now, and decided to open the center after her own son went through the program in the Twin Cities.

People who enroll in the program start with an hour hour-long assessment of the seven cognitive skills. Once that's complete, Stanford helps design an individualized program, ranging from 12 - 32 weeks, that helps boost cognitive performance. The goals are different for every participant.

"It's learning where they're at," Stanford said, "and targeting where they need to be."

While the program is for people of any age, Stanford noted that it's really useful for young students, especially ones who find reading to be a continual frustration.

During sessions of the program, the participants are put through a series of drills that help their ability to pay attention. Stanford compares the drills to what an athlete would do to prepare for a triathlon.

The center offers over a hundred different drills, but one of the most common is an exercise in selective attention. The student is shown several rows of multi-colored arrows pointed in different directions. They're then asked to go down the rows saying what color every arrow is. After that, they might be asked to go down the rows again, but told this time to say what directions each arrow is pointing. It helps the students to focus on particular details when they read something.

The practice room where the drills are conducted is an open space with a separate table for each student. Stanford says the open layout intentionally keeps the environment active and noisy, as different students work on different drills.

"School isn't quiet," Stanford said, "Life isn't quiet."

Stanford knows from experience. After seeing her son continue to struggle in school, she decided to be proactive and enroll him in a learning program to help improve his concentration. Her son completed his five-month program at LearningRX six months ago, and Stanford was impressed by the improvement it made in his life.

Beyond school, Stanford says the program helps improve memory, so she doesn't have to remind her son about his chores as often, and he can be trusted to remember to do regular tasks.

The most rewarding part for her as a parent, however, has been the boost to her son's self-confidence, as he feels more secure in his abilities.

Summer is a good time to start the program and help students start next fall on a positive foot. Stanford is offering a summer special through August that reduces the price of the initial assessment. She hopes people will take advantage of a chance to get their minds in as good as shape as their bodies.

kids thrilled over snakes

SNAKES: from page 1B



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Two girls debate whether the gecko or the bearded dragon was a cooler animal. After a brief deliberation, they decided a dragon was definitely cooler.

is their poison, "That spooks me."

Owen, 5, agreed that snakes were the best part of the presentation, but he gave a different reason. "They climb," he said with a grin.

The two weren't alone in their enthusiam. A long line of kids formed afterward to see the reptiles up close.

Funny Girl brings hope about the possibilities

FUNNY GIRL: from page 1B



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Fanny Brice, played by Emma Hellevik, is romanced by Nick Arnstein, played by Kenneth Griswold, in the song *You Are Woman*, where an inexperienced Fanny must decide how far she wants to take her relationship with Nick. Their turbulent romance is at the heart of the musical.

musical one with LTO having previously done *39 Steps* and *Pack of Lies*.

The smooth tech run can be attributed to Karnauskas's 15 years at LTO spent largely backstage.

She's been hoping to do *Funny Girl* for a while. "I saw the film and fell in love with it," she said.

"It's so about a gal who wasn't the best of everything as far as looks, but she knew she'd make it," she continued, "It speaks about believing in the possibilities."

Karnauskas definitely believes in the possibilities of her cast and crew. She's thrilled to be assisted by musical director Larry Ostermeier, and over the moon about her leads. "You don't see this show done a lot," Karnauskas said. "I knew our community had the talent. I was just hoping they auditioned. They did, and they blew me away."

It's been smooth sailing for the production since day one. As superstitious as any true thespian, Karnauskas takes their luck as a sign. "Where I've needed things, they've just come," she said. "For whatever reason, we're suppose to be doing *Funny Girl*."

Emma Hellevik plays the titular *Funny Girl* alongside Kenneth Griswold as her love interest Nick Arnstein. Catching up with Hellevik in the women's dressing room, she was still giving off sparks of Fanny Brice energy, even during her break.

"It's fun to bring her live to the stage," Hellevik said as she rummaged through the clothes rack for her next costume. "It's a new role for me. I'm usually cast in more serious roles."

On stage since she was six, Hellevik is far from daunted by the stage-lights. "I think I hit play 20 before I was done with high school," she said pulling out a blouse for her next scene.

She did acknowledge that Fanny Brice is a bit more to handle than most roles. "The roles I've played before have never ever required this much stamina," she said fiddling with the buttons of her top, "and this many costume changes, frankly."

Hellevik hadn't seen the movie prior to auditioning and has refrained from since, hoping to bring her own interpretation to the character. "Her character is so non-typical, distinct to her." she said. "You always have the funny sidekick role, but this chick is beyond that."

"She's a ball of energy throughout the whole show," Hellevik continued. "Keeping up with that has required a lot of caffeine."

When asked why people had to come see this show, she looked up from her costume as a dresser helped her with the last of the buttons. "It's hilarious," she pronounced. "It will be two and a half hours taking you away from your struggles."

Opening night is June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Remaining evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on June 17, 22, 23 and 24. Matinees will be at 2 p.m. matinees on June 18 and 25.

Tickets are available online at http://littletheatreofowatonna.org and cost $16 for adults and $14 for students.



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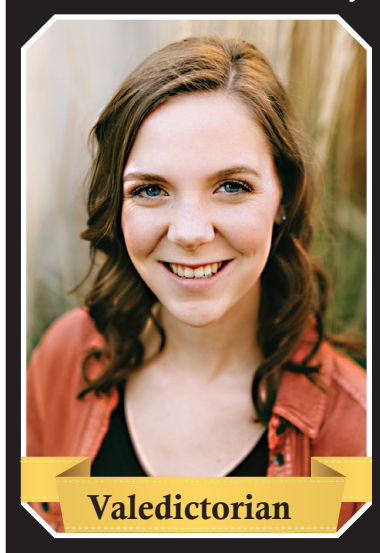
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Steele County Times
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Congratulations! NRHEG Honor Grads

Jennifer Michelle McKay



Valedictorian

Maci Marie Surat



Salutatorian

Natalie Jean Aaseth



Chad Justin Agrimson



Oakley James Baker



Kayley Marlene Camerer



Rachel Elizabeth Collins



Mercedes Alexandra Dickerson



Joshua Michael Fleming



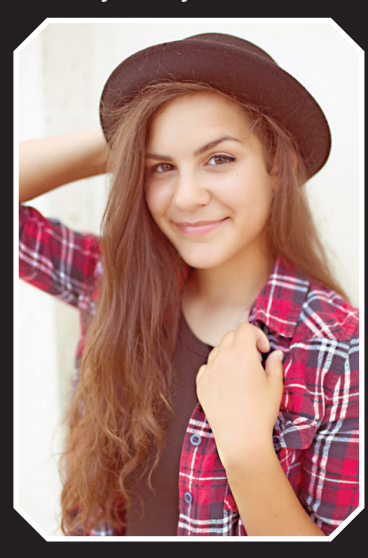
Luis Everardo Gaono



Grace Ann Johns



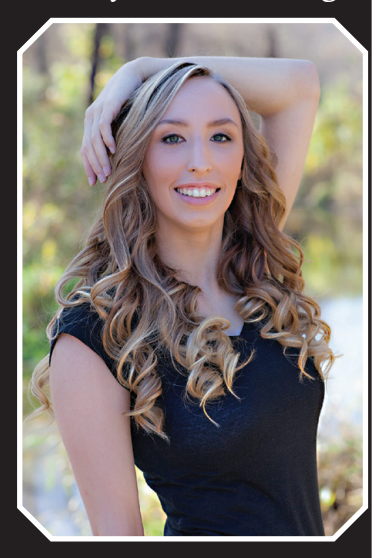
Maurya Ellyn Johnson



Jillian Kelly Jongbloedt



Emily Cathleen King



Madison Lynn Martin



Lacey Rose Nelson



Samuel Emmett Prigge



Tyler Timothy Raimann



Gretchen Christine Ramaker



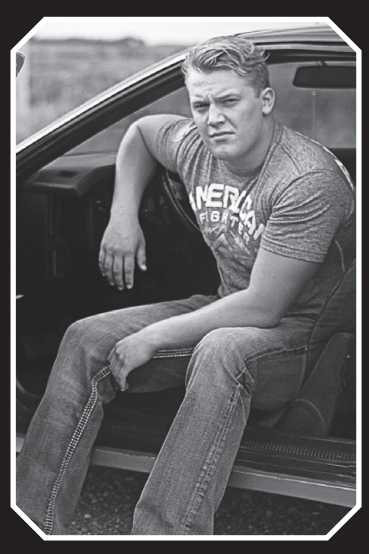
Nora Gale Retallick



Aubrey Mae Schlinger



Jack Andrew Schultz



Kallie Jo Spooner



Cecelia Mae Torp



Marnie Rae Wagner



Mitchell Allan Westrum



Benjamin Nikolai Witikko



Not Pictured:
Madison Kae Wagner

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County Living



Staff photo by Seth Bedenbaugh

Kindergartners at NRHEG Elementary celebrated their graduation to the first grade in the school auditorium. As part of their transitions, kindergarten teachers asked the students to think about what they might like to be when they grow up.

NRHEG's kindergartners plan future

As part of their graduation, the kindergartners at NRHEG Elementary school were asked to think about what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Miss Talamantes's class:

Chrysantha Aronson- Kindergarten Teacher
August Bethke- Teacher
Isaac Calcamuggio- a Dad
Benjamin Carlson- Dirt Bike Rider
Brandon Doyle- Police Officer
Brock Holland- Hockey Player
Kendel Klocek- a Doctor
Gracie Luna- a Teacher
Dylan Malakowsky- a Dad
Emma Mortenson- a Dancer
Andy Nelson- Police Officer
Memphis Schlaak- Police Officer
Hailey Staska- a Doctor
Jemisyn Vallejo- Police Officer
Lauren Wakefield- Magician
Kylie Warke- Daycare Provider
Julieann Wobbrock- Daycare Provider

Mrs. Knudson's class:

Aubrey Baseman-2nd grade teacher
Finly Budach—gymnastics coach
Mack Gilliliang-tennis player
Anna Guse—cook
Preston Hanna—NFL
Riley Kahnke—army—all branches
Brogan Klemmensen-NBA
Crissa Koopal—hair stylist
Brayton Kruger-airforce
Makenley Lillico—dentist
Joey Rossing—kindergarten teacher
Owen Schlaak—army guy
Nolan Schlaak-WWE wrestler
Emilia Stadheim-baseball player
Quinn Wayne-police woman with a police dog
Alec Wyrum-farmer

Mrs. Buendorf's class:

Sealey Anderson- police officer
Hattie Broskoff- Vet
Lia Broskoff- Vet and Singer
Raegan Broskoff- Cheerleader
Shay Broskoff- Lego Creator
Sofia Bunn- Vet
Ellie Clark- Horse Rider
Lucas Degen- Basketball player
Sebastien Duffner- Basketball player
Tayven Eide- Electrican
Alayna Groskreutz- Scientist
Chanse LaCroix- Race Car Driver
Patrick Morgan- Singer
Adrian Naser- Fire Fighter
Mason Pederson- Cop
Aiden Routh- Teacher (but in the Ellendale school only)
Matthew Williams- Astronaut

Mrs. Jensen's class:

Dakota Bailey- singer
Sienna Besser- nurse
Starling Bird- doctor
Cooper Cords- explore all around the world and keep our earth healthy
Braiden Eide- professional dirt bike rider
Cash Harris- Palentologist and truck driver
Aubrey Hendrickson- nurse
Eli Hendrickson- city worker
Wyatt Hendrickson- artist
Ella Jeno- plumber to fix sinks
Aiden Merritt- scientist
Lyric Morgan- ambulance worker
Brynlee Neitzel- scientist to study paper and how to make it
Tyler Piepho- fireman
Jaliyah Shelton- baby doctor

Changes coming to the Ellendale Muni

The Ellendale City Council announces Ralph Diaz as the new manager at the Ellendale Muni. The Muni is a bar, liquor store and eatery, offering off-sale and on-sale liquor, as well as a lunch and dinner menu with a wide variety of burgers, sandwiches, appetizers and more.

Diaz brings years of experience in restaurant and bar management. The Council is excited about Diaz's level of skill and looks forward to Diaz utilizing his experience to move the Muni in a positive direction.

"We are pleased to welcome Ralph to the Muni family and back to the Ellendale community," said Kibler. "We look forward to seeing what his expertise in restaurant and bar management brings to the Muni. "

In addition to the new Manager, you will also see new faces in the kitchen and behind the bar. The goal of Council Members, along with Diaz, is to move the Muni forward in a positive and fun manner.

The Muni is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 1 a.m., hours for off-sale end at 10 p.m., and kitchen hours end at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Muni is located at 217 5th Ave. W, Ellendale. To view the menu and other information visit www.ellendalemn.com.

SUMMER: from page 1B

Straight River Days right around the bend

again as that plan also identified a path connector to the Lazy U. Many of the residents there are walking or biking to the Outlet Center, McDonald's and downtown so with the planned road reconstruction, discussion amongst all our government entities has to take place with overall safety of residents in mind. Health and wellness are the individual benefits!

This is true too when we start discussion about the reconstruction of our Main Street. In Alexandria, a mock layout of the street was done with striping for bike lanes, pedestrian crossing areas and even landscaping before it was actually installed in their parks so everyone had a good visual as to the finished possibilities. Something we may consider here as well.

In the workshop, we found more communities are including biking activities into their summer and fall park and rec schedules. Do you have some ideas about increasing biking opportunities in Medford or your own community? Please visit with Grace, any Park Board member or myself, or your local Park Board or elected official, as we move into a more countywide organized effort with better health and increased physical activities for all of us as the overall goal.

Straight River Days is scheduled June 15-17. Check out the website: straightriverdays.com for the day and times of all the scheduled events. Registration information is included for each event. I understand there are a few spots available for the volleyball and beanbag tournaments.

Thursday, June 15, strawberry shortcake will be available in exchange for a food item or cash donation for the Steele County Food Shelf at the Farmer's Market. The Miss Medford Pageant with 27 participants is scheduled at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

Friday, there are rummage sales galore throughout the community. The Parade is at 7 p.m. and entries are welcome. (Forms are on the website.) Everyone is invited to Straight River Park following. Batman is to be present along with food vendors and music by In The Fields—playing everything from Elvis to Lady Gaga! A great time for families is planned throughout the evening.

You can start Saturday with the 5K Walk-Run hosted by our Fire Department, then enjoy breakfast at Trinity Lutheran Church, and check out the craft and vendor booths in the park. There is the Extreme Car Show starting at 10 a.m. at the Christ the King Church parking lot sponsored by Extreme Powder Coating in memory of Greg Peterson. Our pool staff is adding an Olympics event Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the pool. Teen kickball, Kids Peddle Pull, Bingo, and Rubber Ducks are all a part of Saturday—the times for all events are included at www.straightriverdays.com. Another great family day! See you there!!

Lois M Nelson is serving her fifth year as Medford's Mayor.

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Owatonna/Medford

June 13th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: County Board Meeting, Admin Center, BR
June 14th:
1pm - 2pm Summer Reading Program
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Meeting
June 15th:
1pm - 2pm Summer Reading Program
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
June 16th:
7 pm Medford Straight River Days parade
7:30 *Funny Girl* Opening Night, Little Theater of Owatonna
June 19th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
June 20th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Board Meeting, Gainey Room
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
June 21st:
4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

Event Spotlight:
All employee reunion planned in Owatonna

The Ellendale Community Acton Group in conjunction with the Minnesota Alzheimer's Association will be sponsoring the first Ellendale Days 2.5K Run/Walk "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on Thursday evening, June 22 at 6 p.m. in Ellendale.

Interested community members, families, or friends of persons living with Alzheimer's are invited to start teams to participate in this community event to help raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Participants of all ages and abilities are invited to help reclaim the future for millions.

The run/walk will start at the Ellendale Municipal Liquor and conclude back in the downtown area. Volunteers are needed to help along the walk/run route and are urged to contact Allison Muilenburg at 507-684-3351. Participants and teams are asked to pre-register and donation forms may also picked up at Floors4U in Ellendale or by calling Allison at the above phone number.

This event will be the "kick-off" event on June 22 for The Ellendale Days Summer Celebration.

Event Spotlight:
LTO's 'Funny Girl' Musical

Little Theatre of Owatonna is pleased to announce the summer Musical "Funny Girl" opening June 16. Tickets will be available on LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org on June 10; the LTO Box Office, 560 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna opens June 12 at 4 p.m.

The musical, which is semi biographical, is set in and around New York City just prior to and following World War I. Ziegfeld Follies star Fanny Brice, awaiting the return of her husband, Nicky Arnstein, from prison, reflects on their life together, and their story is told as a flashback. The story is told with comedy, drama, romance and plenty of music including, "People" and "Don't Rain On My Parade."

Artistic Director is Linda Karnauskas, Musical Director Larry Ostermeier, Technical Director Brenda Hager, Orchestra Leader Ray Lacina, and Choreographer Katie Gillespie.

Performances of 'Funny Girl' will be 7:30 p.m. on June 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on June 18 and 25.

'Funny Girl' is presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Ave. New York. New York 10072. Music by Jule Styne, Lyrice by Bob Merrill; Book by Isobel Lennart

Little Theatre of Owatonna

Ellendale/Hope/Geneva

June 13th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
June 15th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
June 19th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
June 20th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
June 21st:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

HAPPENING NOW

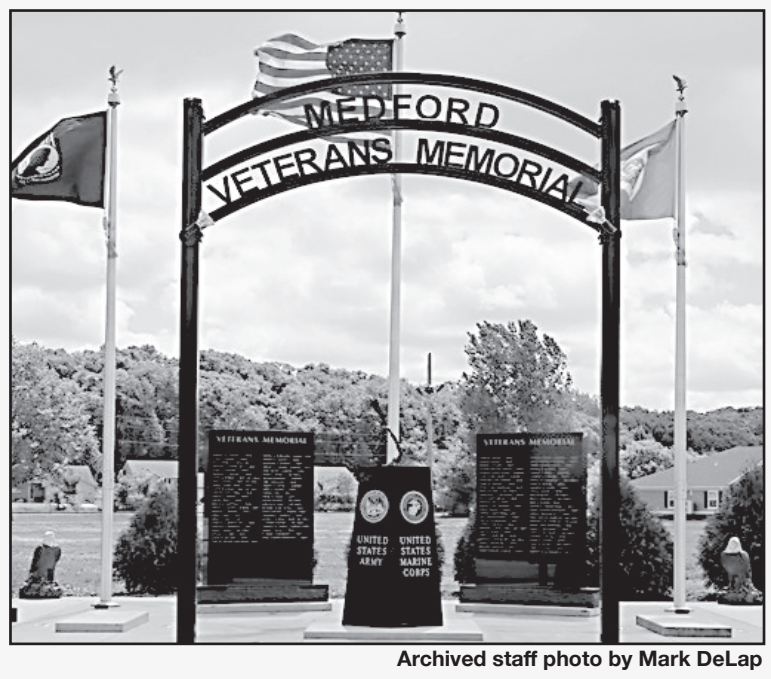
Concert in the Park



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Betty and Ocho performed acoustic versions of popular songs, as well as a few originals last Thursday for the "Eleven at Seven" concert series. Every Thursday evening through August 10 a different musical group will perform in Central Park at 7 p.m. The Owatonna Community Band will perform next with its first of four concerts this Thursday, June 15.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Mark DeLap

Last year, the Veterans Memorial in Medford continued to grow and change with new landscaping, two cement eagle sentries, and a new bronze eagle over the Medford Stone.


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June 13th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
June 14th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
June 19th:
7pm City Council, City Center
June 20th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
2pm BPPU Meeting, City Center
4:30pm Fire Commission, City Center
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
5:30pm Ambulance Commission, City Center
7pm P&Z Meeting, City Center
June 21st:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Event Spotlight:
U.S. - Dakota War of 1862 Presentation

Author Colin Mustful will be speaking about the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862 at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library on Wednesday, June 21 at 6:30 p.m.

He is the author of several books that focus on the tragic and complicated history surrounding that event. Using a variety of sources, Mustful objectively considers the U.S. - Dakota conflict of Minnesota history through multiple perspectives and necessary historical context. He has a Master of Arts in History degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

This presentation is made possible due to support from the Friends of the Library. Refreshments will be served and signed books will be available for purchase.

Event Spotlight:
Nontraditional scholarships available

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to make available $15,000 to assist students who will be attending non-four year programs at technical/community colleges to prepare themselves for technical careers. Applications for nontraditional scholarships are due June 25, 2017.

Eligibility requirements include that recipients have an Owatonna mailing address or have worked at an Owatonna business for at least the past two years. You must also hold a GED or graduated from high school prior to, or with, the class of 2016. Scholarship awards range from $500 to $3,000 each.

Applications must be submitted June 25. Applications are available at the Foundation's website at http://www.owatonnafoundation.org and at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.

Event Spotlight:
Mantorville Theatre's *Truth or Counterfeits*

The Mantorville Theatre Company is thrilled to present the first play of its 45th Summer Melodrama Season, "Truth or Counterfeits" or "What's My Lie?" Written and directed by Nan Strauss, the show opens on Friday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mantorville Opera House, and runs every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., through July 2, 2017.

All is not as it seems in the life of Trudy Leit! She lives with her sweet, old Auntie Mandy, who owns a hotel and a gold mine. But perhaps Mandy isn't and doesn't! What about the hotel guests with good credentials, but an air of evil? What about Trudy herself - is she sweet or is she a schemer? Trudy must sort it all out and learn to discern Truth from Counterfeits!

Written and directed by Nan Strauss of Rochester, the show suitable for all members of the family, this show is sure to please!

Adult admission to the show is just $10, and $8 for those entitled to our "Reduced Rate Admission" including MTC Members, Students, and Seniors. Reserve your tickets at (507) 635-5420, or buy tickets online and view our entire schedule at www.mantorvillain.com. And don't forget to like us on Facebook to stay up to date with all the latest Mantorville Theatre Company news!

Photo: from left: Rayna Lambright (Assistant to the Director), Beth Regener, Ben Peters, Olivia Hjerleid, Doreen Coleman, Jake Dreher, Annie Buresh, Nan Strauss (Director).



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JULY 1: PARKING LOT DANCE
8 P.M. – Midnight
Joe Olivo - DJ Music
No Cover Charge – 21 & Over ID Required

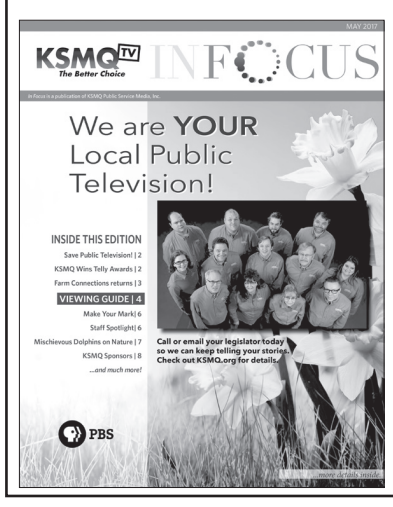
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"The High Street Band"
8 P.M. - Midnight
$5.00 Cover charge
21 & over - ID Required
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JULY 4TH : OPEN BAR / OFF-SALE
9 AM- CLOSE

JULY 22: B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS"

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Straight River Days CELEBRATION



Thursday, June 15

7:00 pm Miss Medford Pageant
followed by children's dance
Medallion Hunt Begins

Friday, June 16

8:00 am City-Wide Garage Sales
7:00 pm Parade
Food Stands Open
Dunk Tank
8:30 pm Music in the Park provided by In the Fields

Saturday, June 17

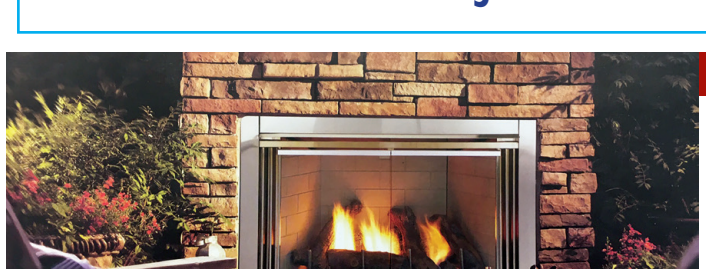
7:30 am Fire 5 – 5K Run/Walk
8:00 am City-Wide Garage Sales
9:00 am Volleyball Tournament
10:00 am Extreme Car Show
sponsored by Extreme Powder Coating
Teen Kickball Tournament
(7th grade – 12th grade)
11:00 am Food Stands Open
Craft Fair/Vendor Sale
Noon Bean Bag Tournament
Face Painter
1:00 pm Kids Peddle Tractor Pull
BINGO (Large Pavilion)
1:30 pm Wild Things Zoo Program
Medford Pool Olympics
3:00 pm Rubber Duck Derby
Penny Dig sponsored by
First State Bank of Red Wing
9:00 pm Muni Street Dance

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Straight River Days
Street Dance!
Must be 21 to enter Saturday, June 17 9:00 pm - 12:30 am

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Featuring Smokescreen

Kubista jumps to Class AA podium in triple jump, 2C

Hometown Sports



The lone Tiger, 3C

C Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, June 13, 2017



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Braydon Kubat runs in the 3200-meter final Friday during the Class AA State Track meet at Hamline University.

Owatonna's Kubat finishes 15th in Class AA 3200-meter final

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – In the lone final event that took place on the scorching track Friday afternoon, Owatonna senior Braydon Kubat found himself in a fast field and simply couldn't get loose.

After being last for much of the final 100 meters in Friday's 3200 - meter run, the Owatonna senior made one last push to catch and ultimately pass Edina's Zachary Miller to finish 15th in his first trip to the state tournament.

"It was good competition," he added after the race. "It was just a great experience to come out here and run for all these people. I mean, it's not every day you get to represent Owatonna at the state meet."

It was a bittersweet ending to a memorable senior season for Kubat. Facing a fast field, three members of the field clocked under 9:11.00 in either their respective section meet or the state final Friday. Add another three who clocked times under 9:40.00 – nearly 10 seconds faster than Kubat's time at the Section 1-AA meet and it was going to be a tough go.

And it was.

While the vast majority of 3200-meter races are ran in tight groups, Kubat noted that it was a different feel. By the midway mark of the race, most of the field broke away from their cluster and were single file, all chasing Maple Grove's Alex Miley. Kubat noted that he struggled getting into a comfort zone.

"When you notice yourself starting to get tight and start drifting back, it's tough to get loose again," he added. "There were a couple times where I tried to just shake it out by dropping my arms, but it's just one of those things where if you don't have the same pre-race routine, it gets to you and you don't feel the same."

After suffering from Planter Fasciitis for much of the cross country season, he managed to qualify for the state cross country meet in his final attempt earlier in the school year. Now, as a senior, after finishing seventh in the Section 1-AA meet as a junior, he jumped up to second to earn a berth in his final shot. Kubat mentioned that his senior season is one he'll cherish.

"It was phenomenal," he added. "It was really everything I could have asked for; I was given great opportunities and I took them. I felt like I left an impact on my team, which is the biggest thing as a captain."

At the team's banquet prior to the Section 1-AA meet, Kubat was named most inspirational by his teammates.

Best in the STATE



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Left: Medford sophomore Luke Johnston throws the shot put during the finals of the wheelchair shot put at the Class A state meet Friday as his coach Jerome Johannes looks on. Right: Johnston throws the discus in the wheelchair discus throw finals at the Class A meet Saturday at Hamline University. The Medford sophomore won state titles in both events while setting a new Class A record in the discus throw.

Medford's Luke Johnston captures two Class A state titles

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul - Two days before the 2017 Minnesota State Track and Field Meet, Medford's Luke Johnston said his coaches told him there was a good chance that he could be a state champion in both the wheelchair shot put and discus throw by the meet's end.

Johnston also said that prior to Friday's wheelchair shot put finals, his nerves were going crazy.

"I was a little nervous," he added. " It was the first time where I was going up against people where I couldn't win possibly."

The nerves were for nothing.

Once he was strapped in to his chair in the ring, it was a display of power.

By tossing 17-03.5, Johnston recorded the first state championship of his career in the wheelchair shot put at Hamline University. In fact, his throw was nearly three feet better than the 2016 state champion. When asked Saturday, Medford head coach Kevin Werk noted that there's a strong chance for Johnston to win multiple titles.

"I really think so," he added.

Head throwing coach Jerome Johannes added that the Medford sophomore set a personal best by five feet.

"He threw outstanding today," he said. "All week he just kept getting better. He did a great job today."

Johnston's throw during the opening round of the event was actually farther than his throw in the finals, throwing 16-03.25. However, with there being two categories that athletes can fall

STATE
Continued on page 3C

Fuel for the future



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Blooming Prairie's Sam Wurst jumps as she attempts to clear the opening mark of 4-10 at the Class A state track meet at Hamline University Friday. Wurst was unable to hit the opening mark on her three attempts.

Despite result, Blooming Prairie's Sam Wurst takes in first trip to Class A State Track Meet

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – After suffering a cervical sprain from a car accident before the start of the season, Blooming Prairie High School junior Samantha Wurst didn't even think she would be able to compete in the high jump this season.

Not only did she compete, but she soared.

After earning a qualification to the state tournament, the lone Blossom to earn the trip took it all in. She mentioned that she traveled from Blooming Prairie to the Twin Cities on Wednesday, allowing her time to get familiar with the event's setting.

"It was kind of cool seeing what it's like to be on a college track," she added.

As for the event, which took place in the opening hour of the Class A meet Friday, Wurst was set to face a challenge from the start. With the implementation of the "five alive" procedure, the junior was set to face 4-10 on her first attempt.

During her first two attempts at the opening mark, Wurst's back nicked the pole just enough to knock it from its rest. In her final attempt, her back managed to clear much of the bar, making it appear that she would stay alive for the next height. However, as she was making her decent, her feet nudged the bar, sending not only the bar tumbling, but her chances of reaching the podium.

At the Section 1-A meet just a week prior, Wurst earned her qualification after clearing 5-00. In fact, she was one of five competitors who reached the mark, with the vast majority of the field sitting within the 5-02 to 5-05 range. She noted that it was eye-opening to see the level of competition.

"It was kind of intimidating, I'd say, seeing all these people where it's not their first trip here," she added. "It was cool though."

Wurst also noted that seeing the level of competition and to see what she could face as a senior has allowed her an open mind as to what she needs to focus on refining or things that she could do better heading into her senior year. Kari Bottin, the head coach of the Blossoms girls track team, noted that to have Wurst come out on top against the adversity she faced this season speaks to her character.

"I think it's a testament to how hard she works, how dedicated she is," commented Bottin. "It takes a strong personality and a strong kid to come back from something like that."

With track season officially finished for Wurst, she noted that her attention will now shift to getting her strength back for volleyball and competing in AAU basketball where she hopes to be ready to commit to a college in the fall to extend her playing career.



Owatonna's Kubista 9th in triple jump

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – Heading into Friday's triple jump at the 2017 Class AA Minnesota State Track and Field meet, Owatonna junior Dalton Kubista knew that if he stuck to his routine, there was a good chance that he would land on the podium.

Despite temperatures reaching the upper 80s, there were no distractions for Kubista. In fact, he noted that he likes it hot.

"I like it when it's hot out because you stay warmer and you don't have to keep warming up in between your jumps," he commented. "So you can just relax in between your jumps."

By sticking a leap of 43-06.75 in the finals, the Owatonna junior soared far enough to edge St. Michael-Albertville's Xavier Thurman for ninth place at the state meet.

"It was my goal to come here and get a medal," he added afterward. "So it feels pretty good."

Kubista, who was seeded 10th in the event, dominated his flight with jumps of 41-03, 42-00.25 and 42-10.25 to claim the top spot in the first flight of eight jumpers. In fact, of the eight competitors and seven who managed to record a distance, just one –Bemidji sophomore Ryan Bieberdorf – was the only competitor to leap further than 41 feet with a 42-07.75 on his third and final attempt.

However, it wasn't going to be smooth sailing in the finals for Kubista.

In the second flight, eventual state champion Christopher Udalla set the bar high after leaping 46-07.75 on his third jump of the flight. As if Udalla's jump wasn't daunting enough to compete with, three athletes in Udalla's flight managed to jump over 45 feet prior to competing in the finals.

"This is the first time that I've seen any of them actually," Kubista said.

In the finals, Kubista posted leaps of 43-06.75, 43-03.75 and 42-03, which was slightly lower than his 43-11.75 just a week ago at the Section 1-AA meet to place in his first ever trip to the state meet.

As for what he has planned as a senior in 2018?

He wants have his name at the top of Owatonna's record board.

"My goal is to break the school record, which is 44-07 I believe," he commented. "My best is like 8-inches off of that, so I have to get stronger and lift a lot so I can get there."

Kubista will now start offseason preparation for football in the fall.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Dalton Kubista of Owatonna soars into the sand pit during the finals of the triple jump in the Class AA state track meet Friday morning at Hamline University. Kubista placed ninth after winning his flight.

Owatonna's Kretlow places 9th in Class AA 800-meter run final



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Syd Kretlow runs the final 100 meters in the Class AA 800-meter final during the state track meet Saturday morning at Hamline University.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Sydney Schultz turns the corner in the 4x200-meter relay final during the Class AA state track meet Saturday morning at Hamline Univeristy. The team of Sara Anderson, Schultz, Karrisa Gregory and Margo Achterkirch ran to a sixth place finish for the Huskies.

Owatonna's 4x200-meter relay team takes 6th in Class AA final

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul - After earning a Section 1-AA title just a week prior, the Owatonna High School girls 4x200-meter relay team now directed its attention to another title.

Only this title would boast the Huskies as the top team in Class AA in Minnesota.

That was if they were able to make it out of a competitive heat during the preliminaries on Friday.

Racing against eventual state champion North St. Paul, the Huskies managed to record a 1:43.03 during the first heat to give them a shot at qualifying for the finals after North St. Paul and Minnetonka received the automatic bid by placing first and second. However, junior Margo Achterkirch noted that it could have been better.

"I think I was just tightening up," she added. "I wasn't breathing like I usually do and I think it was just nerves."

In the preliminaries, Owatonna actually fielded the fourth fastest time as only Minnetonka, North St. Paul and St. Michael-Albertville were the lone teams to record a faster time than 1:43.00. In fact, North St. Paul set a new meet record after recording a blazing 1:39.81.

With the qualification for Saturday's finals, it marked the second-straight year that the Huskies' 4x200 relay team would compete for the podium. Even more impressive, is that most of the participants on the squad were around for last year's third place team. Achterkirch noted that with the experience already under their belt, the understanding of how to recover and relax prior to the following day's finale is prevalent.

"I think it's just reassuring that we made it here and were a team that runs for each other and not for ourselves," she added. "It's just going out there and giving it all we have no matter what place we take."

In Saturday's Class AA final, the Huskies got off to a slow start as junior Sydney Schultz was working overtime to catch up to the pack. As senior Karissa Gregory made the handoff for Achterkirch for the final leg of the race, runners from North St. Paul and St. Michael-Albertville were roughly 50 meters out from the finish.

However, as Actherkirch made the final turn down the front stretch, she managed to pull into a contest for fourth place, but similar to her race in the prelims, started to tighten up and lose ground to Waconia's Molly Reigard and Wayzata's Mallory Marsherall before crossing the finish line for a sixth place finish. The Huskies clocked a 1:44.15, which is nearly a second slower than not only their prelim time, but their Section 1-AA title time.

Luckily for the Huskies, three of the four team members will have a chance to qualify for the state tournament again. For Gregory, it marks the final chapter of her sports career as an Owatonna Husky.

"We just run for each other," she added. "That's what gets us here, that's what gets us on the podium and that's what I feel like makes us a close team."

As for Sara Anderson, Achterkirch and Schultz, the weekend served not only as a motivational factor, but a time to enjoy the rigors of being a high school athlete.

"This is one of the coolest experiences I've had as an athlete," added Schultz. "Just being able to be here and just see all the elite runners that there are, it's really an honor."

Schultz, Anderson and Achterkirch will now turn their attention to preparing for their fall sports they noted.

STARS OF STEELE

Luke Johnston



Afrer winning a pair of Section 1-A titles, the Medford sophomore aimed to win his first state title.

Winning the state title in the wheelchair shot put and discus, Johnston won the school's first state titles for the division. His throw of 41-03 was a Class A record in the discus.

Dalton Kubista



After winning his flight, the Owatonna junior continued to add the acolades to an impressive junior sports season with a ninth place finish in the triple jump at the Class AA state track meet.

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The lone Tiger



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Medford's Luke Johnston practices throwing the discus Wednesday morning at Medford High School. In his first year in the wheelchair division, the sophomore qualified for the shot put and discus after winning Section 1-A titles.

Medford's Luke Johnston qualifies for state track meet in wheelchair shot put and discus division

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

For Luke Johnston, every day is about embracing the challenge that life presents in front of you with an open mind.

Despite having a tragic life event that would nearly kill the competitive drive of most, he has continued to show up to practice and work for nearly the last three years at the shot put and discus for the Medford High School track and field team.

Now, the sophomore will represent the Tigers on the biggest stage in the state.

After winning both the wheelchair shot put and discus throw at the Section 1A tournament on Thursday, June 1, Johnston will be heading to Hamline University for the 2017 Minnesota State Track and Field meet, in just his first year of qualifying for the event.

"I didn't think a lot of it at first, but it's really cool now that I'm able to do it," added Johnston after Wednesday morning. "I can't compete with the other people that well."

In fact, Johnston's journey to the state tournament started at the end of last season. Head throwing coach Jerome Johannes mentioned that when the 2016 season ended, he started asking around and making calls to the MSHSL to truly find out if Johnston – despite not needing the use of a wheelchair – would be eligible to compete in the division.

The reason for attempting to find out whether he qualifies or not is because Johnston has a disability, but doesn't require the use of a wheelchair.

When Johnston was 11 years old, he had a brain hemorrhage that popped, temporarily paralyzing the right side of his body from the shoulder down. After months of therapy, he was able to recover some of the basic motor skills, such as moving his arm and his leg.

However, the Medford sophomore noted that despite the efforts of his physical therapy, there is still some weakness present in the leg, creating what is called in the medical profession as a "foot drop." With that disability, movement skills, such as planting, sticking and even driving off that foot become that much more difficult due to the muscles in the leg having a delayed response to fire, if they fire at all.

"My brain can't send the message to my foot to pick up, so I can't really walk right," he added.

After receiving the ruling from the league earlier this year, it's been nothing but success for the sophomore as Johannes noted he has marked a personal record in every meet he has competed in. Even Johnston noted that the success this season has been a surprise.

"At pretty much every meet, I've made a personal record," he added. "It was new to me this year so every week I just kept getting farther."

Whether he's in full gear as an offensive lineman on the football team in the fall, or sitting on a stool in the throwing circle during the spring, he's out there.

He noted that he may not be the best and that's perfectly fine with him. For Johnston, it's more about being out there with his friends and teammates. Johannes noted that it's great for the MSHSL to have this division.

"It's nice to have his opportunity so that it is an even field, but he never uses that as a crutch," he added. "He would be out here throwing shot and disc without the chair if it wasn't an option. It wouldn't matter."

Johannes noted that the event requires much more core and upper body strength and that much is depending on your technique. With that comes a focus in the little things, such as making sure that the movement and track of your arm while you prepare to throw are at just the right angle. However, no matter how long the day might have been, Johnston always comes ready to work.

"That's Luke," Johannes added. "He goes through practice, never misses a practice and I have never heard one complaint from him ever in track or football. He never lets his disability define who he is." And he has fun doing it."

The success this season has served as motivation for Johnston, noting that when his time at Medford High School is over, he wants to leave a mark.

"I want to break them (school records) by my senior year," he added.

GOLF LEAGUE STANDINGS

WEEK 4 - June 5

1	Pfiefer, Wanous, Hardecopf	26
2	Strunk, Farr, Koster	24.5
3	D. Glynn, C. Gylnn, Esplan	23
4	Braaten, Pirkl, Resler	22.5
4	Bartsch, Lewer, Kartes	22.5
6	Behnken, Peterson, Peterson	22
7	Kruckeberg, Kruckeberg, Johnson	21
7	Doerhoefer, Olson, Worke	21
9	Morgon, Olson, Olson	20
9	Grunklee, Evans, Possehl	20
9	Hinzmann, Wurst, Hueman	20
12	Lembke, Hanson, Benson	19.5
13	Johnson, Kvaltson, Bolver	18.5
13	Larock, Iacovino, Schwartz	18.5
15	Motl, Myer, Lembke	18
16	Clark, Blome, Skala	17
17	White, Lysne, Johnson	16.5
18	Seykora, Schuster, Schuster	16
19	Carlson, Scheifer Jones, Kittleson	15
20	R.Skala, J.Skala, Theile	13.5
21	Stangle, Stangle, Flemming	12.5
22	Klemmensen, J. Klemmensen, R. Anderson	12
23	Lea, Hansen, D. Johnson	10.5
24	Glynn, Gorman, Malo	10
25	Haberman, Henefield, Nahlovsky	10

TOP SCORES

A	Doerhoefer, Olson, Worke	33
A	Larock, Iacovino, Schwartz	33
A	Braaten, Pirkl, Resler	33
B	Lembke, Benson, Hanson	33
B	Strunk, Farr, Koster	33
C	Pfiefer, Wanous, Hardecopf	33
D	Bartsch, Lewer, Kartes	35

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Owatonna's Kodey Kiel selected for the Play Ball! Minnesota High School All-Star Series

The 43rd Annual Play Ball! Minnesota High School Baseball All-Star Series will be held at Chaska Athletic Park June 23 and 24 at Chaska Athletic Park.

The tournament is presented by the Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association, Play Ball! Minnesota, BiG Athletics, and Cambria.

Six teams: North, South, Metro North, Metro South, Metro East and Metro West will play a round robin schedule. 104 of the best baseball players, who are graduating seniors in the state, from all four levels of high school play and representing 86 high schools, have been invited to participate.

Teams will practice Thursday, June 22 and attend a banquet that evening at Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

Proceeds from the Play Ball! Minnesota All-Star Series are donated to a wide-range of charities throughout Minnesota.

Game Schedule:

Friday, June 23

Chaska Athletic Park – All Times are approximate

12:30 p.m. Metro South vs Metro East
3:00 p.m. Metro West vs. North
5:00 p.m. South vs Metro East
7:30 p.m. North vs. Metro North

Saturday, June 24

Chaska Athletic Park
9:00 a.m. South vs. Metro South
11:15 a.m. Metro West vs. Metro North
(after game) Coach/Player Intros; HR Derby, Sponsors, Hall of Famers 1st pitch
3:00 p.m. 3rd Seeds Play
5:30 p.m. 2nd Seeds Play
7:30 Championship Game

Twenty-eight alumni of the tournament have made it to Major League Baseball. Decades of all-star and local baseball memorabilia will be on display at the ballpark.

South All-Stars:

Brady Braaten, Pine Island
Ryan Christopher, Jackson C.C.
Dylan Criquet-Danielson, Marshall
Adam Durfee, Canby
Braden Flock, Springfield
Evan Furst, Mankato West
Kodey Kiel, Owatonna
Brenden Knoll, Kasson-Mantorville
Kasey Kuck, New Ulm Cathedral
Kaylan Legred, Blue Earth Area
Austin Lenhardt, Winona
Joe Macken, Rochester Lourdes
Dallas McBroom, WEM
Rob Meidl, Mankato West
Seth Morem, Red Wing
Cole Pengilly, LeSueur-Henderson
Ethan Swallisch, Rochester Mayo
Zach Smith, Rochester JM
Cole Wellmann, New Ulm
Ben Witham, Albert Lea

South Coaches:

Dan Herold, Rochester Lourdes
Todd Schmidtke, Blue Earth Area



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 9

Results

Outlaw Mini Mods

Feature (12 Laps): 1. Adam Ackerman-Mason City IA; 2. Matt Narveson-Hayfield; 3. Scott Johnson-Owatonna; 4. Bobby Gullickson-Kasson; 5. Anthony Kramer-Owatonna; 6. Jeremy Schubert-Stewartville; 7. Nathan Kilwine-Glenville; 8. Bruce Bennerotte-Byron; 9. Ben Sprung-Osage IA; 10. James Deno-Mantorville; 11. Michael Lawson-Owatonna, [14]; 12. Jon Andree-Austin; 13. (DNF) Michael Schubert-Brownsdale; 14. (DNF) Christopher Deno-Kasson; 15. (DNF) Jaiden Bastyr-Austin.
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. Matt Narveson; 2. Bobby Gullickson; 3. Scott Johnson; 4. 28-Jeremy Schubert; 5. Anthony Kramer; 6. (DNF) James Deno; 7. (DNF) Michael Lawson; (DNS) Bruce Bennerotte.
Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. Adam Ackerman; 2. Jaiden Bastyr; 3. Ben Sprung; 4. Michael Schubert; 5. 15-Nathan Kilwine; 6. Christopher Deno; 7. Jon Andree.

Chateau Pure Stocks

Feature (15 Laps): 1. Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center; 2. Jesse Stahl-Austin; 3. Troy Maas-Faribault; (DQ) David Stevens-Albert Lea; (DQ) Cole Kroneman-Austin; (DQ) Danielle Maas-Owatonna.
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. Jesse Stahl; 2. David Stevens; 3. Chris Hotovec; 4. Troy Maas; 5. Danielle Maas; 6. Cole Kroneman.

WISSOTA Midwest Modified

Feature (18 Laps): 1. Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA; 2. Garritt Wytaske-Austin; 3. Michael Wytaske-Lansing; 4. Billy Steinberg-Kasson; 5. Josh Mattick-Rose Creek; 6. Jeremy Misgen-New Richland; 7. Don Schaefer-Eyota; 8. Dustin Steinbrink-Austin; 9. Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo; 10. Scott Simmons-Lakeville; 11. Terry Kohnerrt-New Richland; 12. Noel Hoppe-New Richland; 13. (DNF) Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie; (DNS) Luke Hainka-Wannamingo; (DNS) Nathan Mchale-Webster.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Ryan Goergen; 2. Dustin Steinbrink; 3. Jeremy Misgen; 4. Garritt Wytaske; 5. William Steinberg; 6. Don Schaefer; 7. (DNF) Luke Hainka; 8. (DNF) Nathan Mchale.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Michael Wytaske; 2. Brayten Cisneros; 3. Darryl Hainka; 4. Josh Mattick; 5. Terry Kohnerrt; 6. Scott Simmons; 7. Noel Hoppe.

WISSOTA Street Stock

Feature (15 Laps): 1. Zach Elward-Hayfield; 2. Fred Prudoehl-Winona; 3. Jason Newkirk-Austin; 4. Blake Adams-McInitre IA; 5. Noah Grinstead-Austin; 6. Mike Blowers-Waseca; 7. Kory Adams-Stacyville IA; 8. Ken Adams-Stacyville IA; 9. Bobby Blowers-Waseca; 10. Brent Holland-Glenville; 11. Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 12. (DNF) Jacob Bennett-Austin.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Zach Elward; 2. Noah Grinstead; 3. Mike Blowers; 4. Fred Prudoehl; 5. Cody Hyatt; 6. 16-Jacob Bennett.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Blake Adams; 2. Bobby Blowers; 3. Jason Newkirk; 4. Kory Adams; 5. Ken Adams; 6. (DNF) Brent Holland.

USRA Limited Modified

Feature: 1. Derek Clement-Spring Valley; 2. Kadden Kath-Owatonna; 3. Jayden Larson-Mankato; 4. Matthew Brooks-Austin; 5. Raey Hastings IV-Austin; 6. Justin Murray-Owatonna; 7. (DNF) Nate Chodur-Lake Mills IA.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Nate Chodur; 2. Jayden Larson; 3. Kadden Kath; 4. 4-Derek Clement; 5. Matthew Brooks; 6. Raey Hastings IV; 7. Justin Murray.

USRA A Mod

Feature (25 Laps): 1. Jason Cummins-New Richland; 2. Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin; 3. Brandon Aggen-Miltona; 4. Darwin Karau-Kasson; 5. Dwaine Hanson-Lakefield; 6. Greg Jensen-Albert Lea; 7. Jacob Dahle-Morristown; 8. Jacob Stark-Austin; 9. Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie; 10. (DNF) Brian Shaw-Brownsdale.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Jacob Dahle; 2. Brian Shaw; 3. Greg Jensen; 4. Darwin Karau; 5. Jacob Stark.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Jason Cummins; 2. Brandon Aggen; 3. Greg Pfeifer Jr; 4. Dwaine Hanson; 5. (DNF) Doug Hillson.

Hornet (Single Feature Event)

Feature (15 Laps): 1. Caylie Blowers-Waseca; 2. Pat Wells-Faribault; 3. Lucas Geisler-Richfield; 4. Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 5. Corbin Giesler-West Concord; 6. Haley Kiefer-Taopi; 7. Cale Giesler-West Concord; 8. (DNF) Brian Adams-Shakopee; 9. (DNF) Alan Schmidt-Hayward.
***No feature - low car count**

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Johnston wins both events

TRACK: from page 1C

into, and the fact that preliminary throws carry over the finals, essentially locked up Johnston's title.

After already standing on top of the podium on Friday, Johnston came back to Hamline University Saturday, with one thing on his mind.

He wanted to stand on that podium again.

Due to the extreme heat wave that scorched most of the fans and athletes in attendance, the set up for the wheelchair discus was altered to allow for a quicker event. Rather than throwing three times and then entering the finals, the athletes were going to throw all six attempts and a champion to be crowned shortly thereafter.

Being the third athlete to throw, Johnston not only had a chance to see his competition, but to get a chance to have the heat warm up his body just a while longer.

The wait, while long, was worth it.

On his fourth attempt, Johnston wound up, released and watch it sail.

It sailed 43-feet, 1-inch and cemented Johnston into Class A history.

The mark didn't just solidified his second state title of the meet, but crushed the previous state record by nearly 20 feet.

" I think it was cool that I was able to do it my first year," Johnston added Saturday. "Now that I have the Class A record, I want to break the all-time record."

Other than the obvious enjoyment of winning two state titles in his first ever trip to the state meet, Johnston noted that it was cool to experience the overall fan engagement in all the events.

"It's really cool," he added. "A lot of people around and even if they don't know you, they still cheer for you. It makes me feel good."

Blooming Prairie boys golf wins second straight Section 1-A title

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Rochester - If there was any doubt as to the dominant play by the BP boys' golf team in the section 1A golf meet, a 43-point spread between first place should have put any doubts to rest. The Awesome Blossoms used a second day 339 for a 36-hole total of 681 at Willow Creek Golf Course in Rochester Monday, June 5. The team had carded a 342 the Thursday previous.

Fillmore Central finished second in the meet with a 724 total, Lewiston-Altura shot a 725 for third, and Bethlehem Academy rounded out the top four with a 757. Individually, Tommy Braaten claimed medalist honors for the second year in a row, defeating B.A.'s Khrystian Peterson by four strokes 149 to 153. Taylor Christianson also qualified individually for the state meet, the fourth time at that event for her.

As Coach Cory Hendrickson remarked following the meet, "I am extremely proud of the boys' team. They are kids who love golf and enjoy the effort involved in getting better. As for Braaten, he strikes the ball so well, has a very even temperament and is mentally strong. He deserves all the success he receives.

"Taylor Christianson did not play as well as she would have liked, but she will definitely be a threat at state."

Behind Braaten's performance, Lucas Noble finished fifth with a 166, Jake Ressler carded a 174, and Kollyn Alwes shot a 192 for the final Blossom score. Austin Behne finished the day with a 98, and Colin Jordison shot a one-day 99. Christianson shot a 184 for the meet, and Jessica Ressler carded a 199.



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How to avoid growing bored in retirement



From the moment young men and women first walk into the office for their first day as a working professional until the day they officially retire, the notion of planning for retirement is never far from their minds. But when the day to hang up the briefcase and donate all those business suits arrives, some retirees wonder what to do next. Some retirees know exactly how they will spend their days when they no longer have to work, while others who decide to play it by ear may find themselves battling boredom.

For those among the latter group, it's important to understand that many retirees find themselves bored once they no longer have to focus on a career. Jobs keep men and women busy and provide a sense of purpose in their lives, so it's understandable that retirees feel bored once those jobs are no longer a part of their lives. But just because you no longer have an office to go to every day does not mean life cannot be as fulfilling or even more fulfilling than it was when you were still working. You just need to find something to avoid succumbing to retirement boredom.

• Work part-time. Though it might seem odd to start working right after you retire, a part-time job can provide the type of structure you have grown accustomed to without all of the responsibility that comes with a full-time career. Part-time jobs can range from consultancy work that makes use of your professional experience to something entirely different like landscape maintenance at a nearby golf course that gets you out of the house and enjoying the warmer seasons. Whichever you choose, make sure it's something you find fun and interesting.

• Embrace a new hobby. Working professionals often say they wish they had time to pursue a hobby. Now that you are retired, you have all the time in the world to do just that. Whether it's perfecting your golf game, writing that novel, learning to cook like a gourmet chef or whatever else you might have always wanted to do, retirement is a great time to do it.

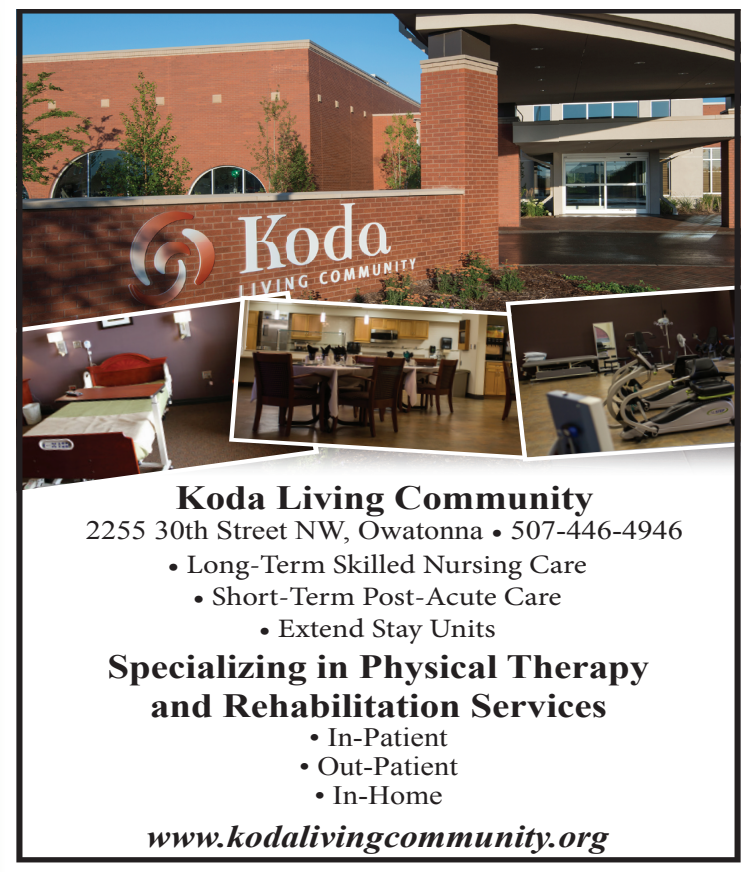
• Get in shape. If retirement boredom has started to negatively affect your mood, one great way to conquer your boredom and improve your mood at the same time is to start exercising. Exercise is a natural mood enhancer. When the body exercises, it releases chemicals knowns as endorphins, which trigger positive feelings in the body. In addition, regular exercise has been shown to reduce stress, boost self-esteem and improve sleep. Working out at a gym also is a great way to meet fellow retirees in your community, and the energy you have after exercising may give you the boost you need to pursue other hobbies.

• Volunteer. If a part-time job is not up your alley, then consider volunteering in your community. Volunteers are always in demand, and volunteering with a local charity can provide a sense of purpose and provide opportunities to meet like-minded fellow retirees, all while helping to quell your boredom. Retirees who love to travel can combine their passion for volunteering with their love of travel by signing up to work with an international relief organization that travels abroad to help the less fortunate.

Upon retiring, many retirees initially find themselves coping with boredom. But there are many ways to avoid the restlessness of retirement.

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Call Natalie at 507-413-6800 or email natalie@birchwoodcottagesmn.com; to set up a tour of our current building, we can discuss information on our new building, and we can secure your loved ones place in our community.

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Open House
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Open house for professionals
June 14, 2-4 pm.

Feel free to contact Birchwood Cottages with any questions

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- *Walk-In Registration (begins at 7:00 a.m.): Park & Recreation*
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Owatonna's 7th Annual Weekend Out: July 14-16

Fridays Activities

Camp Out and a movie at Brown Park
-Camp set up 6:00pm
-Movie begins 8:45-9:00pm
Tennis in the Park at Brown Park
-Begins at 7pm
-Register at the Park & Rec office

Saturdays Activities

Owatonna Farmer's Market Family Fun Day at Central Park
-8:00am-12:00pm
Diaper Dash-Toddler Trot-Kids K Trail Runs at Dartts Park
-Register at the Parks & Rec Office-Races are free
-Race beings at 9:00am
Rec-on-the-Go
-11:00am-1:00pm at Manthey Park
-Games, arts and crafts, and more!
Family Adventure Race
-3:00pm at Central Park
-Register at Central Park
Backyard Game
-4:00-6:00pm
Location TBD

Sundays Activities

Family Sunday Funday rates at Brooktree Golf Course available ALL DAY!
River Springs Water Park Super Splash Weekend out Special: $2.50 admission all day

Upcoming Events

- ***June 13:*** *Learn to skate begins*
- ***June 14:*** *Flag Day-Veteran's Special at Brooktree Golf Course*
- ***June 16:*** *Movie in Central Park*
- ***June 17:*** *Brooktree Young Life Tournament*
- ***June 18:*** *Father's Day Special at Brooktree Golf Course*
- ***June 25:*** *River Springs Ducky Dash*
- ***June 30:*** *Two-Four-Fun at Brooktree Golf Course*
- ***July 8:*** *Ken Bey Football Tournament at Brooktree Golf Course*
- ***July 10:*** *Junior Golf Begins*
- ***July 14:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Camp out and a Movie -Brown Park*
- ***July 14:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Tennis in the Park -Brown Park*
- ***July 15:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out- Farmer's Market Family Fun Day -Central Park*
- ***July 15:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Diaper Dash/Toddler Trot/Kids K Trail Run -Dartts Park*
- ***July 15:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Rec-on-the-go -Manthey Park*
- ***July 15:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Family Adventure Race -Central Park*
- ***July 15:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Backyard Game-TBD*
- ***July 16:*** *Owatonna's Weekend Out-Family Sunday Funday rates at Brooktree Golf Course available ALL DAY!*
- ***July 30:*** *Mother's Day special at River Springs Water Park*
- ***August 6-7:*** *Owatonna Tennis Association 4th Annual Tennis Tournament*
- ***August 6:*** *Family Special Day at River Springs Water Park*
- ***August 7:*** *Farm Camp Minnesota*
- ***August 26:*** *Celebrate National Dog Day-Lake Chase Dog Park*
- ***ONGOING:*** *Calendar contest submission through October 2017*
- ***ONGOING:*** *Sunday Family Funday at Brooktree Golf Course*
- ***ONGOING:*** *Rockin' Around Owatonna*

Parks and Recreation Contact Information:

Office & Information Line 507-444-4321
Tennis & Fitness Center 507-444-4290
Fax 507-444-4299
SeniorPlace 507-444-4280
Facebook Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Brooktree Clubhouse 507-444-2467
Email Address parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park 507-774-7370

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How to Fight Dry Eyes and Protect Your Vision

Dear Savvy Senior
What all can be done to combat dry eyes? Since I turned 50, my eyes have become increasingly dry and irritated.
Constantly Blinking

Dear Blinking,
Dry eyes is a common problem that affects more than one-third of middle-aged and older Americans. But you don't have to just put up with it. There are lifestyle adjustments and multiple treatment options available today to keep your eyes moist and healthy. Here's what you should know.

Dry Eye Issues

Dry, red, irritated eyes are one of the most common reasons for visits to the eye doctor, but discomfort isn't the only problem of dry eyes. Light sensitivity and blurred or fluctuating vision are common problems too, and worse yet, dry eyes are more likely to get scratched or infected, which could damage your vision permanently.

The reason people get dry eyes are because they either don't produce enough tears to keep their eyes properly lubricated, or because they produce poor quality tears.

In some cases dry eyes can be triggered by medical conditions such as diabetes, thyroid diseases, allergies, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and Sjogren's syndrome. It can also be brought on by age (tear production tends to diminish as we get older), eye conditions, eyelid problems, certain medications, environmental factors and even LASIK and cataract surgery. Dry eyes are also more common in women, especially after menopause.

Lifestyle Adjustments

The first step experts recommend in dealing with dry eyes is to check your lifestyle and surroundings for factors that might be contributing to the problem and make adjustments:

- Avoid blowing air: Keep your eyes away from air vents, hair dryers, oscillating and ceiling fans and consider buying a home humidifier.
- Blink more: When you're reading, watching television, or using a smartphone, tablet or computer, take frequent breaks because these activities cause you blink less often.
- Avoid irritants: Avoid smoke-filled places and if you swim, wear goggles to cut down exposure to chemicals.
- Use protection outside: When you go outdoors, use sunglasses that wrap around the sides of your face to protect yourself from sun, glare, wind, and dust.
- Check your meds: Dozens of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs like antihistamines, decongestants, diuretics, beta-blockers, antidepressants, tranquilizers, and Parkinson's medications can all cause dry eyes. If you're taking any of these, ask your doctor about alternatives.
- Get more omega-3s: Studies show that eating more fish and other foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (or take a supplement) helps some people.

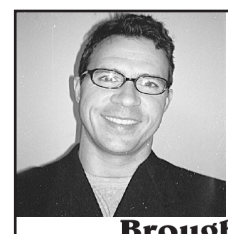
Treatment Options

If adjusting your environment and habits doesn't do the trick, there are a variety of OTC artificial tears that can help. If you experience a lot of burning, try another product or opt for a preservative-free formula. If your dry-eye is persistent, use gel-containing drops like Refresh, Systane and GenTeal. The gel will keep your eyes lubricated for longer periods. If you need a product that's even longer lasting, consider OTC lubricating ointments like Refresh PM.

If the lifestyle and OTC treatments don't help, see an ophthalmologist. He or she can offer additional advice and may prescribe a medication. There are several FDA approved medications for dry eye including Xiidra and Restasis, and one in development called Lacripep.

If your dry eye is severe and does not improve, you doctor might recommend a simple office procedure that plugs the small openings (tear ducts) that drain tears away from the eyes. Blocking these openings with punctual plugs keeps tears in place longer.

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.


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History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elise Slinger, Editor
June 12th, 2007

Last weekend, a handful of Boy Scouts, along with Cathy Waldock and Pat Kitchings, spent their Saturday mornings handing out BP Life Capsules to citizens of Blooming prairie . The morning was a joint effort be-tween the young men and Waldock and Kitchings who work with SEMCAC and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The BP Life Capsule is a large pill bottle that people may place in their refrigerators; if someone in the home experiences a medical emergency, they can retrieve their health history from the cap-sule.

In the summer many people like to have gardens, and since the early 1990's Frank 'N Tom's Garden Plants have provided quality flowers, vegetables, and other plants for those gardens. Frank N' Tom's Plants is locat-ed just a little bit south of Blooming Prairie on Highway 218. The main owner is Frank Vorlicek. He was a teacher from 1967-2001, most of those years at Blooming Prairie Public Schools.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
June 17th , 1997

Normally the Blooming Prairie Fire Department doesn't fund raise for equipment,- the city and townships have answered they calls. but this time it is different. With increasing taxes to townships and residents, the department is looking to conscientiously raise $156,000 for a new pumper truck another way. Money raised will replace the backup, a 1954 International pumper truck. The department has relied on it for several years.

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's club is selling raffle tickets to enable one lucky person to win a well equipped Ford Escort this July 4th, 1997. For the cost of $10 ticket you could be sitting in a brand new car. If you're not the lucky winner of the car you could still with one of nine $100dollar end place prizes. Only 2000 tickets will be sold. The profits will go to Veterans and Blooming Prairie projects.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, & Vyrle Krejci, Editors
June 15th, 1967

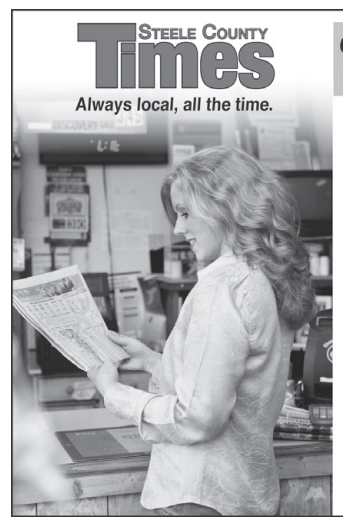
Miss Margaret Ann Colenberg and Miss Kathleen Herron, both of Blooming Prairie, will be among 123 gradu-ates of St. Mary's School of Nursing at commencement excursuses on Sunday, June 18. Margaret is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joesph Herron. Both girls are graduates of Blooming Prairie High School. The Most Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Bishop of Winona, will present the diplomas to the graduate nurses.

Betlach Food co. one of Blooming Prairie pioneer business firms, will celebrate with a gigantic three-day sale on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week, June 15-17. The Betlach Food Co. was established in Bloom-ing Prairie in 1892 and has been a familiar name in the business district for the past 75 years. In honor of the firm's diamond anniversary, they are offering their customers an opportunity to participate in an "S. and H. Green Stamp" bonanza.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
June 18th, 1942

Two additional changes in the faculty of the school system here was announce this week by the Board of Ed-ucation. Lucille Cook of Farmington, has been engaged to head the Commercial department. She succeeds James Reynolds, who is subject to military services this summer. Miss Cook has been teaching for the past year at Morristown, Minnesota, and has several years successful teaching experience. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Marion Heaser, of Plainview, has been elected to replace Mildred Hal, 4th and 5th grade teacher who resigned recently.

A total of 610 families from this community was registered here last Thursday, Friday and Saturday for spe-cial allotments of canning sugar. The registration was handled by the Victory Aides, volunteer group of Blooming Prairie women who are devoting considerable time to all types of patriotic work in the community. Certificates, authorizing the actual purchase of the canning sugar allotment, will be mailed to each family by the first of next week.


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Area Church Spotlight

St. John's Lutheran Church, Sargeant, MN

Pastor's corner: Why do some churches do CLOSED communion?

Some say it's because they think they're better than everyone else. Or because they don't want outsiders to join them. Or because they're secretly aliens in disguise, who want to take over the world.

Actually, no one says that last thing, because that would be mean! But isn't it mean to say they think they're better than everyone else? And isn't it mean to say they don't like outsiders? Yes. It's mean to accuse them of those things too.

I get it. When a church says, "Before you take Communion with us, you should become a member," or something, that can hurt your feelings. It can make you feel like you're being judged. I've been there. Understandable.

But I'm writing today, to help you NOT feel judged! I'm going to explain what's really going on here, so you'll know there's nothing to be embarrassed about!

I can't speak for all churches, but when a Lutheran church tells you they take Communion only with members of the Lutheran Church, they are NOT judging your faith. They are inviting you to come closer.

Here's why: as you know, the Lutherans, the Catholics and the Methodists each have a different take on things. Same with the Baptists and the Non-Denominationals, etc. (I know – it would be great if everyone automatically agreed. It's not as easy as it sounds. But you can help, if you are willing to learn! By all means, come get some training!)

So, if some Lutherans tell you, "Don't take Communion here just yet," congratulations! You are now in the same boat every Lutheran has ever been in. This is because they have all gone through the SAME steps to get where they are: No.1 Baptism, No.2 Discipleship (learning the Bible), No.3 Absolution (receiving forgiveness of your very own sins) No.4 Confession of Faith (telling the whole church publicly what you believe) and No.5 Communion. (All from the Bible.)

Usually, they happen in that order. Notice, Communion is last. Look at the history of Jesus' life: Baptism comes first (Matthew ch. 3), Communion comes last (Matthew ch. 26). Between them, there's lots of other goodies. Lutherans want to give you all those goodies. Not just one part.

So, suppose you're not Lutheran. If Lutherans did "Open Communion" for you, they'd be rushing you straight to the last part, and short-changing you on the rest! They might say, "It's because we are loving." But then they raise their own children with the privilege of going in order. How would that be fair to you? Or, if you like that double standard (for some reason), do you think you're so special that every church should change its religion, because you require accommodation?

Nah. In fact, you wouldn't want a church that does that. You want a church that is animated by the mercy of Jesus Christ – not by the whims of human beings.

You want a church that is willing to suffer for its message – not afraid to tell the bullies they're wrong. And you want a church that cares whether you go to heaven or hell.

We are all in the same boat, friends. So, when Lutherans say, "Don't take Communion here just yet," they're telling you they like you.

Trust me on this one. I'm a Lutheran.

Pastor Collin Duling
St. John's Lutheran
Sargeant

Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (5881 118th St, Blooming Prairie) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am

(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4th), Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Aurora Lutheran Church (6329 SE 38th St, Owatonna) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am
(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4) Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

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.goodshephardowatonna.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 7 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.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
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
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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.

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609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
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Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
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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

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7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666
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(June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

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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.

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307 First St. SW., New Richland
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The Rev. Adam McMillan,
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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
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The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales,
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(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Litomysl Summer Festival, Sunday July 30

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.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
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Fr. Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
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Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
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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
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Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
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Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
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Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
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Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
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www.upcowatonna.com
Sundat Service: 10am

Methodist

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

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

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.
Starting June 4, there will be one service at 9 a.m. followed by coffee time.

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

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

Mormon

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

Presbyterian

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

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

UCC

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

Assembly of God

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

Baptist

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

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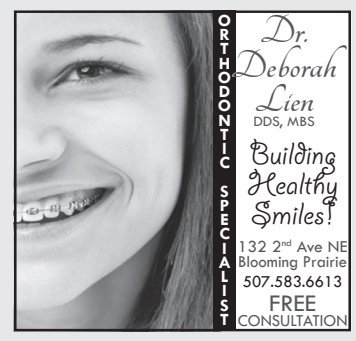
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STATE BOUND!



Congratulations to the Blossoms boys' golf team and girls' golfer Taylor Christenson on qualifying for the Class A State Golf Tourney this week at Pebble Creek.

We're proud of your awesome achievements... go Blossoms!

This message sponsored by these community sports boosters:

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Best of Luck to all our golfers at State!
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Blooming Prairie
507-583-4472

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THE STEELE COUNTY TIMES

Congratulations Tommy Braaten!



Tommy graduated with honors from Blooming Prairie, an honor resvered for students who finish with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.



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www.steeledodgenews.com

USDA seeks grant applications supporting development of rural community facilities

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue recently announced that USDA is seeking applications for technical assistance and training grants in the Community Facilities program.

"Too often, rural community organizations lack the technical expertise they need to access federal dollars," Perdue said. "These technical assistance and training grants will help rural organizations overcome hurdles that prevent them from fully utilizing the Community Facilities Program. Increased access to federal funding will help build essential community facilities, and will allow rural areas to thrive."

The grants are being provided through the Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program. Congress authorized this new program in the 2014 Farm Bill to help rural communities develop their applications for Community Facilities loans and grants.

Communities can use the grants to hire specialized personnel, pay for feasibility studies, retain consultants to prepare financial assistance applications and identify and plan for long-term community facilities needs.

Providing technical assistance will help more rural communities qualify for loans and grants. Many often lack access to specialized personnel who complete financial and environmental analyses, for example. These analyses often must be included in applications for USDA loans and grants.

Public bodies, non-profit organizations and Federally-recognized Tribes are eligible to apply for this funding. The maximum grant is $150,000.

Interested applicants may find more information about this program on page 23525 of the May 23, 2017, Federal Register.

Community Facilities programs help underserved rural communities develop essential community services, which in turn helps attract investments, create and retain jobs and businesses, and retain residents.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; homeownership; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Down on the farm

Hailey Meskill of Rochester enjoyed petting a dairy calf Saturday morning at the Steele County Breakfast on the Farm on the Kasper Dairy Farm south of Owatonna. The 5-year-old made the trip to the farm with her grandmother, Sandy Schlachter, of Claremont. More than 1,000 people from all over the region enjoyed a pancake breakfast, along with various festivities for the children. Breakfast on the Farm is held in junction with June Dairy Month as a way to teach people about the dairy industry and farm life in general. The event is sponsored by Steele County American Dairy Association.



Minnesota Crop Report



Minnesota farmers took advantage of the **6.1 days suitable for field work** to nearly complete planting during the week ending June 11, 2017 according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Continued warm and dry conditions advanced crop development statewide. Crop reporters suggest that rain is needed to benefit crops planted on lighter soils. Field activities for the week included planting, spraying herbicides, and cutting hay.

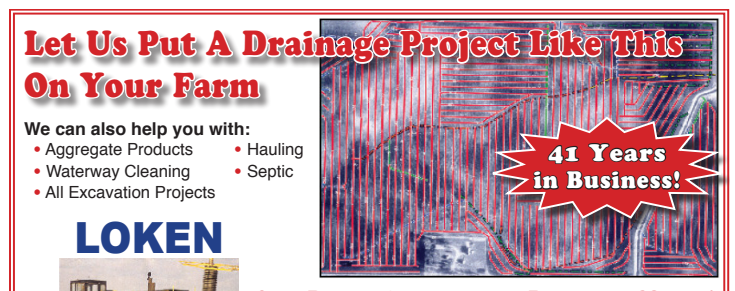
Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 2 percent very short, 17 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 87 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus.

Nearly all of Minnesota's **corn** has emerged. Corn condition improved slightly to 78 percent good to excellent. **Soybean** planting was 99 percent complete. Soybean emergence, at 87 percent statewide, remained ahead of the 5- year average. Soybean condition improved to 78 percent good to excellent.

Spring wheat was 39 percent jointed or beyond, 9 days behind average. There were scattered reports of spring wheat heading. Spring wheat condition rated 93 percent good to excellent. Seventy-two percent of the oats were at or beyond the jointing stage, with 11 percent headed or beyond. Oats condition was 81 percent good to excellent. The barley crop was 7 percent headed, 2 days behind last year and 1 day behind average. Barley condition rated 89 percent good to excellent. Sixty-eight percent of the **dry edible bean** crop had emerged. **Sunflower** planting was at **97** percent completed. Potato condition was rated 88 percent good to excellent.

The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** advanced 29 percentage points to 74 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of average. **All hay** condition rated 81 percent good to excellent. **Pasture** condition rated 75 percent good to excellent.







JD 4455, 4250, 3020 TRACTORS - OTHER GOOD FARM MACHINERY
2011 FORD F250 - VERY GOOD WOODWORKING TOOLS

MATT MARING AUCTION CO.

To help settle the estate of Arnold (Arnie) Petricka, there will be a public auction on all items listed. AUCTION LOCATION: 9524 East 255th Street, Medford, MN, 55049. From Medford go east on Co. Rd. 12, turn north on Co. Rd. 19, then east on Co. Rd. 13, North Ebson Ave. (Watch for signs)

Saturday, June 17, 2017 9:00 A.M.

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ARNIE WAS KNOWN FOR GIVING HIS MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT THE VERY BEST OF CARE

VIEWING June 10 - Auction Day

EXCEPTIONAL JD 4455-4250 W/LOADER 3020 FARM TRACTORS



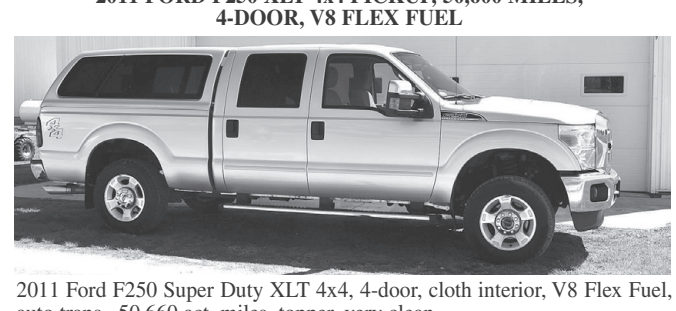
1992 John Deere 4455 2 WD, 4,538 act. hours, 480/80/42 w/duals, 90%, 3-pt. QH, 16 suitcase weights, 3 hyd. 540/1000 PTO, Hammer strap, 15-speed P/S, New Style step, SN:4455PO21584 - 1983 John Deere 4250 2WD, 4,140 hours, 18.4x38, 70%, 540/1000 PTO, 3-pt., 2 hyd., New Style step, 15-speed P/S, with John Deere 720 hyd. loader w/joy stick - John Deere 3020 gas, 6,233 hours, open station, 15.5x38, 75%, 3-pt., 2 hyd. Synco shift, fenders, rear wheel weights, SN:R072517R - 84" Hyd. grapple fork, fits 720 loader.

RITE WAY RR1000 ROCK PICKER - JD 2800 PLOW - OTHER GOOD MACHINERY & FARM-RELATED ITEMS



Rite Way RR1000 tandem axle rock picker, hyd. reel, swing hitch, SN:92-102097 - John Deere 2810 5-bottom plow, Vari-Width - John Deere Hit & Miss gas engine - (3) Good flatbed hay racks, 8'x16', 8'x15' w/10-ton gears and 7'x12' on 6-ton gear - Danuser 3-pt. post hole digger - 3 Pt. bale spear - 3 Pt. Quick Hitch - John Deere 2-row corn planter - Win Power 45-25 PT3 PTO generator on cart - IHC 55 chisel plow, 3-pt., 11' - Patz 110' material conveyor, 8" belt - (4) Stainless livestock feeders - (2) Bulk feed tanks - Harvestor 5 hp. Roller mill - Steel fence post - 10'-12'-16' Livestock gates - Pull-type steel wheel twp. road grader - JD 2-bottom plow on steel - JD narrow ft. - Canopy for tractor - Primitive corn sheller - DeLaval cream separator.

2011 FORD F250 XLT 4x4 PICKUP, 50,600 MILES, 4-DOOR, V8 FLEX FUEL



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EXCEPTIONAL WOODWORKING TOOLS - OTHER TOOLS





Ridgid 13" planer - Power Matic model 60B 6'x8" jointer - Dremel 16" scroll saw - Mini Max 5-45 band saw - Laguna model MDC0560, dust collector, 220 volt - Ridgid spindle sander - Makita power miter saw - Triton 2 ¼ plunge router - Router table - Router bits - Rockler dovetail jig - Power Matic 1150 drill press - Peerless 9-sp. drill press - Bessey wood clamps - Quick Grip wood clamps - 100 lb. anvil - Gas torch - Lincoln stick welder - Welding table - 1/4-3/8-1/2-3/4-Socket sets - Machinist tool chest - Large Shop-Built hydraulic press - Shop-Built 10' belt sander - Scrap iron - Lumber



SPECIAL NOTE: The Petrickas have always been known for the excellent care and attention given to their equipment. **TERMS:** Cash, check, all major credit cards. All sales final; all items sell as-is, where-is. All items must be paid for the same day as the auction.

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Arnold (Arnie) Petricka Estate

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Suspicion. On June 4, a citizen reported that a woman was wandering through yards, laughing and flapping her arms in the 300 block of 1st St. NE in Hayfield at 10:32 a.m.

Crime brief

Man's potty break attracts attention of police


Jacob P. Banks

A man who took longer than usual on the toilet drew special attention from the police.

Owatonna Police responded to Sterling Drug June 7 for a man who had been in the bathroom for more than an hour. He was believed to be doing drugs.

When officers arrived, they found the man sitting in the stall, but not making the sounds one would expect. Instead officers heard sniffing and snorting sounds coming from the toilet.

As the man exited and placed his hands behind his back, he dropped an open case, which revealed a loaded syringe with presumptive methamphetamine and other drug-related items.

Police arrested Jacob P. Banks, 24, for fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance, which is a felony.

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
June 2

DWI. At 1:08 a.m., police arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 1:44 a.m.

Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 700 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:33 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Drugs. Police responded to drug activity in the 1500 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 10:34 p.m.

June 3

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:48 p.m.

Robbery. At 11:02 p.m., police responded to a robbery in the 100 block of Main St. E.

June 4

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 800 block of Park Dr. NW at 1:03 a.m.

Crash. Police assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 26th St. NW and State Ave. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 3:11 a.m.

Warrant. At 8:47 a.m., police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of Vine St. E.

Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 1:06 p.m.

June 5

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist at Park St. SE and Cedar Ave. S. at 12:30 a.m.

Criminal Sexual Conduct. At 8:11 a.m., officers began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Assist. Officer assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 8:55 a.m.

Drugs. Police responded to drug activity in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 10:35 a.m.

Robbery. At 11:03 a.m., officers responded to a robbery at Linn Ave. SW and Mosher Ave. SW.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:30 p.m.

Domestic. At 6:04 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of 15th St. SE. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Domestic Disturbance. Police arrested a juvenile following a domestic disturbance in the 700 block of 14th St. NE at 7:51 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 8:46 p.m.

June 6

Domestic Abuse. At 9:06 a.m., police arrested a subject for violating domestic abuse court in the 200 block of 12th St. NE.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Main St. E. at 9:49 a.m.

Disturbance. Officers responded to disturbances in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 1:19 p.m. and in the 3000 block of St. Paul Rd. at 5:49 p.m.

June 7

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest at Oak Ave. N. and Broadway St. W. at 5:11 a.m.

Driving Complaint. At 7:24 a.m., police received a driving complaint from the 100 block of Rose St. E. They found the motorist and arrested him.

Assist. Police assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 8:58 a.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:45 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Park Dr. NW and Bridge St. W. at 5:39 p.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 8:06 p.m.

June 8

Traffic Arrest. Police made a traffic arrest at Oak Ave. S. and Mill St. W. at 12:56 a.m.

Thefts. Police took six theft reports throughout the day.

Suspicion. At 5:55 p.m., officers responded to suspicious activity in the 1000 block of Vine St. E. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:38 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
June 2

Arrest. Deputies arrested motorists following traffic stops in the 200 block of Main St. S. in Medford at 4:57 a.m. and at 76th St. NW and 72nd Ave. NW in Deerfield Township at 3:21 p.m.

Burglary. At 11:48 a.m., deputies began an investigation of a burglary in the 900 block of 8th Ave. W. in Ellendale.

Warrant. Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 4:07 p.m.

June 3

Predatory Offender. At 12:22 p.m., deputies responded to a predatory offender incident in the 600 block of Jansen Place in Ellendale.

Vandalism. Deputies received information regarding property damage in the 2000 block of 88th St. SW in Somerset Township at 5:49 p.m.

June 4

Shoplifting. Shoplifting incidents occurred in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford at 4:37 p.m. and 5:48 p.m.

Arrest. Deputy arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 5th Ave. E. and School St. in Ellendale at 9:35 p.m.

June 5

Theft. Deputies took theft reports in the 3500 block of 18th St. SE in Havana Township at 4:04 p.m. and in the 1800 block of 24th Ave. SE in Owatonna Township at 4:42 p.m.

June 6

Child Abuse. Deputies received a child abuse report from the 500 block of School St. S. in Ellendale at 11:19 a.m.

June 7

Missing Person. Deputies assisted with locating a missing person from the 700 block of 5th St. S. in Ellendale at 9:10 p.m.

Court news
Steele County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 29 – June 2:

Blooming Prairie
Police Department

Daniel E. Johnson, 25, Austin, suspended license and no insurance, $481; Raymond Tello Jr., 53, Rochester, cancelled license, $381 and 1 year of supervised probation; Samantha S. Weir, 29, Austin, no license, no child passenger restraint system and no insurance, $431.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

James O. Alexander, 38, Kiester, revoked license, $281; Marcello Bermea III, 33, Hayfield, speeding, $131; Justin B. Blank, 21, West Concord, suspended license, $281; Kimberly K. Christenson, 51, Waseca, expired registration, $111;

Thomas A. Clements, 32, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Dakota J. Ellingson, 22, Medford, seat belt, $106; Marie Ellingson, 35, Mason City, IA, suspended license, $281; Grady E. Keding, 21, Wausau, WI, speeding, $141;

Kurtis J. Keller, 19, Rochester, speeding, $121; Mary E. Koss, 71, Faribault, illegal u-turn, $131; Brandon B. Matich, 32, Andover, speeding, $131; Precious E. Rickmon, 19, Peoria, IL, seat belt, $106; Stefanie M. Schebloom, 47, Shakopee, speeding, $141;

Holly L. Schnobrich, 33, Becker, suspended license, stay of adjudication, $181 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Anthony W. Schuler, 29, Medford, speeding, $121;

Christian G. Skjeveland, 47, Claremont, seat belt, $106; Angelica Z. Soltero, 38, Faribault, suspended license, $281; Corrissa E. Stetler, 42, Sherburn, registration violation, $111; Angelica S. Zepeda, 38, Faribault, invalid license, $181.

Owatonna Police
Department

Luis A. Cuevas, 27, Minneapolis, violation of restraining order, $481, 87 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, domestic abuse evaluation, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Zachary M. Demars, 25, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, $481;

Kayla A. Finne, 25, Owatonna, DWI, $381, complete treatment, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation; Jessie M. Gillis, 44, Faribault, revoked license and failure to obey lane marker, $331;

Kaleb A. Holmes, 22, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, $111; Michael P. Howlett, 58, Chatfield, expired tabs, $111; Jared R. Jirele, 27, Owatonna, DWI, $381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Tahlon R. Joslyn, 23, Owatonna, burglary, $581, 4 days in county jail, 200 hours of Pro-Social Programming, cognitive skill training and 2 years of supervised probation; Troy A. Meyer, 50, Austin, no insurance, $281;

Mahad A. Mohamoud, 23, North Mankato, theft, $359.13 and 90 days in county jail; Cassandra E. Musel, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Ross R. Richardson, 71, Pipestone, possession of paraphernalia, $181; Shandra M. Saufferer, 46, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Janice K. Schultz, 51, Owatonna, following vehicle too closely, $131;

Jacob D. Stricklin, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Osmin Varela, 27, Northfield, no license and no insurance, $381; Brandi L. Von Rump, 30, Medford, DWI, $606, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 216 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Steele County
Sheriff's Office

Cody L. Blaha, 19, Owatonna, controlled substance, stay of adjudication, $81, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation; Kimberly J. Bossmann, 56, Faribault, speeding, $121;

Greggory H. Brown, 30, Austin, speeding, $111; John B. Cramer, 51, Medford, speeding, $121; Say Day, 27, St. Paul, speeding, $121; Curtis G. Filley, 55, Ellendale, failure to register ATV, $131;

Stephanie L. Garcia, 32, New Richland, revoked license, $281; Paige J. Gilster, 21, Kenyon, speeding, $131; James B. Jacobson, 58, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Lamont J. Johnson Jr., 23, Woodhaven, MI, speeding, $141; Justin W. Keller, 44, Medford, DWI, $381, Substance Abuse Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation;

Joshua P. Kempe, 22, Bloomington, speeding, $221; Katrina E. Klocek, 33, Ellendale, expired tabs, $111; Sharon K. Kubat, 69, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Abdullah A. Mohamed, 23, Faribault, speeding, $121; Thomas K. Mullenmaster, 61, Owatonna, burning of prohibited materials, $281; Nicholas A. Naatz, 37, speeding, $121; Stephen C. Nelson, 60, Ellendale, expired tabs, $111; Ignacio Z. Ochoa Zarate, 21, Faribault, invalid license, $181;

Trista E. Pelant, 40, Waterville, speeding, $221; Gabriela Penalozaromero, 22, Hartland, speeding, $221; Kyla M. Phillips-Tucke, 20, Dodge Center, speeding, $121; Daryl J. Probst, 78, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Morgan D. Sandell, 25, Hopkins, speeding, $221; Robert W. Surat, 53, New Richland, suspended license, speeding, no insurance and expired tabs, $651; Jaisa A. Williams, 27, St. Peter, speeding, $121.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 276 complaints during the week of May 31 – June 6. Some of them include:

May 31

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 10:03 a.m.

Suspicion. At 12:06 p.m., deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield.

Juvenile. At 4:16 p.m., deputies received a report that a juvenile had his legs stuck in a fence in the 500 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

Welfare. Deputy completed a welfare check on 5th Ave. NW in Hayfield at 6:33 p.m.

June 1

Larceny. Deputy took a report of a stolen bike from 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 8:21 a.m.

Juvenile. At 10:59 a.m., the Dodge Center Pool reported that three juveniles broke into the pool area on May 29.

Suspicion. Deputies received a suspicious activity report of a male walking on the highway at State Hwy. 56 and State Hwy. 30 in Hayfield at 9:06 p.m.

June 2

Roll Over. At 8:12 a.m., deputies, Dodge Center Fire and Claremont Fire responded to a tipped semi-truck in the 60700 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont. No transport was needed for the one male occupant.

Domestic. Deputies received information regarding a past action assault in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 1:05 p.m.

Theft. Deputy took a report of a stolen trailer from 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 2:05 p.m.

Harassment. A Claremont citizen reported receiving harassing phone calls at 9:18 p.m.

June 3

Child Abuse. At 5:55 a.m., deputies received a report of child abuse on Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance involving a male not allowing kids out of the house in the 500 block of 5th St. NE in Hayfield at 2:31 p.m.

Larceny. At 2:45 p.m., a Dodge Center woman reported that her medications were stolen in the 100 block of 5th St. SW.

Trespassing. Deputy responded to a trespassing incident in the 22400 block of 720th St. in Hayfield at 3:25 p.m.

June 4

Animal. Deputies received an animal complaint from the 200 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 8:12 a.m.

Larceny. A Dodge Center resident reported a stolen flower basket in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 4:44 p.m.

Animal Neglect. At 7:51 p.m., a citizen reported that a dog was abandoned in a vacant property in the 100 block of South St. SW in Dodge Center.

Minor Consumption. Deputies responded to a juvenile party with alcohol consumption in the 17800 block of 540th St. in West Concord at 11:08 p.m.

June 5

Hit and Run. At 3:09 p.m., a vehicle hit several mailboxes in the 500 block of Front St. E. in Claremont.

June 6

Suspicion. At 6:58 a.m., a citizen reported that two suspicious males were lurking around homes in the 200 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Civil. Deputy assisted with civil matters in the 500 block of 5th St. NE in Hayfield at 7:19 a.m. and in the 1300 block of 6th St. NW in Dodge Center at 11:53 a.m.

Sexual Assault. Deputies began an investigation of a sexual assault in the county at 3:22 p.m.

Child Neglect. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect in the 100 block of 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 7:36 p.m.

Court news
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 29 – June 5:

Dodge County
Sheriff's Office

Steven A. Dubois, 66, Kasson, seat belt, $105; John E. Holst, 63, Kasson, seat belt, $105; James G. Moody, 56, failure to yield, $130; Jordyn N. Murray-Crossett, 20, Dodge Center, minor consumption, $180; Nicole R. Thielen, 40, Dodge Center, barking dog, $100; Zackery T. Wojahn, 22, West Concord, cancelled license, $280.

Kasson Police
Department

Brooke M. Carpenter, 33, Rochester, texting while driving, $130; Joseph J. Fiegel, 35, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Everette L. Hettinger, 76, Dodge Center, seat belt, $105; Larry M. King, 53, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Wayne W. Klinger, 75, Dodge Center, seat belt, $105; Patricia M. Kuehl, 44, Pine Island, seat belt, $105; Jacob M. Zelinske, 29, Kasson, seat belt, $105.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Matthew G. Bailey, 33, Minneapolis, speeding, $130; Subhankar Chakraborty, 37, Owatonna, speeding, $140; Stevanna L. Delzer, 48, Dodge Center, endorsement violation, and decal violation, $280; Jeffrey C. Michel, 31, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $130; Leila R. Parkos, 22, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Darrin J. Schulenberg, 26, Rochester, speeding, $130; Jalayna A. Torkelson, 24, Rochester, speeding, $140; Hannah T. Zenz, 19, La Crosse, WI, speeding, $140.

Arrest
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Trace Michael Stanley, 19, arrested at 8:55 a.m. June 4, felony controlled substance and probation violation warrant, held for court.

Nicholas Lawrence Dube, 23, arrested at 12:55 a.m. June 5, felony controlled substance and warrant arrest, held for court and $10,000 bail.

Jeffrey Stuart Nelson, 25, arrested at 10:06 a.m. June 6, domestic assault, held for court.

Alexander Jay Brown, 22, arrested at 9 a.m. June 7, probation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Jacob Peter Banks, 24, arrested at 3:17 p.m. June 7, felony controlled substance, held for court.

Travis Ryan Martin, 33, arrested at 1:10 a.m. June 8, revoked license and obstruction, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Michael Edward Payne, 25, arrested at 4:09 p.m. June 2, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Faisal Mohamed Abdullahi, 27, arrested at 7:10 p.m. June 3, warrants arrest, body only and $500 bail.

Fortino Zarate, 27, arrested at 9:57 p.m. June 4, order for protection violation, held for court.

Justin Timothy Hoag, 32, arrested at 10:02 a.m. June 6, theft and failure to appear warrants arrest, $500 bail.

David Mark Perez, 54, arrested at 5:24 p.m. June 7, warrant arrest, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

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

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

- Jose Sosa – DWI – no bail
- Shane Spencer – traffic - $1,000 bail
- Joseph Stenbakken – contempt of court - $500 bail
- Jennifer Stoffers – DWI - $500 bail
- Bashir Sudi – theft by check - $10,000 bail
- Santana Syhakhoun – contempt of court - $500 bail
- Pablo Tagle – theft by swindle - $1,000 bail
- Jacqueline Talleu – contempt of court - $500 bail
- Brandon Tate – domestic assault - $2,000 bail
- Alvin Taylor – DWI - $3,000 bail
- John Tedd – domestic assault – no bail
- Allen Telschow – DWI – no bail
- Ramiro Terrones – DWI - $500 bail
- Norma Thibodeau – dishonored check - $1,000 bail
- James Thomas – theft – no bail
- Carla Thompkins – stalking - $35,000 bail
- Larry Thompson – obstruction - $3,000 bail
- Timothy Tillman – assault - $20,000 bail
- Richard Tople – DWI – no bail
- Enrique Torres – theft - $300 bail

Crossword solution

		S	C	I		O	S	S		P	P	B		
		T	U	N		U	P	I		O	A	R		
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D	E	A	L	E	R	S		E	A	R	A	C	H	E
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MnDOT, Operation Lifesaver caution about trespassing on railroad property

As summer approaches and warmer weather brings more people outdoors, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Operation Lifesaver remind the public that walking on railroad property is illegal and dangerous.

In 2016, nine people were either killed or injured in Minnesota as a result of trespassing, according to the Federal Railroad Administration. Trespassing along railroad rights of way is the leading cause of rail-related deaths in the U.S.

"The only safe and legal place to cross railroad tracks is at a designated public crossing," said Tim Spencer, MnDOT Rail Planning and Program Development supervisor.

Railroad tracks and surrounding land are privately owned by the railroads. On average, railroad property extends a minimum of 25 feet on either side of the tracks and could be wider.

Hiking or taking a shortcut across railroad property to hunt or fish are all illegal activities. Taking photos on tracks and railroad property is also illegal and has become popular in recent years, often with tragic results.

"It's not only illegal, but dangerous and deadly," said Sheryl Cummings, executive director for Minnesota Operation Lifesaver. "It's not just the people who are killed and injured who are impacted from these risky behaviors. It's family, classmates and colleagues, paramedics, law enforcement and others who respond to the scene. It's also the engineer and conductor who can't stop the train in time."

More than 40 percent of the trespass deaths and injuries in Minnesota were people between the ages of 16 and 30. The FRA states that more than 50 percent of the trespass deaths and injuries involved someone who was intoxicated.

For more information go to the Operation Lifesaver website or the MnDOT rail safety website.

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Public Records March 2017

Steele County Births March 2017

Regina Amelia Martinez, Parent: Stephanie Zepeda, March 1.

Kenna Ann Cassidy, Parents: Chelsey and Lucas, March 1.

Anthony Ray Cerbana, Parents: Angela and Lyle, March 1.

Rourke Michael Wacholz, Parents: Chelsey and Michael, March 1.

Ethan Douglas Oeltjenbruns, Parents: Jennifer and Kade, March 2.

Emily Marie Bramer, Parents: Megan and Jeremiah, March 3.

Josahandi Caballero, Parents: Jazely Caballero and Francisco Gonzalez, March 5.

Miles Thomas Sweet, Parents: Theresa and Michael, March 6.

Everest Brave Masopust, Parents: Felicia and Sean, March 7.

Kate Elizabeth Walker, Parents: Heather and Matthew, March 8.

Dekker Ricky Thompsen, Parent: Kristin, March 8.

Aria Bernice Verlautz, Parents: Katlin and James, March 8.

Josiah David Parks, Parents: Sarah and Seth, March 9.

Kelvin Samuel Howley, Parents: Alicia and Samuel, March 10.

Jeremy Glenn Allan Born, Parents: Katie and Jason, March 11.

Silas Maxwell Ward, Parents: Bianca and Jeffrey, March 12.

Kaylan Elizabeth McCarthy, Parents: Janine and Patrick, March 15.

Walter John Dickerson, Parents: Molly and Nicholas, March 15.

Paul Joseph Giles-Olson, Parents: Patricia and Shaun, March 16.

Jayson Richard Lewer, Parents: Amy Jo and Justin, March 16.

Zander Daniel Bilitz, Parents: Karisa and David, March 17.

Zachary David Bilitz, Parents: Karisa and David, March 17.

Remi Jayne Selvik, Parents: Makayla and Clinton, March 18.

Madelyn Jean Wencl, Parents: Nicole and Nicholas, March 18.

Anora Violet Baird, Parents: Stacy and Bryan, March 19.

Ensley Rose Baird, Parents: Stacy and Bryan, March 19.

Kinsley Ahleece Peroutka-Cribbs, Parents: Saira Cribbs and Zachariah Peroutka, March 23.

Coral Mae Ganrude, Parents: Willow Fisher-Dale and Thomas Ganrude, March 24.

Faith Sydney Hager, Parents: Amanda Rahe and Seth Hager, March 24.

Manha Jamal Hassan, Parents: Nura Elmi and Jamal Hassan, March 27.

Liana Rose Wille, Parents: Amanda and Mathew, March 27.

Owen Michael Wise, Parents: Nicole and Jessie, March 28.

Wyatt Allen Knudtson, Parents: Naomi and Joshua, March 28.

Gannon James Nankivil, Parents: Natasha and Jordan, March 28.

William David Blaha, Parents: Heather and Andrew, March 29.

Abigail Allis Kaplan, Parents: Sara and Joseph, March 29.

Odin Thor Krause, Parents: Ashley and Caleb, March 30.

Leroy Henry Wetzel, Parents: Shannon and Travis, March 31.

Steele County Deaths March 2017

Mildred Ellen Paulson, 74, Ellendale, March 2.

Kristi Marie Traver, 49, Owatonna, March 2.

Robert Hubert Spinler, 70, Owatonna, March 2.

Theodore Vernon Olson, 64, Burnsville, March 3.

Roger Dale Amundson, 76, Blooming Prairie, March 3.

Margery Louise Wencl, 96, Blooming Prairie, March 3.

Loren Steffen Bruessel, 86, Owatonna, March 3.

Lorraine Fay Knudsen, 91, Owatonna, March 4.

Phyllis Delores Reynolds, 93, Owatonna, March 4.

Magdalen Anne Wencl, 89, Blooming Prairie, March 4.

Eileen Patricia Janning, 92, Owatonna, March 7.

Maurice Knauss Bosshardt, 86, Owatonna, March 9.

Dale Richard Keller, 85, Sioux Falls, SD, March 12.

Monte Byron Kristo, 67, Rochester, March 13.

Ella Mae Schroeder, 96, Owatonna, March 14.

Shirley Sanborn Lee, 73, Medford, March 14.

Jack Louis Weitzenkamp, 79, Owatonna, March 14.

Clinton Laverne Christianson, 96, Blooming Prairie, March 19.

Royal Harry Staver, 91, Owatonna, March 19.

Margaret Agatha Brase, 79, Owatonna, March 19.

Betty Lorraine Fisher, 88, Owatonna, March 19.

Steven Wayne Hortop, 58, Owatonna, March 20.

Richard Paul Gasner, 89, Owatonna, March 21.

Armin Harold Wolf, 72, Faribault, March 27.

Veronica Hilleary Chambers, 52, Owatonna, March 27.

Raymond Joseph Trenda, 95, Owatonna, March 27.

Gladys Irene Eaker, 88, Owatonna, March 28.

Richard Donald Kubista, 90, Blooming Prairie, March 29.

Jerome Vincent Buskovick, 93, Owatonna, March 30.

Steele County Marriages March 2017

Edwig Marcel Dominique Hector Vyncke and Katelynn Jo Parsons, March 7.

Peter Kelly Johnson and Janelle Maningding Cervantes, March 8.

Jason Dean Brandvold and Terry Jane Duban, March 11.

Samantha Mae Liming and Olivia Frances Dion, March 16.

Waco Allen Vandal and Rochelle Leigh Shultz, March 17.

Matthew Alexander Buecksler and Lisa Michele Shatek, March 18.

Eliut Rocha and Felix Manuel Rivera Cordero, March 21.

Stephen David Martin and Roxana Alvarez, March 23.

Julie Lynn Tuma and Chad Michael Tuma, March 26.

Steele County Divorces March 2017

Shelby Lynne Zempel and Darren Jon Zempel.

Lisa Marie Deyo and Jeremy Chad Deyo.

Joshua Paul Swedberg and Jilliann Marie Swedberg.

Hollie Arndt and Michael Arndt.

Jennifer Linn Yanes Rodriguez and Noel Yanes Rodriguez.

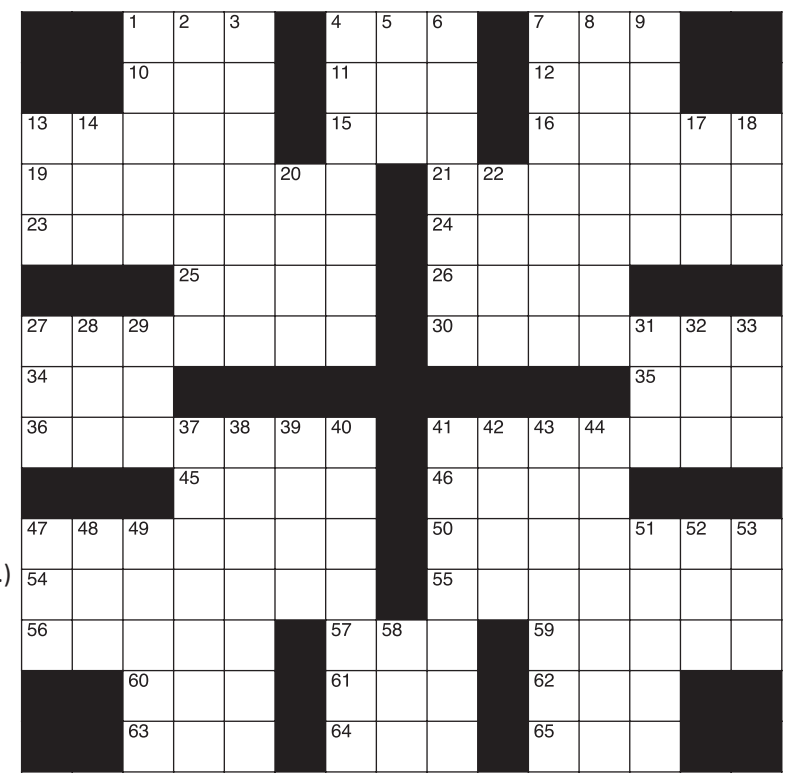
Blas Obed Varela Santos Sr. and Sarah Ann Bautista.

Jenna Lea Hayft-Droog and Steven James Droog.

Richard Wade Will and Wendy M. Will.

Jason Scott Ranslow and Traci Lynne Ranslow.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. __ fi (slang)
4. Former CIA
7. Parts per billion (abbr.)
10. Fermenting vat
11. News organization
12. Paddle
13. Agent in alchemy
15. Small amount
16. Wholeness
19. Suppliers
21. Type of head pain
23. Canadian province
24. Jiminy is one
25. Shelf
26. Diarist Frank
27. Honored
30. Boat race
34. Cash machine
35. Linguistic theory (abbr.)
36. Highway material
41. Gracefully slender
45. Not often found
46. Baghdad is its capital
47. Deriving from Asia
50. Large, veterinary pills
54. Boxer
55. Give the right to
56. Iranian city
57. Body part
59. A citizen of Iraq
60. Australian bird
61. Consume
62. A basketball hoop has one
63. Bar bill
64. Not wet
65. Midway between east and southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Shorttail weasel
2. Type of sword
3. A way to acquire
4. Peddled more
5. Relaxing place
6. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
7. Decanting
8. For all ills or diseases
9. Building material
13. "Much __ About Nothing"
14. Type of Buddhism
17. Refers to something unique
18. Thus far
20. Make angry
22. Greek mythological character
27. Used on driveways
28. Relating to the ears
29. Doctors' group
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Stomach
33. A particular period
37. Coin of ancient Greece
38. Place to clean oneself
39. One of the Great Lakes
40. Ruled
41. State of being free
42. Fe
43. Soup cracker
44. Escorts
47. Credit term
48. Institute legal proceedings against
49. Put within
51. New Jersey is one
52. Red deer
53. Type of whale
58. Swiss river

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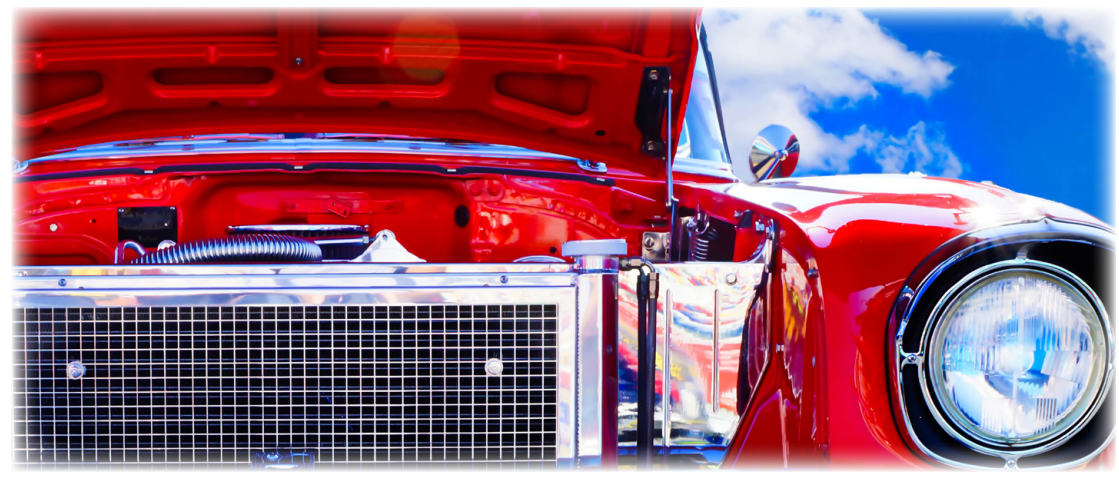
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Simple maintenance projects to keep cars running smoothly

One of the ways to keep vehicles running strong for years on end is to adhere to the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedule. Although there are many factors drivers cannot control, including recalls, weather and road conditions, proper maintenance is something drivers can control, and maintaining a vehicle can be very simple.

Oil changes

Motor oil lubricates the engine and keeps it in good working order. Old oil becomes more viscous and can lose its efficacy. While changing motor oil is important, motorists should follow the owner's manual or the factory maintenance schedule regarding how often it needs to be changed, as all vehicles are not alike. The old myth that cars and trucks need oil changes at set intervals has changed as digital check capabilities have evolved.

Car computers can now keep track of more than just mileage. Computers now track starts and stops and trip durations to determine when cars need oil changes.

Coolant levels

Coolant helps prevent vehicles from overheating and also prevents the water that it mixes with in the radiator from freezing or boiling. Coolant is nearly as important as motor oil in vehicle maintenance. Coolant is typically comprised of a 50/50 mix of distilled water and antifreeze. These two substances work together to maintain a proper ratio of heat energy and prevent eventual breakdown and destruction of the engine.

Coolant is usually changed once per year or at 30,000 miles. This keeps the coolant working properly and will help prevent corrosion and deposits from forming inside the cooling system. Coolant levels might be checked during a full-service oil change appointment.

Check battery contacts

Many modern car batteries do not require a lot of maintenance. However, one problem that may occur is a buildup of minerals or corrosion from leaking battery fluid on the contacts. In such instances, use a battery cleaning brush to clean the contacts and then replace the cables.

Tire maintenance

Properly inflated, balanced and rotated tires make for a smooth, safe ride. Check that tires are wearing evenly and that the vehicle is not pulling to one side. A lack of tread on tires requires they be replaced. Because tires can be expensive, many drivers put off routine tire maintenance. But this can be a costly mistake. Tires that are worn or not properly inflated can cause skidding, problems braking and accidents. Blowouts also may occur, putting drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists in danger. It's best to be proactive with regard to tire maintenance.

Maintaining a vehicle in adherence to manufacturer guidelines can prolong the life of the car, improve its safety and increase its trade-in or resale value.

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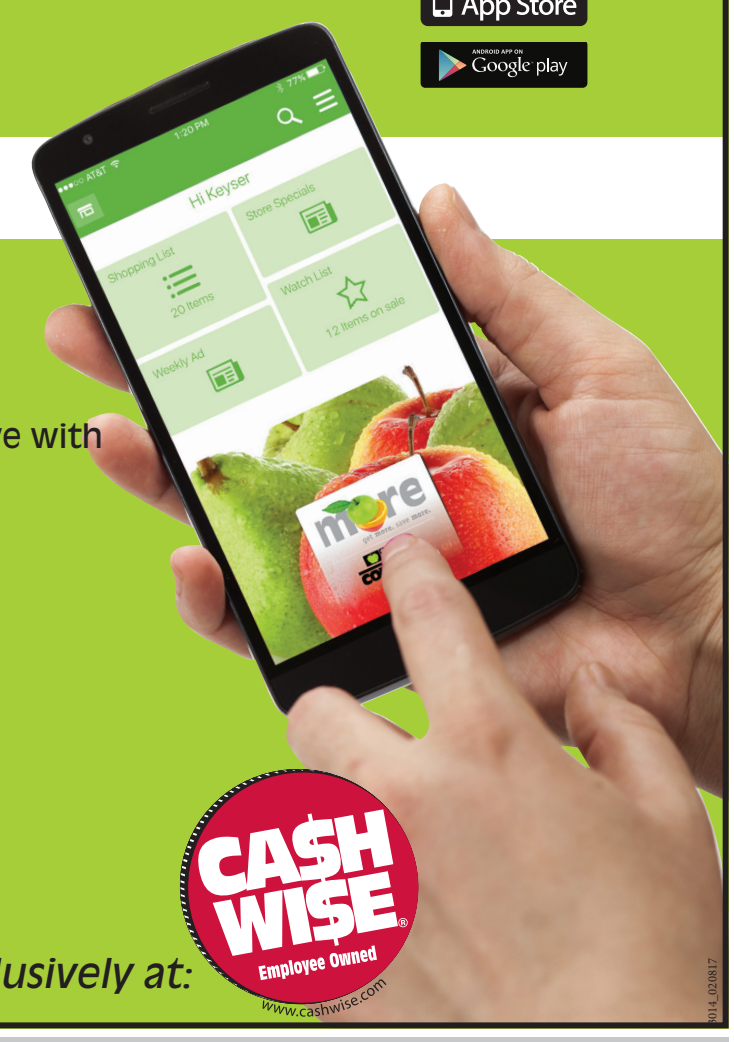
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 21, 2005
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $229,050.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Town and Country Credit Corp.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp.
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; ; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., dated December 2, 2005, recorded December 26, 2007 as Document No. A000354324; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927; and dated November 1, 2012, recorded November 13, 2012 as Document No. A000387911; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 by a Corrective Assignment of Mortgage dated December 1, 2016.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 6, Block 3, Radel's Francis Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 Bellflower Lane NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $411,521.23
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: July 11, 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 January 11, 2018, or the next business day if January 11, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: May 15, 2017

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

5/23, 5/30, 6/6
6/13, 6/20, 6/27

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-937

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

Estate of
Gail Marie Demmer
a/k/a Gail M. Demmer
a/k/a Gail Demmer
Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated July 1, 2015, and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statues section 5242-513 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Scott R. Demmer and Amy J. Ostrander, 4734 SW 108th St., Ellendale, MN 56026 and 73706 170th Ave., Hayfield, MN 55940 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representatives has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute real estate.

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

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

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

BY THE COURT,

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
5/30/2017

Attorney for Applicant
Name: Scott P. Miller, Mark W. Balzarini
Firm: Miller Legal Strategic Planning Centers
Street: 100 County Road 8, P.O. Box 738
City, State, ZIP: Tyler, MN 56178-0738
Attorney License No: 0269645, 0337936
Telephone: 507-247-4700
FAX: 507-247-5333
Email: scott@millerlegal.com

6/6, 6/13

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-984

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

Estate of
Luella Bensen
a/k/a Luella Ida Hattie Benson
nee Stephan
a/k/a Luella Duel,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on June 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 E. Main St., Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of Decedent dated, November 27, 1979, and codicils to the Will, dated July 31, 1984, and November 16, 1992 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Vernon D. Benson, whose address is 14567 Florissant Path, Apt. 307, Apple Valley, MN 55124 and William S. Duel, whose address is 4537 33rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406 as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Co-Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
6/2/2017

Attorney for Applicant
William P. Volkmar
Dunlap & Seeger, P.A.
30 3rd Street SE, Suite 400
Rochester, MN 55904
Attorney License No: 0113104
Telephone: 507-288-9111
FAX: 507-288-9342
Email: wvolkmar@dunlaplaw.com

6/13, 6/20

Assumed Name

Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAMED: **RE/MAX Venture**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **118 N Cedar Avenue, Owatonna MN 55060 USA**

NAMEHOLDER(S): **Venture16 LLC Address: 1007 11th Avenue NE, Owatonna MN, 55060**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the date referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as the agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required, who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Debra M. Gillard

MAILING ADDRESS:
1007 11th Avenue NE, Owatonna MN 55060

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **deb.gillardre@gmail.com**

Work Item 903274500025
Original File Number 903274500025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
09/24/2016 11:59 PM

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

6/13, 6/20

Notice

Notice of Sale

The personal property described as follows, to-wit: A 2008 Saturn Aura Automobile with a VIN number of 1G8ZV57728F107319, will be sold at Public Auction by the Steele County Sheriffs Office on the 6th day of July, at 11:00 o'clock am at Hometown Motors LLC in the City of Owatonna, County of Steele, State of Minnesota, to pay and satisfy a lien claimed to be due from Mr. Paul Joseph Schultenover as the owner of said property thereof to Hometown Motors LLC in the sum of $2,499.95, computed to the last day of said sale, exclusive of expenses of said sale and of the advertising thereof, together with the necessary expenses of advertising and making said sale; and that the grounds of said lien are as follows, to-wit: an unpaid invoice, storage, towing, impound fees, and document fees and sale preparation fees.

Dated this day of June 12, 2017

Submitted by:
Daryl D Kubicek
Hometown Motors LLC
1125 S. Oak Ave
Owatonna, MN 55060

6/13, 6/20, 6/27

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
June 19, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of May Regular City Council Meeting

Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A. Commission
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission

Business
1. 2016 Audit Presentation and Approval
2. Public Concern – Central Park Fence
3. Set date & Time for Public Hearing - 2017 Reclaim & Repave Project
4. Approval of Change Order No. 1 - Wastewater Treatment Control Upgrade
5. Approval of Pay Request No. 2 - Wastewater Treatment Facility Control Upgrade
6. Approve Preparation of Plans and Specification for a Vertical Screen Screw Compactor
7. Approve Request for Quotes to Replace Sanitary Sewer Main 3rd Ave. S.E.
8. Approve Request for Quotes to Upgrade Sanitary Sewer Main Center Ave. N. with CIPP
9. Proposal for a Permanent Part-time Police Officer

City Administrator's Report
1. Main Street East Sanitary Sewer Hookup Issues
2. Mosquito Spraying
3. Update on Pickleball Court

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

6/13



New integrative retail services offered at Penny George™ Institute for Healing and Healing at Owatonna Hospital

Penny George Institute for Health and Healing – Owatonna Hospital expanded retail services by adding healing touch and wellness coaching.

"In addition to acupuncture and medical massage, individuals can now take advantage of healing touch and wellness coaching," says Linda Hoffman, manager, Penny George Institute for Health and Healing – Owatonna Hospital. "We're excited to be able to offer two more integrative therapy options to our community."

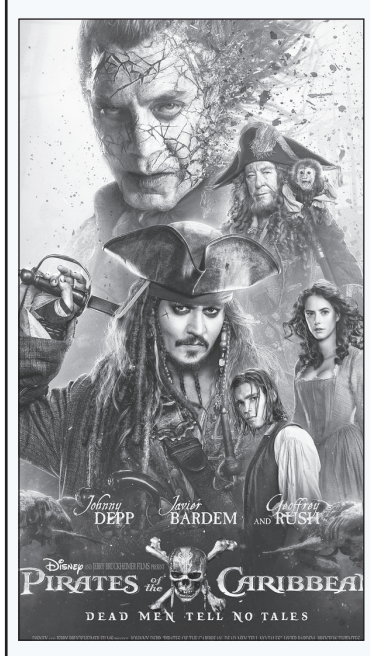
Penny George Institute opened its outpatient clinic at Owatonna Hospital with one acupuncturist and one medical massage therapist. Now, they've expanded to include two acupuncturists, wellness coaching and healing touch. Owatonna Hospital's been offering integrative therapies through the Transformative Nurses Training (TNT) Program since 2012 to inpatients at the bedside.

"It's our goal to help our patients reach their health goals," says Hoffman. "Whether it's reducing a person's anxiety or even pain, we're thrilled to be able to continue offering a holistic approach to health care."

We accept most major insurance; however, coverage varies based on your individual insurance plan.

To learn more about programs and services at Owatonna Hospital's Penny George Institute outpatient clinic, visit allinahealth.org/georgeinstitute-owatonna. To make an appointment, call 507-977-2828.

Movie Review: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

A pirate's life is for everyone again. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* shows there's some waters still worth exploring in this fifth installment of the franchise.

The plot follows the continued adventures of Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp, as he's joined by the son of Will Turner and Elizabeth Swan.

They're on a quest for the trident of Poseidon, an object that commands the sea and can break any curse.

After the success of the *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, the subsequent sequels have seen increasing rough waters with frayed plot threads and bizarre non-sequiturs. This is by far the best sequel of the franchise.

The movie does continue one disturbing trend in CGI: de-aging characters. It's used to turn Johnny Depp back into a twenty year-old in a flashback scene. This technology was debatable, if necessary, for a film like *Star Wars: Rogue One*, where actors needed to appear exactly as they had decades prior, but in this movie it's wholly unnecessary.

There's no reason they couldn't have cast a younger actor to fill in. Usually used for brief glimpses, the technology has not advanced to withstanding extended scenes and the result is the character's face and eyes not moving quite right. A shame, because its a neat origin moment for Sparrow.

While the movie never hits the highs of the first installment, it has a cohesive plot that thrills and feels by turns.

While it's not yet known if there will be another sequel, this movie parallels the first installment and feels like a fitting send-off of to the franchise.

If you want to join your favorite pirate at sea again or are just for a clean farewell, this is one dead man's tale you'll want to hear.

Rated: PG-13

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Convertible 1994 Chevy Cavalier RS 3.1 L V6 Automatic. Rusty but trusty. $800 or BEST OFFER 806-340-6119 evenings only. 23-27p

Wheel Horse 16HP-42" by Toro Rider Mower, 2 snow blowers all run great. Yamaha key board, 50 Watt guitar amplifier, stereo amp receivers, microphones, cords, picks, capo's, string violin, saxophone, mandolin, mic, pre-amps, guitars. West Concord. Serious people only. Leave message if needed. 507-527-1014. 25,26c,27nc

Mobile home , Windsor Court Kasson, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, CA, FP, and appliances included, 507-527-2597. 26-28p

Canaries- two males, excellent singers, very young. Each $50.00. Call 507-251-9282. 26p

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfp

Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

WANTED

Area Pastor seeks 2 bedroom home with fenced yard OR in a rural setting. 2 car garage mandatory. 1 level preferred. Call 507-215-2249. 25-26p

Farm land to cash rent in or near Canisteo Township. Call Wayne Larsen at 507-202-3411. 26-31c

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Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Hayfield, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc

Blood Clot patients, if you have experienced any serious problems with an IVC filter, call 507-201-8964 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc

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2 BD~ Mantorville Rent from $495 p/mo + elec. Month to month leases and deposit pay plans. Minutes from Kasson. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 25-26c, 27nc, 28c

1 bdrm apt., Dodge Center, clean building, laundry on site, $550/mo, all utilities & garbage. 507-398-6899 25tfc

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EMPLOYMENT

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Custodian to clean Byron American Legion approx. 2 hrs. per day. Flexible hours but cleaning must be done before 3pm on Wednesdays and 12 noon on Weekends. Salary negotiable, apply by picking up application at 505 Frontage Road NW, or send resume to P.O. Box 687, Byron MN 55920. 23tfc

New Restaurant Now Hiring all postions. Mail resume to: Misplaced Magnolia, 111 West Main St., Kasson, MN 55944 or email to: email@misplacedmagnolia.com 25-26c

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Nick's Lawn Mowing Service, weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed, eight yrs. exp., free estimates. 507-696-3849 leave a message. 20tfc

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Nichole (507) 676-3716
ericksonhomeservices@yahoo.com
West Concord, MN

HELP WANTED

The new Straight River northbound & southbound rest areas near Owatonna will be opening soon. Several **senior workers will be needed for PT custodial work.** If you are 55 or older please call Green View at **651-639-1913**

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For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134
20tfc

Semcac's Transportation Department is looking for a Full-Time bus driver for their Kasson location.

Excellent benefit package including paid holidays, vacation, and sick leave. CDL License with passenger endorsement a plus, or we will help train for it.

More information and application available at www.semcac.org or by contacting Barb Thompson at 507-864-8202 or barb.thompson@semcac.org. Position open until filled.

Semcac Community Action Agency *People Are Our Business*

E.O.E.

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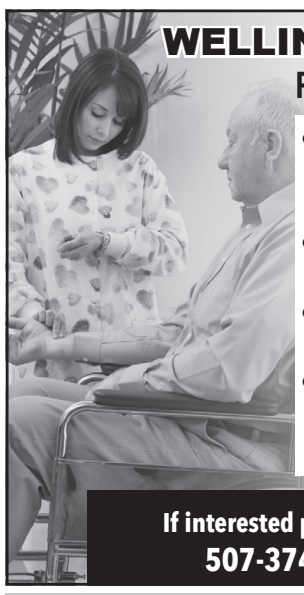
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Breakfast brings farming to life

Nearly 1,200 people flock to Kasper farm for dairy promotion



Staff photos by Rick Bussler



> **Milk is one of the safest food products out on the market."**
> *~ Glenn Johnson*
> *Steele dairy farmer*

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

For Pam Kubat of Owatonna, Breakfast on the Farm is a hands-on opportunity to teach her little granddaughter about farm life.

On Saturday morning, she brought her 2-year-old granddaughter, Elin Harthan, to the Kasper Dairy Farm south of Owatonna to learn more about dairy farming and for a chance to pet farm animals. They were among nearly 1,200 people who ventured to the farm for the annual dairy promotion sponsored by the Steele County American Dairy Association.

"We came out here so she can experience the farm animals," Kubat said. "It brings the books that they read to life."

Four Steele County Dairy Princesses greeted people as they arrived to the farm. Buses provided transportation from the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna to the farm. People dined on pancakes served hot off the griddles in a tent.

Lacey Nelson of Ellendale is one of the dairy princesses representing the county. She likes the breakfast event to get more kids interested in agriculture. "A lot of kids are removed from agriculture," she said. "They don't have the hands-on experiences from generations past," she added.

Nelson has witnessed kids with no experience in agriculture become engaged in the process through 4-H and other activities. "I have seen a lot of city kids that have turned into awesome farm kids with only a couple years of experience," she said.

Breakfast on the Farm mixed learning with fun. Children, and even adults, could have their picture taken with a calf and made into a button. Kids also rode around the farm on a barrel train pulled by a lawnmower and jump in a bouncy house. There was a petting zoo that seemed to be a big hit. Farm tours were also offered taking visitors on a walking tour of the dairy operation of more than 400 milking cows.

"We have this to promote the dairy industry," said Glenn Johnson, an area dairy farmer who assisted with the event. "It's to give people the opportunity to ask questions and think about where their food comes from," he added.

Johnson said he wants consumers to know that dairy farmers produce a safe food product. "Our milk gets inspected several times before it's even processed," he noted. "Milk is one of the safest food products out on the market."

Dairy farmers will stop using the RBST growth hormone by Jan. 1, according to Johnson. He said the government has deemed the hormone safe, but consumers have indicated they do not want it in their food product. "We're listening to the public and we're going to stop using it," he said.

When Johnson moved to Steele County and began his dairy operation in 1993, there were more than 200 dairy farmers around the county. Today that number has shriveled up to 36.



From left to right:

Steele County Dairy Princess Lacey Nelson hands out a sticker to children at the Breakfast on the Farm Saturday morning at the Kasper Dairy Farm south of Owatonna. About 1,200 people attended the dairy promotion, which included a pancake breakfast.

Ella Mullenmeister of Medford enjoyed having her face painted with a cow during Saturday's Breakfast on the Farm. There were numerous activities for children of all ages, including pictures with a calf, barrel train rides, petting zoo and a bouncy house.

Pete and Karen Kasper hosted the Breakfast on the Farm Saturday. The Kaspers have about 400 milking cows, including this Jersey cow, on their dairy operation south of Owatonna.

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