150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

STEELE COUNTY
Times

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CLERGY APPRECIATION: HONORING OUR LOCAL CLERGY. A8

County's community corrections department adjusts to new space

Move provides more security and privacy for clients

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A recent move to a new building is providing more security for staff and additional privacy for clients at Steele County Community Corrections.

Formerly known as the probation department, the unit now operates as community corrections in its own building at 631 N. Cedar Ave. in downtown Owatonna. Up until this year, the unit had functioned out of the Steele County Courthouse.

In January, the unit was forced out of the courthouse when a pipe burst and temporarily closed down the historic building. After being evacuated by the flooding, the old probation department had been housed in three different locations around town.

The unit moved in June into the new building, which is being leased by the county.

Tim Schammel, the county's corrections director, said the new building has allowed additional safety and security that the unit has never had before. Among new safety features is a bullet-proof glass providing a safety barrier in the front lobby.

Agents now have confidential meeting rooms for probation appointments with clients. Schammel said without privacy, many people won't disclose core issues going on in their lives.

In addition, the new building offers dedicated rooms for agents to have in-service training sessions.

SEE **CORRECTIONS, A3**

Prairie Manor administrator finds new challenge

Feeney to leave BP facility next month

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Excited about a new calling in the administrative health field, Prairie Manor Care Center administrator says he is conflicted by being happy and sad.

Rich Feeney has been chief administrator of the Prairie Manor Care Center of Blooming Prairie since June 2014. He has accepted a new position as administrator with Mission Inc. in the Twin Cities suburb of Plymouth.

Feeney begins his new assignment on Nov. 8. He is confident that the Prairie Manor board will find a capable replacement.

Prairie Manor is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood of Blooming Prairie. It is the hub of many family activities in the community.

Feeney said his health care staff has given Prairie Manor an excellent reputation. "We have a good record of longevity with our staff and they love to come to work," he added.

"We are neighbors and family helping each other in life," Feeney said. "Our staff members are providers of care and also become close friends with the residents," Feeney said.

SEE **ADMINISTRATOR, A4**

Sparking fire safety





STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER

Learning about fire safety can never start too young as evidenced by Blooming Prairie youngsters eager to expand their knowledge about keeping safe. On Thursday morning, three kindergarten classes toured the Blooming Prairie Fire Station and received fire prevention tips from firefighters Mike Studer, Joe Morgan and Justin Krell. Top: Studer shows off his fire gear, including an oxygen tank with mask, as Morgan explains why the equipment is necessary. Left: Studer helps an eager kindergartener off a fire truck during the tour. This week is National Fire Prevention Week across the country. See pages 4C and 5C for more information about fire safety and all fire departments in Steele County.



Area businesses saluted during manufacturing week

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Manufacturing is alive and well in the Blooming Prairie area.

That was quite evident when educators and business types got together in Blooming Prairie on Oct. 4 to discuss the vitality of manufacturing in the area.

The discussions were led at a luncheon sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and the Blooming Prairie Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Following the lunch, which featured a message from Bruce W. Schwartau of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Journey to Growth and CEDA sponsored tours of two local manufacturers, Metal Services and Minimizer.

Dennis Heimerman and his staff at Metal Services led a contingency of 15 on a tour of the plant. A second tour followed at Minimizer with Luke Swenson and Gordon Eby leading two tour groups.

Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Week was celebrated with business tours on three separate days. On Tuesday, Oct. 3, tour groups visited Halcon and Geotek at Stewartville. Also on Tuesday in Rochester, tour groups made stops at Creno and Pace Dairy. Blooming Prairie was the tour host on Wednesday and Caledonia hosted tours on Thursday at Miken Sports and SNOPAC Foods.

Certificates of recognition from the office of Gov. Mark Dayton were prepared for the following Blooming Prairie area businesses: Minimizer, Heavy Metal, Metal Services,

SEE **MANUFACTURING, A3**



Worlein Funeral Home of Austin and Bloooming Prairie has unveiled The Empty Chair to pay tribute to veterans and their families. The chairs are placed at funeral services to honor a departed veteran.

STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

THE EMPTY CHAIR

Worlein's vows to remember departed vets

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Veterans are to be remembered with honor, believes the staff of Worlein Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie and Austin.

Just two weeks ago, The Empty Chair, made its debut at funeral services at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie for military veteran Joe Wurst of Blooming Prairie.

The Empty Chair was placed alongside pews that held veterans making up an Honor Guard and a group of current and retired members of the Blooming Prairie Fire Department.

Mary Kittelson, community services director for Worlein, says The Empty Chair is a visual symbol of respect, gratitude and appreciation. It honors and represents the unique sacrifices made by veterans and their families, she said.

Traditionally at military funerals, Worlein kept a chair empty in the military escort section.

"We felt that most individuals attending a service of a veteran were unaware of the significance of this empty chair," said Kittelson.

Kittelson and director Dan McRaith were visiting one day about The Empty Chair and expanded on the idea of bringing more meaning to this part of a military honors service.

SEE **CHAIR, A3**

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INSIDE

Classifieds D5
Community Calendar .. C6
Football Contest B4
Football Frenzy B1
History D2
Hometown Living C1
Hometown Sports B5
Legals D3
Obituaries A6
Opinion A2
Public Safety C3
Worship & Faith A7

AREA DEATHS

Helen Melum, 78

Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

County will reap big benefits with switch to community corrections

Within the past few months, a quiet shift has been going on behind the scenes in Steele County to improve the lives of criminal offenders.

In the past, the model has quite often been nail 'em and jail 'em. But that mentality has given way to a new and promising way of dealing with all offenders whether they've committed a misdemeanor or a felony.

Steele County shifted to a community corrections model beginning July 1. The new way of doing business is providing services the county has never had before. The corrections department now has programming available to aid in the rehabilitation of offenders in hopes of improving their lives and helping society at the same time.

In short, the county now offers evidence-based programs that have been proven to work. The programming is night and day different from what had been utilized in the past.

"Everything is different now," said Tim Schammel, director of Steele County Community Corrections. "We've really created a purposeful and specific supervision structure."

In lieu of the hardcore image probation may have had in the past, the new community corrections way is a "welcoming and therapeutic atmosphere" as Schammel puts it. "We want to fix the offenders," he said.

The county is about a decade behind with this transformation in comparison with the rest of the state. But most importantly the change has been made and will only benefit the county moving forward.

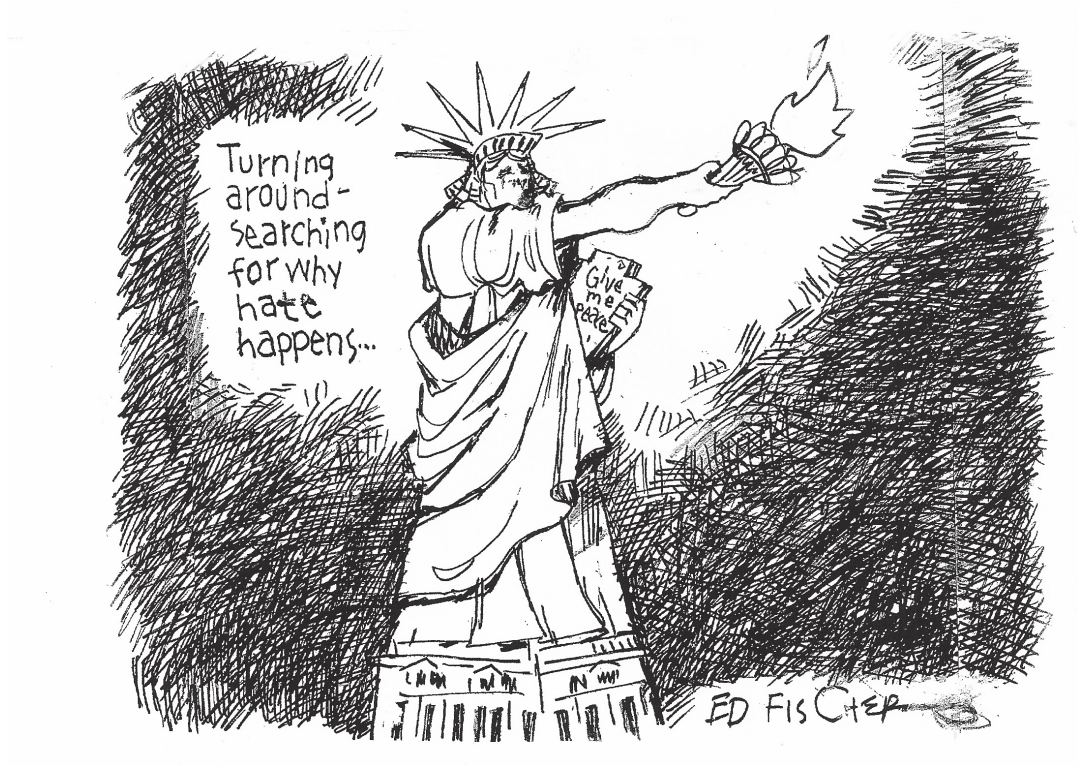
We think it's great the county is changing the way it does business in dealing with criminals. In the long run, it could have pay big dividends.

The whole goal is to reduce recidivism, which is turn reduces costs to the community. And it appears to be working. Schammel said local law enforcement has already experienced a reduction in calls for service since community corrections started a few months ago.

With less criminal activity, there will be fewer jail, court and law enforcement costs. According to Schammel, for every $1 spent in corrections leads to $2 in taxpayer benefits and $5 societal benefits.

In addition to the new corrections model, Schammel said his department has applied for a $100,000 grant through a community justice reinvestment program. The grant would allow the additional hire of a worker devoted solely to helping integrate offenders back into the community and help them find employment.

In the end, the entire county stands to gain big with this major revamp of the corrections system.



Improving the Times with a new look

Just as rooms in your house often demand a little extra tender loving and care with improvements and changes or a simple makeover, the newspaper you pick up each week is really no different.

And for those of us whose job it's to put together the newspaper each and every week, that challenge becomes near and dear to our hearts.

In the past few weeks the Times has embarked on a new redesign of the pages. We're giving them a fresh coat of paint so to speak in an effort to enhance the overall quality and appearance. We set out to design a more modern and reader-friendly product.

For our staff, the redesign experience has been an infusion of optimism, excitement and opportunity. This came through the help of Ed Henninger, a well-respected national design expert. He has helped bring our newspaper to a new level.

Is it symmetrical or asymmetrical? Which part of the paper, top or bottom, has the most weight? Is the page balanced left to right?

Those are just some of the questions that we ask ourselves in designing a front page as well as other pages.

I'm guessing you never envisioned so much thought going into the design. You probably thought it was just a matter of throwing things on a page and calling it good.

We recognize that newspaper readers are initially attracted to the product whose type and words are easiest to read and whose pictures and other graphics most effectively portray the news.

Going forward, you'll likely notice a major difference in the way our paper looks. The content isn't going to change as we'll still have the same quality local news, sports and features that we've always had. State and national award-winning stories, I might add. But how it's all packaged together will take on a new flavor.

There are various design tips that we are attempting to implement into our newly revamped paper. Readers may not recognize every little thing we've changed, but that's fine. In the end, we hope it will showcase a product that is eloquent.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Admittedly, there are probably some things that we have done which were designed in the 1960s. That was the era I was born and boy things have mightily changed since that time. I like to think of myself as being somewhat trendy and I hope that will be reflected in my newspapers.

This exercise in redesign has been an eye opening experience even for veteran news folks like myself.

With our new design, there are several things I hope readers will come away with. I think you'll find that we are more contemporary and more classy. Concepts like "simple is best, less is more," will be our new mantra around the office.

One thing I've learned through this whole redesign process is that "design" is a fancy word for "plan." If you have no plan, you have no design. And the word "plan" implies that we've given the look of our front page some forethought.

I hope readers understand we take our job of providing a community newspaper very seriously. We don't just randomly throw things together without thinking it out and having a plan of what we're doing. Sometimes it feels like people don't give us enough credit for what we do.

We want our design to work for our readers. We want it to be compelling. And perhaps most importantly we want to be true to our design style.

GUEST COLUMN

Work continues on child protection



PEGGY BENNETT

With autumn officially upon us, I hope you're able to get outside to enjoy the fall colors—winter will be here before we know it! I wanted to send along a quick update on some of the meetings and legislative issues I've been working on over the past few weeks.

Child Protection Task Force

I continue as a member of the joint Senate and House Legislative Task Force on Child Protection, where I serve as Vice Chair. This task force is charged with overseeing the implementation of the 93 recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force in 2014, with the goal of revamping our child protection system and ensuring that our system is adequately protecting Minnesota kids.

The task force met Oct. 3 in St. Paul. We heard testimony from the Department of Human Services and others as to their progress in implementing the Governor's Task Force recommendations. One difficult problem involves the tightening of child protection intake guidelines, which has resulted in more children that need foster care and social services. That presents a new dilemma for our state, which has already been seeing critical worker shortages in so many fields, including social workers and foster care families. There is definitely a lot more work ahead in the area of child protection!

Hospital Update

I met with a number of officials from the Minnesota Department of Health on Oct. 3 to discuss potential legislation related to our hospital issue in Albert Lea. One piece of legislation I am working on with them would allow for a health impact study when major health services are discontinued.

This type of study would examine the potential impact on an area when major health services are changed, and could be a valuable tool for both communities and hospitals.

At the same meeting, we also discussed other potential legislation I am exploring, including possible revisions to the hospital construction moratorium statute, as well as ways to help reduce the unreasonably high health insurance costs in southeastern Minnesota. I will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and others so that I can have legislation ready to go by the start of session on Feb. 20.

Bonding Tour

Last week I was on another three-day state tour viewing potential bonding projects with my Capital Investment Committee colleagues. This time we traveled to the northeast portion of our state - a beautiful drive up through Duluth, along the north shore, and then into the Minnesota Iron Range. As a history lover, some of my favorite stops were historical sites like Split Rock Lighthouse, the Glensheen Mansion, and the historic Duluth train depot. Did you know that you can walk through Abraham Lincoln's funeral train car there? Pretty cool!

We visited colleges, rode ATVs to view an ATV trail, took a short train ride in an historic train car built by a Minnesota steel tycoon over 100 years ago, viewed DNR firefighting planes at their base in Hibbing, hiked up a potential extreme mountain bike trail in Cohasset, walked on the Black Beach in Silver Bay, and even got a glimpse of the thousands of earth core samples at the Hibbing DNR Core Library - some samples even 100 years old. It was quite the trip. Like I've mentioned before, we live in a pretty amazing state!

As always, please don't hesitate to call or email my office if I can be of help or if you have comments, concerns or questions.

Peggy Bennett is the state representative for District 27A, which includes most of Freeborn County, the city of Blooming Prairie and two townships on the south end of Dodge County. She lives in Albert Lea.

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.

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

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Out of state $46

A state and national award winning weekly

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

2017 - 3 National Awards, 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 Award

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



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Metal Services of Blooming Prairie opened its doors to a tour group during Southeast Minnesota Manufacturing Week. Here, a workman finishes a welding project.

MANUFACTURING: *Area businesses saluted*

FROM PAGE A1

Todd Manufacturing, Arkema, Smooth Move Seats, National Coating Restorations, Extreme Powder Coating, Tandem Products, Easton and BioPlastic Solutions.

The message that was carried at the lunch and at the tours of Metal Services and Minimizer was that there are many opportunities for young people looking for careers in manufacturing.

Schwartau dispelled the myth that rural America is dying. He provided evidence that rural America is surviving and is changing, not dying.

"This area is not a dying area," Schwartau emphasized. Rural Minnesota has survived a massive restructuring of social and economic life, he continued. Many areas are now being classified as urban, Schwartau said. He gave the example of Dodge County being part of the urban area of Rochester.

People leave their small town communities but often return which is evident in Blooming Prairie, Schwartau told the luncheon group.

Why are people moving to rural areas? It's because of a simpler pace of life, due to safety and security and because of a lower cost of housing, Schwartau explained. The quality of life is the "trump card," in motivating people to move to a rural area, he said.

Schwartau said it is important to attract people who wish to be active in their communities. Leaders need to be identified, he said. "We want people to be engaged because those who are engaged will stay in their communities longer," he added.

"We don't just want warm bodies. We want people who want to live and move here for what they will be."

Becky Noble, executive director of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce, said it is important for city residents to know their business people. "We have some great business people in town," she said.

During the tours of Metal Services and Minimizer, it was emphasized there are careers available in manufacturing with people being able to make a living wage with benefits and career advancement.

Post secondary education has changed for the better with the opportunities in manufacturing, said Heather Holmes, vice president of marketing for Journey to Growth.

Many of the manufacturing openings do not require a four-year degree, Holmes said.

Manufacturing reportedly makes up 4 percent of the total firms in the southeast Minnesota region, and accounts for 18.2 percent of the total payroll.

The food manufacturing sector accounts for the highest numbers for employment (10,491), firms (652) and percent of total payroll (25.5 percent) among all manufacturing sectors.

CORRECTIONS: *Adjusts to new space*

FROM PAGE A1

"We educate each other on what we're doing and remind each other of best practices," Schammel explained.

"It keeps us proficient in our practice."

Through the upheaval of moving out of the courthouse and transitioning into a new home, Schammel had another major challenge facing him. The unit was in the middle of transforming to a new structure model from a probation department to community corrections.

In the past, Steele County has operated separately in supervising mostly misdemeanant offenders where the state supervised mostly felons. Now the two have been combined and operate under one entity known as community corrections.

"The timing with all of this wasn't good," said Schammel, who has been with Steele County for 13 years, including the past two as either interim or permanent director.

But in the end everything worked out for the best.

"Luckily, we found this building that is a perfect fit for us," Schammel said. "We have a meaningful and private meeting area with our clients."

The county began looking at making changes to the probation and corrections areas about four years ago when a study was started, according to Schammel. However, he admits, the study really didn't provide much insight into what should be done.

At that point, the county formed a stakeholder group of 12 members to see if Steele should move towards community corrections. This group, which consisted of direct stakeholders, reviewed service delivery of corrections as a whole and voted unanimously to move towards a community corrections system.

"We were old-school model with a very high case load," Schammel said. "All agents had case loads in the hundreds before."

In June, the Steele County Board approved the switch to community corrections beginning July 1. In addition to three new hires, three state corrections agents joined Schammel's department in July and are now county employees.

The new model, Schammel said, is allowing the county to provide services it has never had before. For example, the community corrections unit now offers cognitive behavior therapy classes for high-risk offenders. Local agents teach the classes.

"Now we're providing specific programming to allow them to become productive citizens of society," Schammel said.

He admits that in the past probation concentrated primarily on compliance to court conditions. The agents most often spent their time tracking conditions imposed by the court.

Schammel said the new focus with community corrections is to focus on risk and need of the offender. "Often times we see when we aid in the rehabilitation of a high risk offender, we are not only seeing the offenders life improve, but also the family of the offender at home," he said. "We're balancing. We hold them accountable and we recognize what good they are. We're developing core relationships so that they trust us."

He said it's amazing how dedicated his staff is to this community and the offenders and families that they work with every day. "Without the staff's dedication and hard work over this last year, this conversion would not have gone so smoothly," Schammel noted.

The new model has shown to reduce recidivism, Schammel said. "We have a welcoming and therapeutic atmosphere. It's not nail 'em and jail 'em."

In the first two months of the community corrections model, calls to law enforcement have declined, Schammel said. "Our strong presence in the community has reduced their calls," he said. "That's huge for us."

Over the past year, Schammel admits he's lost a little sleep in wondering how this would ever work without the new building. "We wouldn't be able to do what we do without this building," he said.

Schammel said the community corrections unit is reducing costs for taxpayers and overall societal costs, including jail, court and law enforcement. He said for every dollar spent leads to $2 saved in taxpayer benefits and $5 in societal benefits.

"Our overall goal is to reduce recidivism, which in turn reduces costs to the community," Schammel said.



As director of Steele County Community Corrections, Tim Schammel has coordinated the move of his entire unit to a new home at 631 North Cedar Ave. in Owatonna. Schammel says the new place gives his department more safety and confidential meeting space for probation clients.

CHAIR: *Remember departed vets*

FROM PAGE A1

Worlein staff met with leaders of the Austin and Blooming Prairie American Legion and VFW posts and presented The Empty Chair idea to them. The Legion and VFW members were receptive to the idea, believing it was an appropriate way to show honor and create an awareness of the sacrifices made by veterans.

Staff built onto The Empty Chair idea by searching for a high-backed chair. The search was successful in finding a wooden chair at a Rochester furniture store. An order was placed and eight weeks later, the unfinished chair arrived.

Local artist Sandy Jones developed a design and painted the chair. The back of the chair features an unfurled American flag and a statement on the base of the chair: "With respect, honor and gratitude, we will remember you."

Worlein staff contacted Nancy Cox, a local seamstress who sews the Worlein teddy bears, and asked her to sew pillows, which would be placed on the chair to designate the branch of service where the veteran served.

Military licensed fabric was purchased and four different pillows were sewn representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps

The Empty Chair made a touching and timely debut on Memorial Weekend on May 26 at a military honors funeral service held in Worlein's chapel in Austin. The service was for a veteran who served his country in the U.S. Army.

An order for a second chair was then made and painted by Jones. She added an eagle to the BP chair. Each Worlein chapel has The Empty Chair.

The beautifully decorated empty chair adds a very personal touch at military honor funeral services, remarked Kittelson.

The chair and a pillow representing the branch of service are placed with the military honor guard.

"Symbols and traditions are an important part of a funeral service," Kittelson commented. "Bereaved family members, as well as members of the honor guards, have been deeply moved by this symbol," she added.

Because education and awareness were part of the goal in creating The Empty Chair, a handout explaining its meaning was created and is given out with the memorial folder. A framed print of The Empty Chair, complete with explanation, is also on display in the chapel at Worlein or at the church where the funeral service is held.

Whether male or female, or whether they served in wartime or peacetime, veterans have spanned generations and answered the nation's call for the cause of freedom, Kittelson said. "Through their service, we are able to enjoy the privilege, rights and freedoms each of us know today," she continued.

The Empty Chair project was instrumental in Worlein being selected for the 10th consecutive year as a winner of the Pursuit of Excellence award given by the National Funeral Directors Association.

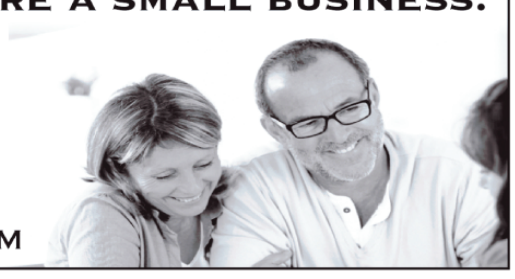
For being chosen for the award 10 years straight, Worlein will now enter the National Hall of Excellence.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

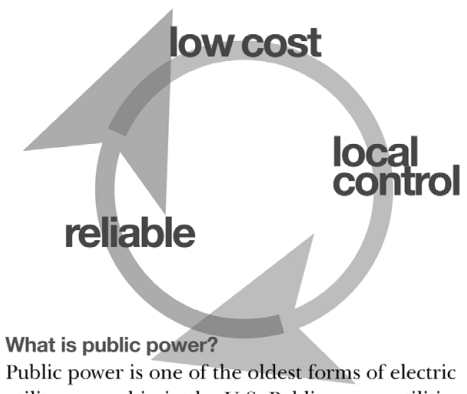
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Blooming Prairie Public Utilities *Celebrates* PUBLIC POWER WEEK

A Few Public Power Facts



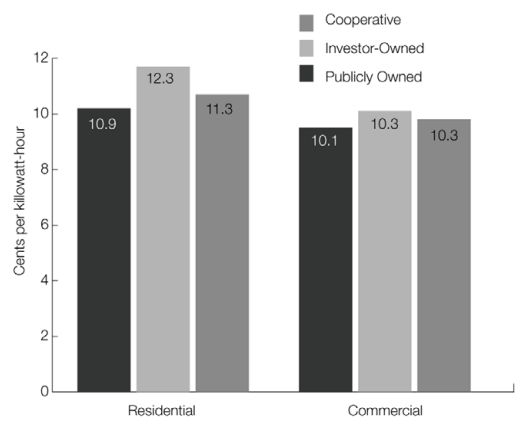
What is public power?
Public power is one of the oldest forms of electric utility ownership in the U.S. Public power utilities are not-for-profit local institutions that provide electricity as an essential public service at a reasonable cost. Public power utilities are supported by customer revenues, not taxes. In fact, public power utilities provide substantial payments in lieu of taxes to state and local governments.

Who does public power serve?
- Over 2,000 community-owned electric utilities serve 47 million people.
- Public power utilities serve small communities as well as large cities such as Los Angeles, San Antonio and Memphis.
- Every state except for Hawaii has a public power utility.
- Three million businesses receive their power from a publicly-owned electric utility.

So who is in charge of public power utilities?
- Public power utilities are owned and accountable to the people they serve.
- The governance structure for each utility varies. Some are governed by the city council and others are controlled by a utility board whose members may be elected or appointed by the city council or mayor.

What are public power's unique benefits?
- **Public power is customer-focused.** Public power means that customers have a voice in decisions made by their utility.
- **Public power costs less.** On a national basis, private power residential customers pay average electricity rates that are about 1.4 cents more per kilowatt hour.
- **Public power is a good neighbor.** Consumer-owned electric utilities are committed to conservation, environmental stewardship, and safety. Public power utilities work to meet the needs of long-term community goals.
- **Public power is reliable.** Consumer-owned utilities' rates pay for maintenance and reinvestments in important infrastructure needs.

Retail Electric Rates, 2012



www.publicpower.org

FREE GIVEAWAY

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities will be providing FREE LED lightbulbs during the month of October.
While supplies last

BP 507.583.6683
Blooming Prairie Public Utilities

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Blooming Prairie Homecoming 2017



STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

The Blooming Prairie High School royal court poses for a royal photo following the 2017 coronation of a king and queen on Monday, Oct. 2 at Blooming Prairie High School. Pictured from left are: coronation MC Alec Ille, king candidate Lucas Noble, queen candidate Emma Christianson, king candidate Max Romeo, queen candidate Linnea Sunde, queen candidate Ayren Ingvalson, king candidate Jake Ressler, queen candidate McKenna Hein, MC Jeremy Hocking and king candidate Ethan Arett.



Blooming Prairie High School students pose for a Pajama Day photo during Homecoming Week. The Blossoms play Hayfield Friday night in a Blossom Homecoming game.



Blooming Prairie seventh graders Haven Carlson, left, and Anika Sunde were dressed in proper attire for Tacky Tourist Day/ Hawaiian Day on Tuesday, Oct. 3 as part of Homecomig Week.



How's this for a couple of Blooming Prairie tourists! Linnea Sounde, left, and McKenna Hein dressed as tourists as part of Tacky Tourist Day/Hawaiian Day during Homecoming dress up last week.

ADMINISTRATOR: *New challenge*

FROM PAGE A1

"I believe it was my calling to come to Blooming Prairie and now God has sent me on a new path," Feeney explained. He said he cannot find enough words to say how good the Blooming Prairie community has been to him and his family.

Feeney will manage the Mission Nursing Home, which is designed exclusively for men. Short- and long-term care is provided to men with alcohol and chemical dependency challenges. The 98-bed facility, the only one of its kind exclusively for men, also addresses behavioral issues.

Mission Inc. has six programs:

- Transitional housing unit for women recovering from chemical dependency;
- Home free housing for abused women from domestic violence; up to 30 women and their children;
- Detox center;
- Lodge specifically designed for men and women with chronic chemical dependencies;
- Transitional housing for men and women who have chemical dependency for up to years; for up to 19 residents;
- Mission Nursing Home for men.

Prior to coming to Prairie Manor, Feeney graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He then served a one-year internship at a nursing home in Spooner, Wis.

Feeney, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., served six years in the U.S. Navy prior to setting his sights on a career in nursing home management. While in the service, he met a young woman named Patty, who he married seven weeks after meeting her. The couple has three children.

Their son Richie graduated last year from Blooming Prairie High School and is attending school in Byron to learn job skills. Johannah is a front-end manager at Hy-Vee Foods in Owatonna. Another daughter, Allysha, married two weeks ago and she and her husband, Austin, reside in Cameron, Wis. She is a student at the University of Wisconsin at Stout.

Reflecting on his time at Prairie Manor, Feeney said he is proud of working for better wages and maintaining benefits for his staff.

With support from the Prairie Manor Board of Directors, Feeney supervised the replacement of cement for sidewalks, driveway and a parking lot by the chapel.

One of Feeney's goals as administrator has been to ignite an interior project for the nursing home. He said that was done by replacing ceiling tiles, installing new flooring and adding new furniture.

An interior design project was also completed at the Heather Haus with carpet and flooring replaced.

A more subtle accomplishment, which prides Feeney, was the purchase of a new artificial Christmas tree. "I love Christmas, worshipping God and giving gifts to others," Feeney said.

The new tree looked anything but artificial, and the residents love it. The tree has 18,000 needles. Feeney said he hopes a train can be added to the base of the tree for next Christmas.

Feeney applauds the Prairie Manor Board, which consists of Gary Hansen, Doug Johnson, Julie Peterson, Bill Newman and Shad Rudlong.

He also salutes his front-line staff for the caring quality they show to the residents. "They are very professional and believe the residents come first," Feeney said, adding dedicated volunteers also help strengthen the impact of Prairie Manor on the community.

Average census of Prairie Manor is 37 with a capacity of up to 46. The Heather Haus wing has 20 apartments. Eighty-five employees serve the two facilities.

With his service in the Navy, Feeney said he traveled three-quarters around the world but never saw any community like Blooming Prairie. "It is a one of a kind community where people generally care for others," he said.

Feeney tipped his hat to the many residents who taught he and his family how to be community. He pointed to Kari and Chad Forstyk, Sue and Jeff Zwiener, Maryann and Chuck Romeo.

"If it were not for them, my wife and I would be lost. They taught us how to be part of the community. Without special people, a community cannot survive."

Feeney is also thankful to some devoted volunteers, including Naomi Erickson, Pam Hameister and Bob and Carol Prokopec.

He plans to stay connected with Prairie Manor during the transition to a new administrator. "I love the residents and staff here and want a good candidate for the next administrator."



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Prairie Manor Care Center administrator Rich Feeney and business office assistant Deb Allen show off the new electric fireplace installed at the care center. "Our residents really enjoy the fireplace," Feeney said. Feeney is leaving Prairie Manor to accept a nursing home administrative position in Plymouth.

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BLOSSOMS HOMECOMING
80 Years and Counting!

With the 80th annual homecoming at Blooming Prairie last week, we thought it would be fun to see who has represented the Blossoms as kings and queens throughout the years.



Blooming Prairie Royalty since 1938:

2017 – Mitchell Oswald and Rachel Pirkl
2016 – Ben Smith and Leah Schiefert
2015 – Mitchell Jones and Margaret Jones
2014 – Tristen Haberman and Morgan Johnson
2013 – Phillip Ramsey and Sara Noble
2012 – Michael Thomas and Arlyne Soto
2011 – Corey Butera and Emmeline Soto
2010 – Bryce Halla and Stacey Johnson
2009 – Pat Trotman and Jenna Paulson
2008 – Josh Toquam and Sara Sorensen
2007 – Allan Trotman and Meghan DeBoer
2006 – Zack Hoffman and Courtney Bailey
2005 – Travis Schultz and Jenna Nelson
2004 – Derek Ashton and Alicia Nelson
2003 – Steven Salinas and Angela Noble
2002 – Jim Bruggeman and Lisi Ingvalson
2001 – Aaron McDonald and Maggie Romeo
2000 – Lee Trotman and Kristen Thoen
1999 – Ryan Ashton and Janelle Iacovino
1998 – Rally Witzel and Tricia Keefe
1997 – Jason Johnson and Betsy Campbell
1996 – Jeff Carlson and Candace Olivo
1995 – Randy Rafdal and Andrea Bishop
1994 – Jeremy Cochlin and Lynnae Flor
1993 – Kent Lee and Nicole Hanson
1992 – Trent Vorlicek and Sandra Valentine
1991 – David Severson and Dawn Knutson
1990 – Todd Klemmensen and Kari Zwiener
1989 – Bill Goodnature and Nadine Pirkl
1988 – David Moser and Auna Vorlicek
1987 – Rodney Pesch and Annette Starman
1986 – Dan Winzenburg and Mari Myre
1985 – Bruce Jensen and Heidi Vorlicek
1984 – Kevin Noble and Lori Ditlevson
1983 – John Worke and Angie Anderson
1982 – Paul Anderson and Lana Olson
1981 – Tom Winzenburg and Gina Reese
1980 – Bill Ressler and Sara Walch
1979 – Mike Kubicek and Barb Olson
1978 – Stuart Yentsch and Barb McDonald
1977 – Steve Pfiefer and Angie Ille
1976 – Brad Johnson and Jill Peterson
1975 – Louis Diaz and Ione Schrom
1974 – Rod Koster and Peggy McDonald
1973 – Mark Noble and Becky Trom
1972 – Bruce Hanson and Sue Vavra
1971 – Jerry Johnson and Debra Trom
1970 – Jeff Zwiener and Liz Smith
1969 – Warren Peterson and Kathy Thorson
1968 – Arlie Olson and Barbara Benson
1967 – Mike Walsh and Carol Fiebiger
1966 – George Hansen and Vicki Trom
1965 – Dale Tollefson and Karla Hansen
1964 – Dennis Kruckeberg and Terese Newgard
1963 – Tyron Thorson and Lana Ingvalson
1962 – Bruce Kruckeberg and Lonna Bergstrom
1961 – David Helleck and Jill Fritz
1960 – Lyle Noble and Patti Pedersen
1959 – Brian Christianson and Kathy Peterson
1958 – Tom Helleck and Virginia Thoen
1957 – Chris Thissen and Luella Anderson
1956 – Doug Christianson and Sonja Stensrud
1955 – Jim Lysne and Barbara Kubicek
1954 – Howard Heikes and Janice Yanke
1953 – Maynard Johnson and Marguerite Morrison
1952 – Connie Pirkl
1951 – Marlene Borchert
1950 – Marian Amundson
1949 – Barbara Kading
1948 – Carol Rockne
1947 – Marion Fjerstad
1946 – Verna Trom
1945 – Virginia Peterson
1944 – Donna Anderson
1943 – Dorothy Rasmussen
1942 – Betty Oswald
1941 – Dorothy Hensel
1940 – Mary Renchin
1939 – Phyllis Habberstad
1938 – Stacia Vaith













Left, top: 1964 Homecoming: Terese Newgard and Dennis Kruckeberg.

Left, middle: 2001 Homecoming: Aaron McDonald and Maggie Romeo.

Left, bottom: 1973 Homecoming: Becky Trom and Mark Noble.

Right, top: 2006 Homecoming: Zack Hoffman and Courtney Bailey.

Right, middle: 1991 Homecoming: David Severson and Dawn Knutson.

Right, bottom: 1974 Homecoming: Rod Koster and Peggy McDonald.

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OBITUARY

Helen Melum, 78,
formerly of Blooming Prairie



Helen Melum (Wold), 78, formerly of Blooming Prairie, passed away peacefully at Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina on Sept. 7, 2017. She had been living in the Castle Ridge Nursing Home in the Twin Cities prior to her death.

Funeral service will be held at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis on Friday, Oct. 13, 2017 in the St. Joseph Chapel. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. with mass and a reception to follow. The Basilica is located at 1600 Hennepin Ave. in downtown Minneapolis.

There will be an inurnment with family members at First Lutheran Cemetery in Blooming Prairie in the early evening on Friday, Oct. 13.

Helen was born on Oct. 19, 1938, in Austin. She was the daughter of Guy and Bernice Wold. She grew up on a farm on the edge of Blooming Prairie.

She moved to Minneapolis where she met and married Jerald Melum. They had two children, Kristen and Greg.

Helen loved jazz music, knitting, and in the last few years completed dozens of intricate, beautiful coloring books. She started her career working as an executive secretary in the banking business. She left the corporate world and spent over 20 years as a nanny caring for three boys, Matthew, Michael, and John.

Survivors include her daughter, Kristen (Lowe), and granddaughter, Francesca (Lowe).

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, Guy and Bernice, her sister, Norma, and her son, Greg Melum.

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WEDDING



Thoen-Savaria

Emily Jean Thoen and Andrew Marc Savaria were married on June 3, 2017.

The ceremony took place at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner officiating.

A reception followed the ceremony at the Holiday Inn in Austin.

Parents of the couple are Mark and Karen Thoen of Blooming Prairie and Marc and Kim Savaria of Andover.

The couple will make their home in Savage.

Ready for some fresh oysters?

Feed to benefit BP vets memorial

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Hungry for some fresh oyster stew, or a bowl of hot, steaming chili?

What a better way to enjoy a crisp, October evening at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, located just off Highway 218 at 210 4th St. NE.

The Blooming Prairie Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52 will sponsor its annual oyster stew/chili supper from 5-7 p.m. this Saturday.

Jenny Flaherty, manager of the Servicemen's Club restaurant, has special ordered four gallons of fresh oysters from the West Coast to be flown in for the sixth annual Sons of the American Legion Oyster Stew and Chili Feed.

The menu includes oyster stew, chili, fresh bread, dessert, milk and coffee.

The evening supper costs only a freewill donation to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52. All monies are used by the Sons to promote veterans and the community.

The Sons is spearheading a project to build a veterans memorial on property donated by the Servicemen's Club. The property is located just east of the club building.

More than 160 pavers have been sold. If interested in buying a paver or in making a donation to the BP Veterans Memorial, contact Tom Peterson, at 507-456-2017, or any Veterans Memorial Committee Member.

The fund drive for the memorial has exceeded $112,000.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 11
Samantha Nelson
Meinard Haberman
Patrick Jones
Jack Weeks

Oct. 12
Candace Bartlett
J.R. Shawback
Ian Paulson
Travis Doocy
Alexa Miner
Aaron Anderson
Candace Anderson
Otto Ehlers
Scott Basness

Oct. 13
Rebecca Rogers
Isreal Wacek
Paula Ressler
Chad Forystek
Cody Burkhart
Lloyd Mans

Oct. 14
Taylor Farr

Oct. 15
Roger Sorenson
Burnell Hansen
Scott Musel
Cecil Friesner

Oct. 16
Daryl Smith
Jeri Alwes
Harper Marie Andrews
Nancy Ilk

Oct. 17
Sami Nelson
Melissa Kohn
Dean Meshke
Kathy Johnson
Brayton Clayton
Eric Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 10
Mark & Joan McDonald
Shelia & Gary Wiese
Shayne & Randi Johnson

Oct. 11
Scott Musel & Cathy Janning

Oct. 12
Maynard & Judy Johnson

Oct. 14
Mary & Joel Burr

Oct. 15
Rod & Tess Joster
Tom & Martha Walters
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Don & Pam Hameister

Oct. 17
Doug & Tammy Johnson

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SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wed., Oct. 11
Chili con Carne, Crackers, Peach Halve/Cottage Cheese, Corn Muffin, Graham Cracker, Éclair Cake

Thurs., Oct. 12
Pork Loin Steak, Dressing, Caul/Pimento Blend, Peaches, Peanut Butter Cookie

Fri., Oct. 13
Potato Crusted Pollock (Alt: Chicken Breast), Corn Casserole, Tossed Green Salad, Mixed Fruit Cup

Mon., Oct. 16
Chicken Pot Pie, Cukes with Sr Cream, Beet Pickles, Dinner Roll, Citrus Fruit Salad

Tues., Oct. 17
Soup, Crackers, Sandwich, Waldorf Gelatin Salad, Oatmeal Cake

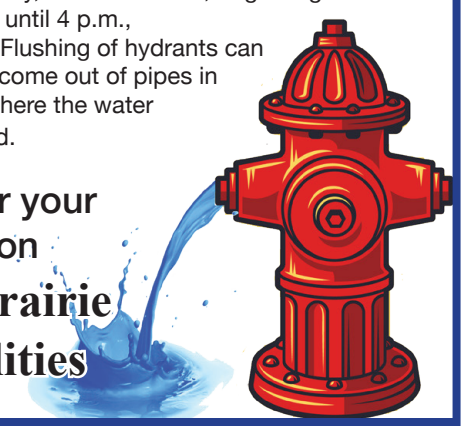
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Love and appreciation amongst tragedy

As a nation we are again grieving over senseless violence and hate, with what happened in Las Vegas. As often happens there are many stories of heroism and sacrifice. Have you heard any of them?

I have heard testimonies of spouses covering up and protecting their loved one from the flurry of bullets and even more impressive, complete strangers risking their lives for someone they have never met. I heard of a woman that risked her life for an officer as well as a different woman having her life spared by the bravery of another officer. The responses of those having someone risking their life for them are virtually always love an appreciation. One woman who was rescued by an unnamed officer was planning on going down to his precinct and scanning the pictures on the walls of officers until she finds him, so she can thank him.

Love and appreciation are great motivators. More than obligation or have to. None of those rescued by others HAD to go out of their way to express thanks, yet from their hearts they did have to! From their hearts, not out of obligation, could they not help but express thanks and appreciation.

I think more than any other motivation for expressing thanks to my Savior for giving his life for me, should be love and appreciation and choosing to follow him. How rich and blessed one is when they trust in what Jesus did for them on the cross, being offered complete forgiveness, adoption into God's family and certainty of Heaven!

Do we HAVE to respond in this way? No. Yet…from our hearts, don't we have to?

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
507-676-5696
Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
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Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN
5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
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Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of the month)

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

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

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
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Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
Father John Sauer
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
507-451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Mass: 5 p.m. Sat urday; 8:30 a.m. &10 a.m. Sun.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat.
Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs.

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
Father Thomas Niehaus
507-583-2784
www.stcolumbanuschurch.com
Mass: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 8:30 a.m. Friday
Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna
Father Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
507-451-4845
Saturday Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat.
Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
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Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

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

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(Seven miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan
507-835-8726
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

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Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

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

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404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
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507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
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(Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

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Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
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Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

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Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

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104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
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& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
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Hardest, but most rewarding job

Hope pastor never envisioned being at a small rural church



Pastor Sandy Miller has been at First Lutheran Church in Hope for seven years. Being at a small country church is something she never envisioned doing in a million years. First Lutheran averages weekly attendance of about 50 people.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

With October being clergy appreciation month, it's important to focus on the achievements and sacrifices made by area pastors.

Pastor Sandy Miller of First Lutheran Church in Hope is one who is committed to her congregation, even though it's a tiny little country church. She brings a different kind of background to her congregation. For nearly 30 years, including 10 at Wenger Corporation in Owatonna, she had a career in the comforts of the business world. She acknowledged that she loved her job and business career, but decided something was missing from her life.

"Pastoring is the hardest thing I have ever done, but it's the most rewarding."
- Pastor Sandy Miller, First Lutheran Church-Hope

Over the years, she found that the Lord healed her many times through her own trials and tribulations of life. "I was trying to find my way," Miller said. "I experienced Jesus in a way that I never experienced him before. I wanted other people to know the freedom that comes with that relationship."

She also discovered another revelation about herself.

"I recognized that when I could talk to other people about Jesus, I would come alive," Miller says.

With courage and trust, and after much prayer, Miller followed her heart and gave up a lucrative job in the business world to go to seminary. It actually ended up being a two year process for her to make the decision to go into ministry.

"I followed what I believed the Lord was calling me to do," Miller said. "When I surrendered my life to the Lord, there was freedom and healing. The inner peace and healing that I experienced with Jesus Christ inspired me."

She graduated from the Masters Institute in St. Paul in 2010.

Even during the time she was in seminary, she did not envision becoming a pastor. She thought she would focus specifically on healing ministry or something related.

Miller grew up in the Owatonna area and had been familiar with a larger church setting throughout her life as she attended Trinity Lutheran Church. She accepted a call at First Lutheran in Hope where there were about 20 members and on the verge of closing.

"I never thought in a million years I would come to a small country church," she said.

Over the past seven years she has brought life back to the church and now averages weekly attendance of about 50 members. "Seeing life at the church actually gives us hope," Miller said. "The Lord has allowed us to do so much to the church to bring it up to code to make it fit for ministry. We are faithful and obedient."

The Hope church is associated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. There are about 900 congregations across the world, according to Miller.

Being a pastor isn't actually a comfortable place for Miller. "I'm constantly outside my comfort zone," she said. "God is always calling us outside of our comfort zone."

Though First Lutheran may be small in numbers, the outreach provided by the congregation is vast. Each month church members gather at Gena's Laundry in Owatonna where they offer free laundry on a first-come-first-served basis. "We just want to get to know people and bring them that hope," Miller said, adding they often pray with people while their laundry is getting done.

There are also members that go to Koda Living in Owatonna to read to senior citizens.

"It's never a dull moment even in a smaller congregation," Miller said.

She has found that her business world experience has helped her become a better pastor. "A small town pastor has to wear many hats. This is the perfect call for me," Miller said. "I'm pretty good at a lot of things, but I'm not perfect at anything."

Miller's favorite aspect of ministry is worship on Sunday mornings. "It's a high for me for the week," she said. "I have joy in relationships and doing life with each other," she added.

"Pastoring is the hardest thing I have ever done, but it's the most rewarding," Miller said. She calls being a pastor the greatest thing she has ever done in her life. "It far exceeds anything else," she said.

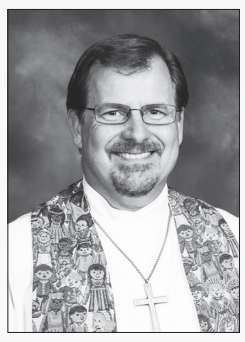
Asked what's the most rewarding aspect, Miller said, "To see people grow in their relationship with the Lord and trust in the Lord."

Miller said First Lutheran has been so blessed to have a congregation of people who are loving and serving the Lord. They, in turn, provide that love and serving in the community with one another, she said.

The pastor wants people to know that "God loves them and he has a plan and purpose for their life."



Pastor Scott Peterson
New Beginnings
Owatonna



Pastor Paul Hauschild
Trinity Lutheran Church
Hayfield



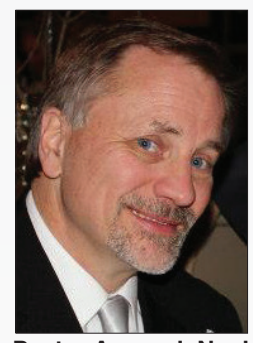
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Ellendale



Pastor Heidi Heimgartner
First Lutheran Church
Blooming Prairie



Pastor Patrick Stitt
Vibrant Life Assembly of God
Ellendale



Pastor Aaron deNeui
Cedar Creek
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Giving thanks for our local clergy during Clergy Appreciation Month



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Maple River	25	Rochester Century	7	*Hayfield	0	St. Clair	30
				*Forfeit			

Page 3B

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A soggy homecoming

We have endured homecomings with rain spoiling part of the festivities, cold weather hindering much enjoyment in some years and even a few times competing with snowflakes for enjoyable participation in events. But I am quite sure that last week's occasion marked the first time that everything on Homecoming Day got washed away, including the annual homecoming game (for another reason).

It was fortunate that the FFA–sponsored breakfast for the royalty Friday morning, and the visit by the royalty to the elementary school to meet with the young students did take place before all of the outside activities had to be cancelled.

And the homecoming dance gave students and alumni a chance to relish something good about the week, as that took place without a hitch. I guess this is one homecoming that will go down in students' memory books for a reason other than the usual. I feel bad for the weather–dominated time of homecoming, but it just gives further proof that Mother Nature still holds power over all of us, and we learn that one just can't fight the weather.

Unforunate event

Of all the games that could end with a forfeit, the cancelled contest with Hayfield proved particularly frustrating. I guess the reality dictated the forfeit, but it was unfortunate that two old traditional rivals had to end that rivalry with a forfeit.

What is really puzzling is that Hayfield still has as many or more students than BP does, and the school has great volleyball, basketball, and spring sports teams, yet could find only 22 students to play football. I suppose the school may have had a class with very few boys, but it still poses a question. I guess the question may never be answered, but in the meantime, the Blossom team was content to enjoy the other homecoming activities and the annual homecoming dance.

Another grad honored

Another BPHS graduate took home honors recently, when Tom Burke was inducted as the 2017 entrant into the Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery. This is the highest honor in the livestock industry, and it is the highest that can come to anyone in American Agriculture.

Burke grew up on a farm just a couple of miles east of Blooming Prairie and graduated from the local high school. He showed Angus cattle in both 4-H and FFA, and he was named Minnesota Star farmer in 1960. An article published in the Steele County Times last week listed a myriad of awards Burke has earned in his career in the beef industry. He lives

LINES
Continued on page 6B

'AND HE'S LOOSE'



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna running back Jason Williamson (22) pulls away from a trio of Panthers defenders for a 72-yard touchdown run in the first half of the Huskies' 46-7 win over Rochester Century Friday at OHS Stadium. Williamson ran for 343 yards and four touchdowns in the win.

OHS running back Jason Williamson rushes for 343 yards in win

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

OWATONNA – While the rains that swept through much of Southern Minnesota may have stymied the Owatonna High School football team's passing game, it appeared to have little effect on junior running back Jason Williamson and the Huskies' potent rushing attack.

Having to stay on the ground for much of the contest, Owatonna accumulated 470 yards rushing in a 46-7 win over Rochester Century on a misty Friday night at OHS Stadium.

"We believe that if you want to win state championships in the state of Minnesota, you better be able to run the football," commented Head Coach Jeff Williams. "You better be able to establish the line of scrimmage and have a consistent ground game."

After their first two possessions stalled, Owatonna was able to get back on track with a four-play, 50-yard drive that ended in a 35-yard touchdown for Jason Williamson to give the Huskies a 7-0 lead. In his previous eight carries, the Panthers defense seemingly had the standout junior bottled up, allowing only 24 yards. Coach Williams noted that consistency played a role into the big night for his back.

"Jason was able to pop a couple of big ones, but we were still getting that three, four, five-yard gain every time we snapped the ball," he added.

The 35-yard burst seemed to give Williamson his swagger.

Two plays in two possessions blew the game wide open for Owatonna. After Panthers' rolled into the end zone, the Huskies started on their own 20-yard line. Working to his left, Williamson found an opening and exploded into the secondary on his way to an 80-yard touchdown. The ensuing drive, the junior back ripped off a 72-yard run as Owatonna rolled to a 20-0 lead early into the second quarter.

It was an uncharacteristic performance from quarterback Abe Havelka Friday night.

The senior quarterback struggled in the first half, connecting on just four of his 14 attempts for 77 yards. Much of the struggles could easily be attributed to the weather as incompletions created more of a physical challenge than a mental one. Of his four completions, Noah Budach hauled in three for 57 yards. Budach was the lone highlight of the passing game, leading the team in receptions and yards for the first time this season. He caught six balls for a team-high 121 yards. He also made a nice, extending grab on a corner route midway through the third quarter to give Owatonna a 33-7 lead. Williams noted that it wasn't the best performance through the air, but it got the job done.

"It was sporadic tonight," he added. "We hit some big ones and some nice ones and at other times we didn't."

While it was sporadic in the passing game, it was nothing but consistency in the running game and Williamson had a great deal of the success.

The junior running back continues to make a strong case as one of the best players in the state. Friday night's performance marked not just the sixth-straight multi-touchdown game for the junior, but also marked the six-straight games of eclipsing the 100-yard mark. On 27 carries, he scampered for 343 yards and four touchdowns. His fourth touchdown of the night was a mere image of his two runs that went over 50 yards, going 86 yards in one play late in the third quarter to give the Huskies a 40-7 lead.

Defensively, it was another strong showing for the Huskies. For the sixth-straight game, the defensive unit held an opponent's ball carrier under 100 yards, allowing 93 yards on 36 attempts by four different ball carriers. Even more impressive is that the Panthers managed just two drives in the contest that entered Owatonna territory. Their first possession that reached Owatonna territory was a 66-yard drive that ultimately ended with a turnover on downs late in the first half.

The second half opened with Century marching 68 yards in three plays through the air that ended with an 18-yard touchdown pass. However, after that the Huskies defense settled in, never allowing a drive to total more than four plays. In fact, after the score, Owatonna allowed minus 9 yards of offense while recording five of their six sacks. The lone drive that started in Owatonna territory late in the fourth quarter really displayed the depth of the roster.

With a blend of starters and backups in, the Huskies defense stood strong, allowing a 37-yard drive before shutting the door on the Panthers at the six-yard line.

"It's awesome," Williams added. "To make that stand and drive 94 yards with our two's, that was awesome to see."

After the starters gave the backups some breathing room, Owatonna marched 94 yards in a grueling 8-minute, 20-play drive that ended with a one-yard plunge to give the Huskies a 46-7 lead with just over a minute remaining.

The Huskies will travel to Northfield Friday.



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More than football



Staff Photos by Josh Zimmer

Top (From left to right): Sophomore offensive lineman Zach Wiese stands with his father Marc and his brother Mitch after Owatonna's 46-7 win over Rochester Century Friday night. The Wiese family was part of a team established tribute to honor Marc's father, Terry, who recently passed away from cancer. Bottom left: Mitch celebrates after a pick-6 against Rochester Mayo earlier this season. Bottom right: Zach helps clear a hole for standout running back Jason Williamson.

'Sack cancer night' hits home for members of OHS football program

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Family.

It's a term that takes mere seconds to say, but is backed up by numerous years' worth of support.

It's also something that doesn't necessarily mean that you are related. You could just be close friends, teammates, co-workers and in some cases even just an acquaintance.

However, the moment when the night is darkest, you get a true understanding of what the word "family" truly means.

For one Owatonna family, the word's meaning extends past being related by blood.

It means a community.

During the week that led to Owatonna's 46-7 win over Rochester Century Friday night, the school and the program spent the week orchestrating the high school's annual "Sack cancer night" by holding numerous fundraisers – to include the cheerleaders walking through the stands during Friday's game – to donate to a pair of organizations in the community.

Of all the gestures, there was one that truly immortalized what high school football is all about.

On the team's annual t-shirts that are sold weeks prior to the game, there was a tribute added to the sleeve. A purple ribbon was set for the Wiese family. Owatonna varsity offensive line coach Marc Wiese, whose sons Mitch and Zach both compete for the Huskies, lost his father Terry on Sept.11 to Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. He was 74.

"I feel blessed," added Marc. "The community that we live in, when something bad happens everybody rises up and is there."

Marc's oldest son, Mitch, said that he heard the idea of the tribute from his mom. He added that in the days after his passing, there was an ongoing flow of support from teammates, saying that he received cards from his position group and that his fellow captains were there to help pick him up.

"I thought that was pretty cool to honor my grandpa because he's a good man," Mitch added. "It means a lot that they would go through the trouble to do that for my family."

Senior quarterback and captain, Abe Havelka noted the team really embraced the "rally up" mentality when showing their support for their teammate.

"When one brother has to go through something like that, we're all there for him," he added. "We know that he would have our backs if the same thing was going to opposite way."

In addition to the tribute on the sleeve, the program has worn a purple ribbon on the backs of the helmets since the news was announced.

"It was really cool knowing that the team came around us and helped us through his hard time," Marc's youngest son, Zach added. "I was really pleased with it."

The Huskies head football coach, Jeff Williams noted that there was a bit of a personal connection to the tribute, noting that he'd known Terry for nearly 30 years and that his wife Nancy, worked with his wife at McKinley Elementary school.

"We go back a long way with the Wiese's," he added. "So not only are they able to get the support from their teammates, but there's a lot of people around this town that know and love Terry Wiese. It was neat to have the purple on the helmet, on the t-shirt and play one more game for Terry Wiese."

Williams's comments about the sincere fullness of the community were strengthened by Marc's comments after having numerous run-ins with members of the community.

"You always get those 'if you need anything, let me know; if you need anything let me know," he added. "It's not that way here. It's unbelievable the amount of support my mom has gotten, my kids have gotten; it's one big family."

While it's been just under a month since the passing of his father, Wiese has noted that he has his good days and his bad days. He also noted that when he's on the football field, the signs that his father is watching down on them is prevalent.

"We're playing Mayo and the offense goes three-and-out, defense went out and second play from scrimmage, ball got tipped, Mitch grabbed the interception and raced to the end zone," he recalled. "That's a sign."

And much like his fellow members of the community, Wiese took a moment to put others before his self to proclaim that anyone with cancer, the community is behind them every step of the way.

"Whoever's got cancer, we're all fighting for them," he added. "Unfortunately, my dad wasn't able to fight the fight."

At the 2014 ESPY's, legendary sportscaster Stewart Scott delivered a quote that will resonate much longer than his trademark, "as cool as the other side of the pillow" line.

"When you die, it does not mean that you lose to cancer," he said. "You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live."

The remarks from his grandsons, his father and members of the community proved that those words will forever resonate in the city of Owatonna and those who knew Terry.





Tigers fall 30-7



Photos courtesy of Skye's the Limit Photography

Medford running back Jerone Chavis (22) looks for running room during the first half of the Tigers' 30-7 loss to St. Clair Friday night in Medford. The Tigers struggled running the ball, recording 18 yards on 28 attempts.

Rain hinders Tigers' offense in loss

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

MEDFORD - Looking to secure the team's first win of the season, the Medford High School football team played host to the St. Clair Cardinals.

The Tigers game plan was focused on attempting to slow down the Cardinals potent option attack.

They were not expecting to have to battle the elements as well.

Registering just 83 yards of total offense, the Tigers were unable to climb out of an early deficit, falling to St. Clair 3-7 Friday night at Medford Public School in a battle of Mid Southwest-West division teams.

"At times we did well defensively," commented Head Coach Jerome Johannes. "When you play option teams, just one little mistake, one little break down and they're able to get some big yards."

The Cardinals took an early 16-0 lead in the first quarter. However, unlike previous performances, there was a limited amount of big plays allowed by the Tigers' defense, making St. Clair have to drive the field.

"We made them get their yards," Johannes added. "They just did a good job getting their chunks."

Despite the long drives, the Tigers were unable to generate any stops. Johannes noted that other than the weather playing a major factor that one of the keys of the game was the Cardinals ability to maintain possession of the football.

"We just couldn't get them to punt," he added. "There were some times we had them in third and long and their quarterback made plays."

Offensively, nothing seemed to be clicking for the Tigers. With a sloppy mess in between the hashes, Medford's offensive lineman struggled at getting good footing to generate the chance to reestablish the line of scrimmage. On 28 attempts, a community of Tigers' running backs recorded just 18 yards while also turning the football over twice. Jerome Chavis and Barden Beede tied for a team-high nine yards.

"The biggest thing was that they sent a lot of guys," Johannes added. "It seemed like they sent six, seven guys on every down and with the field the way it was, we just couldn't pick them up."

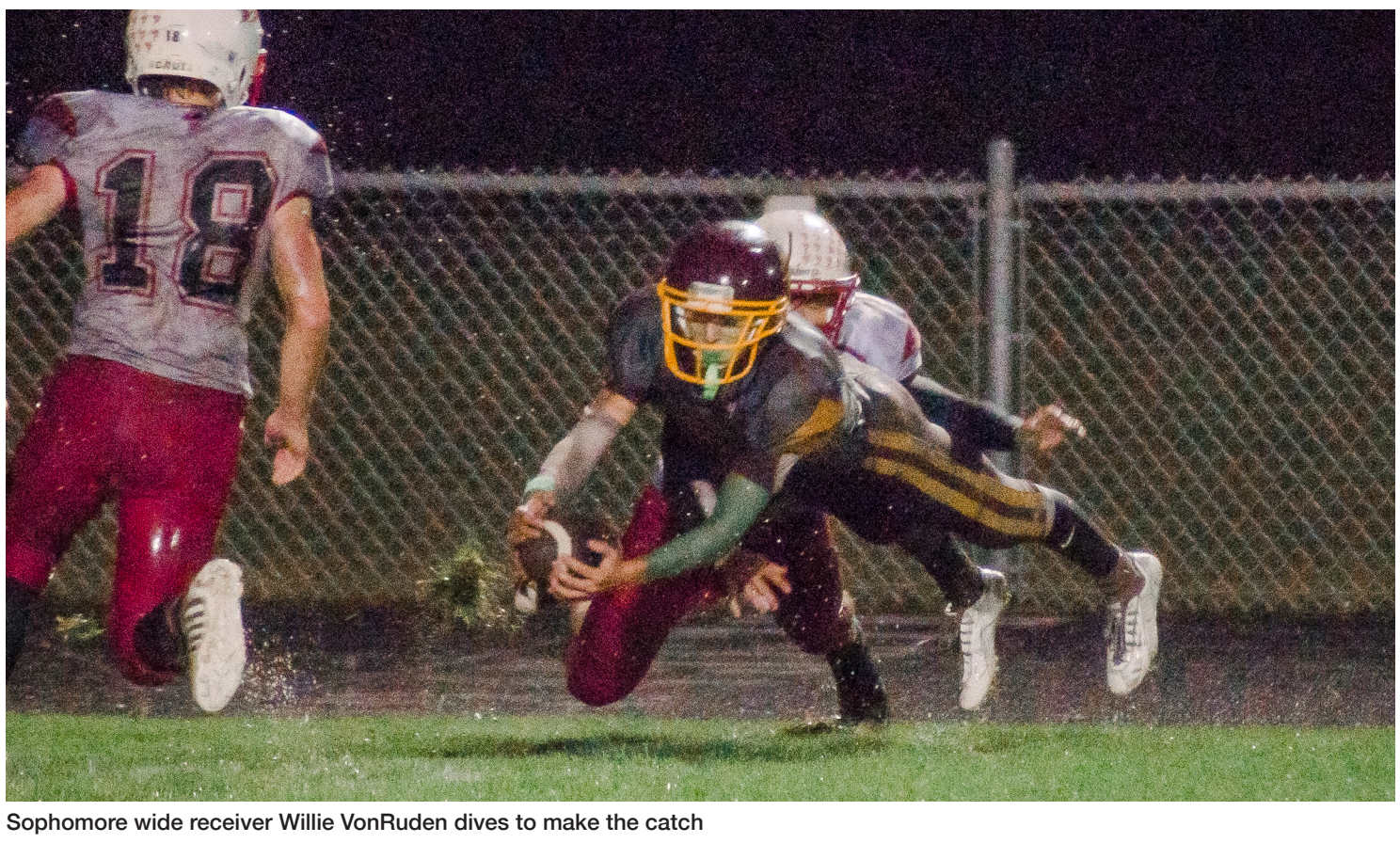
It wasn't much better through the air for Medford as senior quarterback Javis VonRuden completed 5-of-15 for just 55 yards. Of those 55 yards, 29 came on a pass to his little brother Willie.

The Cardinals extended the lead to 22-0 out of the half. That was when the Tigers' offense started to find a way to grind their way down the field. It was also when Johannes turned to one of his younger playmakers for a big play.

10 yards out from pay dirt, Johannes called a jet sweep to Willie. However, rather than attempting to turn the corner, the sophomore offensive weapon dropped back and fired a ten yard pass to his brother Javis to cut the lead to 22-7.

"We actually saw that the week before," Johannes added. "We've been running our jet sweep and saw that they were completely selling out, something we've been seeing. So we knew that we could sneak Javis out of the backfield."

The Cardinals were able to record a score with 5:37 left in the game to extend the lead to 30-7. The Tigers will play Minnesota Valley Lutheran Friday.



Sophomore wide receiver Willie VonRuden dives to make the catch

Editor's note

NRHEG falls to WEM

The NRHEG football team dropped its fourth game of the year to WEM 25-6 Friday. Stats were not sent to the Times prior to press, despite requests.

CORRECTION

In the Oct.3 edition of the Steele County Times, there was a name that was reported incorrectly from the story "Always Awesome."

George Hanson should actually be Bob Hanson.

We apologize for the inconvience.

Mid Southwest-East

	Div.	Overall
Goodhue	5-0-0	5-0-0
Rushford-Peterson	5-1-0	5-0-0
Blooming Prairie	5-1-0	5-1-0
Fillmore Central	3-2-0	4-2-0
Wabasha-Kellogg	3-3-0	3-3-0
Winona-Cotter	2-3-0	3-3-0
Southland	1-4-0	2-4-0
Hayfield	0-5-0	0-6-0
Kingsland	0-5-0	0-6-0

Mid Southwest-West

	Div.	Overall
Mayer Lutheran	6-0-0	6-0-0
St. Clair	4-1-0	5-1-0
Lester Prairie/ Holy Trinity	5-1-0	5-1-0
United South Central	3-1-0	4-2-0
Kenyon-Wanamingo	3-2-0	3-3-0
Bethlehem Academy	2-3-0	3-3-0
J-W-P	1-4-0	1-5-0
Minnesota Valley Lutheran	0-5-0	0-6-0
Medford	0-6-0	0-6-0

South Central-Blue

	Div.	Overall
Sibley East	5-0-0	6-0-0
Maple River	3-1-0	5-1-0
W-E-M	3-1-0	4-2-0
NRHEG	2-3-0	2-4-0
Norwood Young America	2-3-0	3-3-0
LeSuer-Henderson	2-3-0	3-3-0
Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial	1-4-0	1-5-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	0-5-0	0-6-0

Big Southeast-Red

	Div.	Overall
Owatonna	3-0-0	6-0-0
Northfield	3-0-0	6-0-0
Rochester Mayo	1-2-0	2-4-0
Rochester Century	1-2-0	2-4-0
New Prague	1-2-0	2-4-0
Rochester John Marshall	0-3-0	1-5-0

Football State Rankings

Class 1A
1. BOLD
2. Wabasso
3. Goodhue
4. Minneota
5. Mayer Lutheran

*Receiving votes: Rushford-Peterson, Ada-Borup/NCW

Class 2A
1. Caledonia
2. Barnesville
3. Minneapolis North
4. Hawley
5. Triton

*Receiving votes: Redwood Valley, Minnewaska Area

Class 5A
1. **Owatonna**
2. Elk River
3. Chaska
4.Robbinsdale Copper
5. Moorhead

*Receiving votes: Mankato West, Northfield, Apple Valley

**Source: Northstarfootball.com*

Steele County Football Schedule

Blooming Prairie
Sept. 1... at Southland W 37-14
Sept. 9... vs. Fillmore Central W 18-12
Sept. 15... at Wabasha-Kellogg W 40-14
Sept. 22... vs. Winona-Cotter W 40-6
Sept. 29... at Goodhue L 35-13
Oct. 6... vs. Hayfield W 2-0
Oct. 18... at Rushford-Peterson

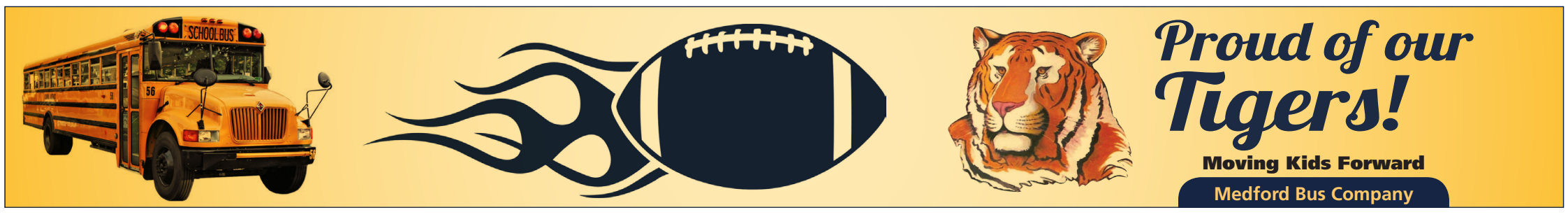
Medford
Sept. 2… at Winona-Cotter L 31-22
Sept. 8... vs. Kenyon Wanamingo L 27-26
Sept. 15…vs. Bethlehem Academy L 0-32
Sept. 22… vs. Mayer Lutheran L 42-8
Sept. 29… vs. Lester Prairie/ Holy Trinity L 32-22
Oct. 6... at St. Clair L 30-7
Oct. 13... vs. Minn. Valley Lutheran
Oct. 18... vs. United South Central

NRHEG
Sept. 1… at Pipestone Area L 14-7
Sept. 8... vs. Sibley East L 28-13
Sept. 15… vs. Norwood Young America W 14-12
Sept. 22… vs. G-F-W W 45-36
Sept. 29… at WEM L 25-22
Oct. 6... vs. Maple River L 25-6
Oct. 13…. at LeSueur-Henderson
Oct. 18... vs. Lake Crystal-WM

Owatonna
Sept. 1... vs. Faribault W 61-0
Sept. 8... vs. Rochester Mayo W 46-7
Sept. 15... at Austin W 70-36
Sept. 22... at Rochester JM W 42-6
Sept. 29... vs. Mankato East W 48-0
Oct. 6... Rochester Century W 46-7
Oct. 13... at Northfield
Oct. 18... at New Prague

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Football Contest Rules

Contest: There will be 30 games each week during the contest, which begins Sept. 9 and runs for 12 weeks.

How to win: Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter to: Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or drop off at our office at 411 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

What you win: The Times will award a $10 gift car to the Kernal Restaurant, in Owatonna to the person correctly predicting the most winners from the games listed. The person with the most correct games throughout the 12 week contest will be awarded a subscription to the Steele County Times ($38 value) and a Chanhassen Dinner Theatre ticket for two ($175 value). An additional prize will be awarded if the winner correctly picks the outcome of all 30 games. Ties will be broken by the score of the Tie-Breaker game. All decisions by the judges are final. The contest is open to anyone age 14 and above, excluding staff and family members of Bussler Publishing, Inc. or Dodge Media, Inc.

This week's winner is Mike Grunklee by tiebreaker.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

1	_____	16	_____
2	_____	17	_____
3	_____	8	_____
4	_____	19	_____
5	_____	20	_____
6	_____	21	_____
7	_____	22	_____
8	_____	23	_____
9	_____	24	_____
10	_____	25	_____
11	_____	26	_____
12	_____	27	_____
13	_____	28	_____
14	_____	29	_____
15	_____	30	_____

*Tie-Breaker Score _____ *

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29. L.A. Rams at Jacksonville

30. New England at N.Y. Jets***Tiebreaker***

Junior high sports round up; BP volleyball, 6B

Hometown Sports

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 www.steeledodgenews.com 5B

Blades top Ducks in overtime

Steele County Blades P.R.

September 30, 2017 - Saturday night, the Steele County Blades came back to the Four Seasons Centre looking to bounce back from a tough loss against the Moose last weekend. This was the Blades first test at home of the 2017-18 season against the Dells Ducks, who eliminated the Blades from playoffs last season. The Blades succeeded in their pursuit, prevailing 3-2. The Blades came out with a purpose, looking for vengeance, which was evidenced in the final two periods, as well as overtime. The Blades fought hard and dominated the Ducks in every zone with the end resultturning in their favor. The Blades were able to bounce back from an early deficit to win the game 3-2 in overtime.

The game began slow, with both teams exchanging a few scoring opportunities. The Ducks ultimately struck first at the 12:53 mark of the first on a goal from the Ducks' Stone Stelzl. Off the ensuing faceoff, the Ducks struck again just 13 seconds after their first goal, as a puck rolled off of Ducks' Alec Scarsella's stick between Blades' goaltender, VinnyCappezza's, legs.

While the Ducks held a 2-0 lead for the majority of the first period, the Blades were able to strike at the end of the period, cutting the deficit to 2-1. Blades forward, Kyle Wadden, was able to bang home a rebound off a shot from Blades forward, Zach Bettmeng.

From the beginning of the second period until the end of the game, the Blades were in total control. In the final two periods and overtime, the Blades outshot the Ducks 34-12. The second period saw the Blades strike again at the 18:59-mark of the second period. Blades forward, Cody Arbelovsky, buried a shot on the powerplay with linemates, Zach Bettmeng and Kyle Wadden, receiving the assists.

On the scoreboard, the third period remained all square between both teams, but that was the extent that the game remained even. The Blades continued their domination, keeping the puck in the Ducks zone for the majority of the third period.

When overtime came along, the Blades furthered the pressure and were able to outmatch the Ducks in overtime.

On the first shift, Blades Defenseman, Luukas Kallioinen, ripped his first goal of his junior hockey career, with the assist going to Zach Bettmeng.

The Blades are, once again, looking to settle scores from last season, as they face one of their biggest rivals, Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings (4-0). Come out to watch your Blades take on a team that has yet to be dealt their first loss of the 2017-18 season.



Archived photo



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna sophomore Asia Buryska dribbles past a Mankato East defender during the first half of the Huskies 7-0 win over the Cougars. Buryska tallied the Huskies second goal of the game in the 5th minute.

Huskies record sixth-straight shutout,win ninth-straight

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

OWATONNA -- Nine games.
That was the last time the Owatonna High School girls soccer team suffered a loss, which was on the road against Minnetonka back in September.

Boasting an eight-game winning streak, the Huskies were looking to close the regular season out with a win over Big Nine Conference foe Mankato East.
Owatonna didn't just close out regular season play.
They made a statement.

Holding a 3-0 lead at the half, the Huskies added four goals in the second half while the defense managed to pitch a 7-0 shutout over the Cougars Thursday at the Owatonna Soccer Complex.
"We're feeling great," commented Head Coach Matt Roddy. "We did not think tonight would go the way it did. They're a solid team so I'm happy the way we played."
It's been quite the streak for the Huskies. In their last nine games, the offense has been nearly unstoppable,

SOCCER
Continued on page 6B

OHS girls tennis advances to Section 1AA semifinals

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

OWATONNA – After opening the Section 1AA team tournament with a 7-0 sweep over Faribault, the Owatonna High School girls tennis team was back in action Thursday against seventh-seeded Hastings.

Weather played a key factor as the contest was moved indoors to Owatonna's West Hills Tennis Center. Despite the location change, it was still home sweet home for the Huskies.

Recording a 4-0 sweep in singles play, the Huskies managed to fend off Hastings in doubles play for a 5-2 win, advancing the Huskies to its sixth-straight section semifinal appearance.

Owatonna continues to have a strong presence in its singles play. No.1 singles player Emily Rahrick made quick work of Elizabeth Hennrichs, winning both sets 6-0, 6-0 while No.2 singles player Sara Anderson ran into stiff competition against Hastings' Amy Roach. In two sets, the Owatonna sophomore dropped five games, but managed to still take both sets 6-4, 6-1. Macy Voss at No. 3 singles needed an extra game after defeating her opponent 6-2 in the opening set. She would take her second set 7-5 and Megan Johnson (No.4 singles) won both sets 6-0,6-0.

The Huskies ran into a bit of trouble in doubles play, dropping two of the three contests. At No.1 doubles, Izzy Kranz and Anri Sakalbora of Hastings needed an extra game to down Alissa Weide and Lauren Betti 7-5 before picking up the win with a 6-0 win in the second set. That would also be nearly the same result for Owatonna's No.2 doubles pair of Liv Matejcek and Caitlynne Bussert. After falling 7-5 in the first set, the duo managed to put up a fight before falling 6-3.

Olivia Herzog and Leah Tucker managed to record the lone win for the Huskies in doubles play. The No.3 doubles pair made quick work of Hastings' Anna Linder and Morgan Reihardy 6-1 in the first set before taking the final set 6-4.

Huskies sweep Falcons

It has been nothing short of a stellar season for the Owatonna High School girls tennis team.

In 18 matches, the

HUSKIES
Continued on page 6B



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna sophomore Sara Anderson returns a serve against Faribault's Laura Huffstutter during No. 2 singles action in the Huskies sweet 7-0 over the falcons Tuesday at the OHS tennis courts.



Junior high volleyball round up

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

The 8th grade volleyball team competed at an invitational tourney in Austin on Saturday, Oct. 7, and came home with the second place trophy.

The team went through pool play undefeated, but lost the final match to the host Austin team.

In the first match in pool play BP defeated Mankato West 25-13 and 25-14 and followed that match with two straight wins over Albert Lea.

Marquette Mllam had 12 service points, including 3 aces in the first match, and Josi Lorenz added 9 points, with 6 aces. Melanie Winzenburg led in the second match with 10 points.

Austin took the finals match with scores of 25-17 and 25-22. The second place in the tourney gives the 8th grade a season record of 9-4.

B.A. wins in four

Bethlehem Academy provided the Blossoms 8th grade a little more than t cou8ld handle in taking a four-game match from the locals on the BP court Tuesday, Oct. 3.

The Cardinals won all four games 25-20, 25-21, 25-23, and 25-16. The 8th grade record is now 7-3 for the season.

The Blossoms fought hard and were in every game, until the visitors always managed to score the winning points at the end.

Lauren Schammel had 5 points in game one, including an ace, Emily Miller counted 4 points in game two, Melanie Winzenburg had 6 points in game three and an ace, and 5 points in game four.

Isabel Sunde served 100 percent in that final game, and Winzenburg served 5 aces in the four games.

8th grade wins in three

In a rather weird match at Dodge Center Monday, Oct.2, the 8th grade volleyball team won a three-game match over the Cobras two games to one. BP won the first game 25-18, lost game two 21-25, and then took the tiebreaker 25-23. The teams played two more games that Triton won, as the locals tried some different combinations in the games.

Coach Rachel Harberts commented that the girls continue to do an excellent job in setting the ball and never giving up on the ball while it is in play. The team probably had its poorest serving night in several matches.

Marquette Millam and Josie Lorenz both had 4 points and an ace in game one, Lorenz served 8 points in game two, and Lauren Schammel had 8 points n the third game.

7th grade takes Cobras

The 7th graders won two of the first thee games over the Cobras for a match victory and then took took two extra contests 25-19 and 25-14. BP took the first two games 25-16, and 25- 20,before losing game three 20-25.

As Coach Gina Hendrickson remarked, "The girls are looking stronger from the serving line now and seem to be really concentrating on playing good volleyball."

Kaylee Nirk had 10 points in the match, and Abby Hefling added 5. The team evened its record again in this match.

Rainy weather highlights homecoming

LINES: from page 5B

beef industry. He lives in Platte City, Mississippi, and deserves a big tip of the hat this week for his success and accomplishments in the agriculture industry.

True champions

Although Twins fans suffered disappointment with the wild card loss to the Yankees, sports fans around the state can take comfort in the continued excellence displayed by the WNBA Lynx basketball team.

Winning a fourth championship in 7 years truly does establish them as a dynasty, and they seem dedicated to going after another one, despite the advancing age for many of their players.

What I think is so great about this team and its accomplishments are the humble way in which they have gone about. This is a squad that has never had a hint of scandal that has plagued any teams and seems to wear the mantle of success without any braggadocio, and with a sense of gratitude for the accomplishments. The ladies certainly provide an ideal role model for youngsters to emulate. Good for the Lynx.

With the regular season for volleyball winding down this week, and the cross- country teams in their last meets, that is a sure sign that the fall sports season is rapidly winding down.

Let's close with a gentle reminder that it is not too late to enjoy the fall colors and the BP football team has a tough contest against Mayer Lutheran at home on Friday night. Go Blossoms, and we'll talk again.

Huskies advance to Section 1AA semifinals

TENNIS: from page 5B

Huskies have accumulated an impressive 17-1 record, with the lone loss coming to Big Nine Conference power Rochester Mayo.

With the start of Section 1AA team play, records become irrelevant. Win and you move on.

The Huskies seemed to be ready to go Tuesday afternoon.

Sweeping Faribault 7-0 on a windy Tuesday afternoon at the OHS Tennis courts, the Owatonna Huskies (18-1) advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Section 1AA team tournament.

"Overall, it was a nice effort throughout the lineup," added Huskies head coach Curt Matejcek.

It was a showing of sheer dominance in singles play. Junior No.1 singles player Emily Rahrick continues her strong campaign with a quick 6-0, 6-0 win over Chau Truong. In the two-set win, the junior displayed a blend of power and touch on her serves while also showcasing her overpowering forehand. Sophomore Sara Anderson also made quick work of her Falcons' opponent, winning 6-0, 6-0. In fact, Matejcek noted that they only had two losses on the day.

"Our singles continues to play well, and we gave up only two games combined," he added.

Senior captain Maci Voss was one of those singles players that dropped a game. After quickly taking the first set 6-0, the senior ran into a bit of trouble in the second set, dropping a game before cruising to a 6-1 win at No.3 singles against Melanie Paquene of Faribault. At No. 4 singles, Megan Johnson was able to rebound after dropping a game in the first set for a 6-1, 6-0 win over Kylie Petricka.

In doubles play, the Huskies ran into a bit of stiff competition. After allowing just two games combined in four singles matches, the Huskies were able to register a shutout in a set in one match. At No.1 doubles, Alissa Weide and Lauren Betti were in a battle with Abigail Goodwin and Erica Johnsrud, going to a crucial seventh game in both sets. The Huskies were able to take both sets for a sweep 7-5, 7-5.

"Our No.1 doubles ran into a really athletic team who gave them some trouble," commented Matejcek. "But, our girls battled hard and found a way to win."

At No.2 doubles, the pair of Liv Matejcek and Caitlynne Bussert were too much for Abigail Steelhammer and Serena David, winning 6-1,6-1 while No.3 doubles duo of Olivia Herzog and Leah Tucker swept Rachel Bostwick and Rachel Bauer 6-1, 6-0.

The Huskies will be back in action Thursday against

Owatonna will face Northfield in the section semifinals Tuesday in Rochester.

Huskies win ninth-straight game

SOCCER: from page 1B

outscoring opponents 49-2. Even more impressive during the long win streak is that Owatonna has held opponents scoreless in the last six games, to include a 7-0 thumping of Austin Tuesday. Roddy agreed that it's nearly game itself for opponents to record a shot on goal.

"It's really been like that," he added. "We talked to the keepers at halftime and they're bored back there a lot of games which is great. That's what we want. We've had a lot of different players play back there and so it's great to see that whoever we got back there can get the job done."

It wouldn't take long for the Huskies to assert themselves offensively. In fact, they needed just four minutes.

After a good through-ball that was corralled by senior Kenna West, she immediately passed to a cutting Jordan Whalen on the backside to give the Huskies an early 1-0 lead. Just a minute later, Whalen was able to beat the Cougars' keeper to the ball and kicked it back to Asia Buryska, who then fired a high, floating shot from roughly 18 yards out to give the Huskies a 2-0 lead.

Just four minutes later, a sliding Sophie Amundson was able to punch the ball past the Mankato East keeper to give the Huskies a 3-0 lead.

Despite failing to extend the lead prior to the half, the Huskies offense still managed to battle past both the playing surface and the opposing defense to at least generate opportunities, firing 11 shots on goal. A consistent mist made playing long passes or counter a game in itself due to the slippery surface that was maintained for much of the contest.

Owatonna started the second half much like the first, netting a trio of goals within the first two minutes as Bria Wachowiak gave the Huskies a 4-0 lead at the 41st minute of the contest. In the 43rd and 45th minute, Whalen scored a pair of goals to give her the hat trick. Even more frustrating for the Cougars' defense is that the goals were nearly indentical as Whalen cut into the middle of the field, made a dribble after receiving the pass from her right side and fired it home. Roddy noted that the amount of scoring threats should make for a promising postseason run.

"I think it makes us really dangerous," he added. "Teams looking at a newspaper may pick out Jordan's name, but if they focus on Jordan, we have all kinds of other talent."

Gabriela Breuer would net the final Huskies goal in the 50th minute of the match.

Owatonna will now await Section 1AA seeds to be released prior to tournament play slated to begin Tuesday. With the Huskies 6-0 against Section 1AA opponents, Roddy expects the team to boast one of the top two seeds.

Around the county

BP volleyball edges Goodhue

A homecoming volleyball match against a tough Goodhue team turned in the Blossoms favor with a hard-fought five-game victory on the home court Thursday, Oct. 5. The win upped the season mark for BP to 12-9, with two home matches remaining in the regular season.

The two teams split the first two sets, with the Blossoms taking set one 25-15, but the Wildcats fighting back to win the second set 25-19. Ayren Ingvalson served 6 points in the game one win, and Micalyn Trihus had 5 points in game two, but Goodhue got good balance from the servers in the second game to even the match.

The third game went down to the wire, with McKenna Hein delivering a resounding block to score the winner. The Wildcats staved off elimination with a 25-20 win in game four to set up the deciding fifth game. Trihus put BP up 8 to 3 with three straight points, Heather Pirkl served points 13 and 14, and a block from Sam Wurst scored the winner for the game and the match.

"It was an exciting homecoming volleyball match," commented Coach Ranell Kittelson, "and the girls really brought the energy and determination needed to win the match. I was really pleased with the effort against a very good team."

Hein finished the night with 14 kills, and Wurst added 9 kills and 8 blocks. Julia Worke contributed 10 kills and 3 blocks, Linnea Sunde and Hein scrambled for 19 and 17 digs respectively, and Heather Pirkl piled up 32 assists in the match.

NRHEG competes at Blue Earth tourney

The end of a long week for coach Onika Peterson and the panther volleyball team concluded on a high note when the team went 5-1 in the Blue Earth invitational tourney Saturday, Oct.7. NRHEG had lost one match and won a contest earlier in the week.

The Panthers opened the tourney 2-0 over MLGHECT with scores of 27-6 and 25-12. Olivia Christopherson had 9 kills in the match, and Hannah Budach and Laura Worrell had 8 and 7 assists. NRHEG next downed USC 25-9 and 25-22, with a balanced attack on offense. Christopherson and Betsy Schoenrock had 4 and 3 kills, and Budach had 10 assists in the match.

The team won one and lost one to Maple River, with Worell leading the team with 12 assists, but Blue Earth Area took the Panthers down in the final match of the day. The team record for the season improved to 6-12. "The girls came ready to play in the tourney," remarked Coach Peterson, "and that made a big difference in the performance."

Earlier in the week, the Panthers lost a five-game match to JWP. The teams split the first four games, before the Bulldogs pulled out the fifth game 15-11. Christopherson had a resounding 15 kills and 11 digs to lead the team, and Budach piled up 17 assists.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, NRHEG defeated USC in four games, with Christopherson again leading the way. She had 9 kills in the match, and Budach added 12 assists. The Panthers go to Maple River Tuesday, and then end the regular season at Blooming Prairie Thursday night.

BP runners compete at Chatfield invite

According to Coach John Bruns, "The Chatfield cross country course always is a tough one, but today proved extra tough because of early rain that made several spots slippery and conducive to or footing". The 8-team Chatfield Invitational on Tuesday, Oct. 3, featured some of the best runners in this part of the state, and both BP teams finished fifth in the standings.

Bruns, however, displayed satisfaction with the accomplishments at this meet, as 5 girls and 2 boys all recording personal bests. Individually, Alec Ille and Cameron Kubista finished in the top ten for the boys, and Bobbie Bruns placed sixth for the girls. Ille took 3rd and Kubista 9th, and the two boys both ran much better than last week, which was encouraging.

For the boys Ille timed a 17:24 over the arduous course, and Kubista ran an 18:46. Isaac Ille timed a 19:59, Ethan Grant a 20:25, and Jesse Schewe a 21:06. Bruns led the girls with a 21:24 time, followed by Abby Smith with a 23:46 and Jerrin Jax with a 24:36. Asha Lightizer and Emily Anderson rounded out the girls' times with 20:55 and 21:06. In her 6th place finish, Bruns ran an excellent race, even catching two competitors in the final 400m..

The teams travel to USC today and then have two meets at home on Oct. 17 and Oct. 26.

Tigers fall to WEM in five games

After taking the first two games 25-21 and 25-21, the Tigers appeared to wake up a sleeping giant in WEM, dropping three-straight contests 12-25, 23-25, 4-15.

"We played a very good team and played one of the best overall games of volleyball we have played all season," commented Medford Head Coach Missy Underdahl.

Emma Kniefel and Rachel Luebbe both registered 13 kills to lead the team while Madi Krenske led the team with 48 digs.

BP JV football falls to Goodhue

Goodhue used a good ground game and a physical line to dominate the action and defeat BP JV team 24-12 on the Blossom field Monday, Oct. 2. The Wildcats used the time-consuming pay to score three touchdowns and all three extra points to withstand most of the local attacks.

"We had opportunities," commented Blossom Coach Nate Piller, "but we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. I think we had more turnovers, negative plays, and penalties in this game, as in our other games combined. All of that was just too much to overcome."

Luke Rennie got the locals on the board on a 16-yard pass from quarterback Kaden Thomas, but the conversion try failed. Matthew Pryor counted the other score for the Blossoms, when he weaved his way through the Goodhue defense for 55 yards on a screen pass. Again, the conversion try failed, and the JV team suffered its second loss in a 4-2 season.

Ladies Bowling League

Results Week One
Oct. 4, 2017

Team Standings

Team	W	L
Koster's Kar Corner	4	0
F&M Bank	4	0
B to Z Hardware	3	1
Epic Contracting	1	3
J&H/Dairy Queen	0	4
Bunkies Lanes & Grill	0	4

High team Series- Handicap

B to Z Hardware 1459

High Game Individual

1.Kristi Fiebiger 172

2. Alysa Ressler/JoAnn Nelson 169

High Series Individual

1. Kristi Fiebiger 462
2. Alysa Ressler 437

STARS OF STEELE



It's been quite the season for junior running back Jason Williamson.

In six games, the junior has rushed for 100 yards or more in every contest with Friday's performance being the mark.

On 27 carries, Williamson rushed for 343 yards and four touchdowns.

He had touchdown runs of 35, 72, 80 and 86 yards.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:
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From homecoming royalty to wedded bliss

King Mark, Queen Becky became husband and wife

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"And they lived happily ever after."

That cliche has often been used in popular American fairy tales.

It's more than a fairy tale for Mark and Becky Noble of Blooming Prairie.

With Homecoming spirit alive in Blooming Prairie last week, Mark and Becky Noble paused to recall their selection as 1973 Homecoming king and queen for Blooming Prairie High School.



Sharing memories with kids from the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, Becky told about her experiences and those of Mark as queen and king of Homecoming. "It was really fun and I eventually married the king," she informed the students ranging in age from kindergarten to sixth grade.

"When I was in school a thousand years ago, I was a Homecoming candidate," Becky told the intent listeners.

"How many know what Homecoming is?" Becky asked.

First to respond, a boy said "it means going away and coming back home." Becky agreed with that interpretation and said it involves coming back to celebrate Homecoming.

Fellow seniors voted Becky and Mark as royalty. Final selection came on a vote by those in grades 7-12.

Each candidate wore a distinguishing sticker. Becky wore a red boot symbolizing her role as a majorette. Fellow candidate Michelle Brown wore a horn sticker. "When she laughed so hard, she honked," Becky laughed.

As is true today, each day had a special theme. Monday night also signaled the time students built floats. She showed photos to her audience. "We had three to four floats per grade and the design was created from ideas given to the students by teacher H. Peterson (now BP Mayor H).

Coronation, which is now held on Monday of Homecoming Week, was held on Thursday in 1973. A pep fest was held after the coronation to try to get people pumped up for the game, Becky recalled.

A parade followed on Friday.

Floats carrying the king and queen candidates paraded on the football field and following the game, a huge wood pile with an out house on top was set to be burned. Bonfires are no longer part of Homecoming.

Each player, coach and cheerleader was given a lucky penny, actually two pennies glued together.

Becky still owns her dark blue, Homecoming dress and brought it with her to the Youth Club. She also showed off Mark's blue bow tie.

"Where's your crown?" an inquisitive youngster asked.

"I do not have the crown, they didn't do that back then," Becky responded.

The Blossoms played the Waterville Bucs and won the game, Becky recalls.

Besides Mark, king candidates were: Kerry Harvey, Darwin Peterson, Terry Vanderhorst, Lee Christiansen and Jim Vaith. Joining Becky as queen candidates were Michelle Brown, Janis Ingvalson, Sandy Peterson, Marilyn Van Ravenhorst and Koryn Trom.

It was indeed a week to remember and 44 years later, King Mark and Queen Becky vividly recall one of the most memorable moments of their lives.



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Becky (Trom) Noble was a speaker before the Blooming Prairie Youth Club during Homecoming Week 2017. She spoke about her memories from Homecoming 1973. She and Mark Noble were chosen Homecoming royalty. She brought momentoes from the memorable week.

The season of good will

This week I am recollecting a conversation I had with a friend of mine who broke her arm. She was surprised at the incapacitation and how much she took for granted the use of both arms.

She was also disappointed at how few people called on her or offered a helping hand.

For a few days my friend felt quite sorry for herself. Finally she listened to the quiet voice of conscience asking how many times had she been aware of someone being ill and assured herself that someone else was looking in on them and that really she was too busy to offer aid. She vowed that once her arm healed that she would take the time to help those who were ill or hurting. She now knew how much it meant.



Steele Talkin'
MARY URCH

As fall approaches, we enter the season of good will. There are many people who could use "a lift" as my grandma used to call it. If you become aware of someone who has endured an illness, injury or loss consider how you can be of cheer to them.

Think about what you are good at and offer in keeping with your gifts. If you are a good visitor, make a phone call or visit. If you like to bake, make a meal or arrive at the door with delicious baked goods. Teach your children how to give to those in need by having them help with yard work or send a creative and personal card.

Be a resource for people if you sense they may need additional assistance such as home care.

Steele County Public Health provides home care services such as nursing, home health aide and homemaker. To learn more about the services, please call 507-444-7650.

Whatever you do to help a person in need, you will bless them. Be assured you will come away feeling blessed, too!

Mary Urch is a public health nurse with Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.



Harvest, rain, wait

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

After getting a jump on harvesting about 10 days ago, area farmers found themselves in a waiting game as Mother Nature dumped up to a couple of inches of rain over the last week. Prior to the rain, farmers around the area harvested soybeans like this farmer near Highway 30 and County Road 46 just northwest of Blooming Prairie. Producers are reporting high yields on the soybeans. Farmers are anxious to get into the fields to harvest their crops. A reminder to everyone to watch out for large farm equipment on area roadways over the next few weeks.

Times earns 3 national journalism awards

A first place and a pair of third place national awards of excellence have found their way to the Steele County Times.

Last week the Blooming Prairie-based newspaper earned three awards during the National Newspaper Association's annual convention in Tulsa, Okla. The Times was one of six newspapers in Minnesota to win awards in the competition.

Publisher Rick Bussler won a first place photography award in the best feature category for a shot he captured of a girl sleeping and cuddling next to her cow at the 2016 Steele County Fair.

In making the first place honor, judges commented about the photo: "Great shot of a sweet moment. Well framed so that the relationship between the human and the animal is captured."

Bussler and his daughter, Kyrie, took home a third place award for their team coverage of the Steele County murder in June and July 2016. It was the county's first methamphetamine-related homicide.

Judges said of the news coverage: "This is well rounded coverage of the case with related sidebars. Nice job."

The Times captured another third place award for community service of a drunk driving series that ran throughout 2016. The Times devoted extensive resources last year to producing several stories relating to the impact of drunk driving.

Of the drunk driving series, judges said, "It's disheartening that we still have to focus on this issue but since we do, the approach you used is impressive because it shows that even decades later a drunk driver's actions still affect the world. It also highlights the effect drunk driving has from the family to law enforcement plus the costs emotionally and economically on the community."

This is the second time the local newspaper has received the community service award, according to Bussler. "Service to the community is why a community newspaper is in existence," he said. "We're not afraid to tackle the tough issues in hopes of educating our readers."

The Times has now achieved 22 national awards since 2011. In addition, the newspaper has also won 29 state awards.

"We are committed to providing our readers with strong journalism," Bussler said. "Some think it can't happen with small town newspapers, but we're showing it can in a big way."

The Times' sister newspaper, Dodge County Independent in Kasson, won four national awards in this year's contest. The Independent picked up two first place awards and a pair of second place honors.

NRHEG Panther of the Week

This week's Panther of the Week is Jonathan Mcgannon. Jonathan resides in Waseca with his parents Peter and Angela Mcgannon. He is in Mrs. Kallberg's Kindergarten class. Jonathan has been an excellent leader in his class.

He shows classmates examples of Panther Pride through his actions. Jonathan stands quietly in line, has his hands at his side while walking through the hall, and always sits respectfully at the carpet with listening ears. His peers watch and learn from him. Jonathan's favorite food is watermelon and he enjoys playing sports like football, baseball, and soccer with friends. Keep up the great work Jonathan!

Editor's Note: Jonathan was just a little too shy for his photo to be taken.

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

Fundraiser set to help food shelf manager

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

A fundraiser for Steele County Food Shelf general manager Alonzo Hernandez is planned for Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Owatonna Eagles Club from 4-7 p.m.

The fundraiser, a spaghetti supper and silent auction, is being held to help Alonzo pay for ongoing medical expenses not covered by insurance.

He will soon hopefully receive a kidney transplant from his son, Ashley Hernandez.

The elder Hernandez has been a prominent leader of the community for many years. He has been a board member for the Habitat for Humanity and worked with the Cultural Diversity Network.

Hernandez loves his job and takes pride in helping the community in any way he can.

He experienced severe back pain in the spring of 2015 and was told that his kidneys were only functioning at 25 percent. He has been going through dialysis treatments since December 2016 and still manages to work with a smile on his face.

The transplant was scheduled for Aug. 31, but was postponed. Once the surgery is done, Alfonso will stay in Rochester for about a month to recover.

Spaghetti supper tickets are $10 each and available at Kottke Jewelers, Steele County Food Shelf, Dow Chiropractic and Kent Rossi Law Office.

Donations can be made to Alonso Hernandez Benefit in care of U.S. Bank.

NRHEG Elementary welcomes 6 new teachers

Six new teachers have joined the faculty staff at NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale this fall.

Ryan Evans is the new early childhood special education teacher. He comes to NRHEG with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from the University of Great Falls, Montana. He is in the process of obtaining master's degrees in both special education and counseling.

Evans has been teaching preschool for the past 10 years and is excited to be a part of the NRHEG team as both a special education teacher and seventh grade football coach.

He and his wife have five daughters ranging in ages 1 to 12.

Amy Johns joins NRHEG as a special education teacher. Though she has been in a variety of positions at the Ellendale school for six years, this is her first year as a full-time licensed teacher.

Johns graduated from Blooming Prairie High School and earned an elementary education degree from Bemidji State University. She and her husband, Jay, live in rural Blooming Prairie. They have three children, including one in college and two at NRHEG.

One of the new second grade teachers is Kiley Beenken. She grew up in Geneva and graduated from NRHEG. "I'm excited to be back as a second grade teacher," she said. "It's a dream come true to be back in my home district."

Beenken graduated from Minnesota State University at Mankato in May and this is her first teaching job.

After teaching for the past six years in Albert Lea, Kelsey Routh joins NRHEG as a fourth grade teacher. Prior to Albert Lea, she taught for one year in Owatonna.

Routh grew up in Albert Lea and attended the University of Minnesota where she majored in communications. She worked for two years at Target headquarters in Minneapolis. She also attended the University of St. Thomas in the Twin Cities where she earned a master's degree in education.

She lives in New Richland with her husband, Luke, and their two children.

"I am so happy to be a part of the NRHEG School community," Routh said.

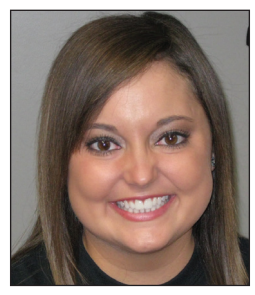
The other two new faces at NRHEG are Paul Meyer, who is the physical education teacher and Kara Kahle, who is a preschool teacher. No additional information as provided about the two.



Ryan Evans
Early Childhood Special Education Teacher



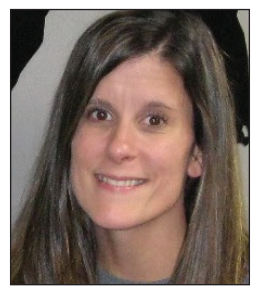
Amy Johns
Special Education Teacher



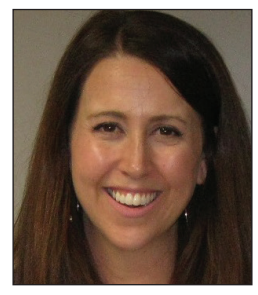
Kiley Beenken
Second Grade Teacher



Paul Meyer
Physical Education
NRHEG Elementary & Secondary School



Kara Kahle
Preschool Teacher



Kelsey Routh
4th Grade Teacher

VFW announces kick-off for Voice of Democracy

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Commander Joe Wacek of the Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 878 announces the kick-off for this year's Voice of Democracy scholarship competition.

Local high school students have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and a trip to Washington, D.C.

Students must write and record a three-to-five minute essay on the selected theme using an audio CD or flash drive to present their recording. Students may also type the essay and complete an official entry form by Oct. 31.

The 2017 Voice of Democracy theme selected is "American History: Our Hope for the Future."

All state first-place winners receive a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. and a chance to compete for their share of more than $150,000 in scholarships. The first-place winner receives a $30,000 college scholarship.

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship program in 1947. The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. The competition was created to provide students grades 9-12 the opportunity to express themselves in regard to democratic ideas and principles. Around 40,000 students participate in the competition each year and the VFW awards more than $2 million in scholarships each year.

Interested students should contact the Voice of Democracy chairperson at VFW Post 878 Auxiliary for more information. Contact Cory Hendrickson at the BP High School or Carol Holman at 507-583-2966. The essays must be turned in to Hendrickson.

For more details, go to the website at https://www.ffw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships.

Locally, the VFW Auxiliary is awarding scholarships for $100 for first, $75 for second and $50 for third.

Only the first-place winner advances to district competition.

Judges look at originality (30 points) during the judging process. Treatment of the theme must show imagination and human interest. Content is worth 35 points and delivery is worth 35 points.

The VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces.

Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is the nation's largest organization of war veterans and its oldest major veterans organization. The VFW has nearly 1.9 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6800 posts worldwide.

The VFW and its Auxiliary are dedicated to veterans service, legislative advocacy and military and community service programs.

For more information on the VFW, visit its website at www.vfw.org.

Royalty picked at Medford



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students at Medford High School celebrated homecoming last week by picking a king and queen. This year's homecoming royalty includes Greg Larson as king and Amanda Honsey as queen. The students showed their Tiger pride by partaking in various dress up days throughout the week, including color wars, country/outdoor wear, hip hop attire and school pride. Unfortunately, the Tigers lost the homecoming match-up against St. Clair 30-7 Friday night. Medford is still looking for its first victory of the season.

New trail opens in Owatonna



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The North Straight River Parkway with the Lange Woods Trail and the Wildung/Ihlenfeld Trail in Owatonna opened last week. The trail extends from North Street to 26th Street.

Get out and enjoy the beautiful fall colors on a new trail in Owatonna.

That's the message from Owatonna Parks and Recreation as the North Straight River Parkway from North Street to 26th Street has been opened. The parkway features the Lange Woods Trail and the Wildung/Ihlenfeld Trail.

The trail is asphalted with lights and has a woodchip interpretive loop.

According to Mary Jo Knudsen of Parks and Recreation, there are still some landscaping, benches, signs and other details to be completed.

A grand opening of the trail is planned for next spring.





CONGRATS

Blossom Royal Couple!

We want to extend a hearty congratulations to Blooming Prairie's Homecoming King Mitchell Oswald and Queen Rachel Pirkl! You'll do a great job representing the Awesome Blossoms!

This message sponsored by these Blossoms sponsors:

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: On Sept. 30 at 1:55 a.m., deputies responded to a report of a motor vehicle in a ditch in the 73200 block of 130th Ave. in Blooming Prairie. Deputies found minors who had been drinking in the vehicle.

CRIME BRIEF

Man charged with unruly behavior at library

The phrase and policy of "no talking in the library" apparently never stuck with an Owatonna man. And now he faces numerous charges for his unruly behavior at the library.

Michael A. Krengel, 31, has been charged with several misdemeanors of disorderly conduct, assault and obstructing legal process after an incident at the library.

On Sept. 30, police responded to the Owatonna Public Library for a disorderly man causing a disturbance. When officers arrived, Krengel quickly walked outside, threw his backpack on the ground, took off his sweatshirt and stated, "Let's fight," according to police.



Michael A. Krengel

Officers deescalated the situation rather quickly and detained Krengel while they investigated the complaint.

Library staff told police Krengel was swearing, insulting and threatening to fight staff members when the computer he was using timed out after two hours.

Police placed Krengel under arrest. He refused to get up off the ground so officers picked him up and carried him to an awaiting squad car.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

Owatonna Police
Sept. 29

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W. at 12:08 a.m.

Hit and Run: A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Hoffman Dr. NW and State Ave. NW at 7:47 a.m.

Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 11:20 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 7100 block of 11th St. SE at 2:20 p.m.

Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 8:31 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Sept. 30

Theft: Officers took theft reports in the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW at 10:48 a.m., the 1100 block of 11th Ave. NW at 12:54 p.m. and the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:43 p.m.

Crash: Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Hoffman Dr. NW and Rose St. W. at 11:26 a.m.

Trespassing: Police arrested a subject for trespassing in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 1:05 p.m.

Oct. 1

Burglary: At 1:13 a.m., police responded to a burglary in the 400 block of Chestnut Ave. NE. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Warrant: Police made a warrant arrest on Cedardale Dr. SE at 11:26 a.m.

Intoxication: Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated subject in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:10 p.m. They made an arrest.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1000 block of Linn Ave. SW at 3:02 p.m.

Disturbance: Police responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 3:51 p.m.

Oct. 2

Restraining Order: At 10:08 a.m., police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Burglary: Police began a burglary investigation in the 300 block of Sylvan St. NW at 7:58 p.m.

Theft: Officers arrested a subject for stealing a motor vehicle in the 400 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:22 p.m.

Oct. 3

Suspicion: At 2:34 a.m., police responded to a suspicious activity report at Oak Ave. S. and Rice St. W. They took a subject into custody at the scene.

Crash: Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at McKinley St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 10:14 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Fraud: Officer received a fraud report from the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:35 p.m.

Warrant: Police made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:54 p.m.

Oct. 4

Accident: Officer issued a citation following a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Front St. E. and Cedar Ave. N. at 7:51 a.m.

Warrants: Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 12:59 p.m. and the 600 block of Glendale St. NW at 2:02 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 2:04 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 2500 block of Mosey Creek Dr. NE.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 1200 block of Oak Ave. S. at 2:29 p.m.

Theft: Police received a theft report from the 300 block of Pylor Place NW at 6:22 p.m.

Oct. 5

Property: Stolen property was recovered from the 3100 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 10:55 a.m.

Disturbance: At 7:53 p.m., police responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. They took a subject into custody.

Arrest: Officer assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 200 block of Main St. E. at 9:29 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
Sept. 29

Theft: At 4:48 p.m., deputy took a theft report in the 500 block of School St. S. in Ellendale.

Crash: Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35 southbound in Owatonna at 9:18 p.m.

Arrest: At 11:34 p.m., deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject on 11th Ave. NW in Medford.

Sept. 30

DWI: Deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on County Road 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 9:30 p.m.

Oct. 1

Drunken Driving: Deputies made a DWI arrest at County Road 45 S. and 28th St. SE in Owatonna Township at 1:40 a.m.

Oct. 2

Warrant: Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 5:53 a.m.

Oct. 3

Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:17 p.m.

Oct. 4

Stop Arm: Deputies received a report of a school bus stop arm violation in the 300 block of 7th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 9:10 a.m.

Arrest: At 3:04 p.m., deputies arrested a subject in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna.

Oct. 5

Dangerous Dog: Deputies responded to a report of a dangerous dog in Medford at 9:09 a.m.

Animal Bite: At 8:34 p.m., a dog bite occurred in the 700 block of 5th St. S. in Ellendale.

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity at 69th St. NW and Interstate 35 northbound in Medford Township at 11:14 p.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 25 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Mark H. Ammann, 33, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony sale of cocaine/heroin/meth. He was sentenced to $131 and 74 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Jeffrey S. Evans, 55, Minneapolis, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. The defendant was sentenced to $1,081, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, 200 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Angela R. Herplinck, 34, Albert Lea, previously appeared and was convicted of felony store meth paraphernalia in the presence of child or vulnerable adult. She was sentenced to $281, 45 days in county jail, obtain employment, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, cognitive skill training and 4 years of supervised probation.

Michael W. Kirby, 40, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. He was sentenced to 128 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

Justin R. Luhman, 27, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. Luhman was sentenced to $1,081, 16 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 4 years of supervised probation.

David L. Perry, 41, Ellendale, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance possession. The defendant was sentenced to $1,081, 124 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 3 years of supervised probation.

Noel Y. Rodriguez, 55, Blooming Prairie, previously appeared and was convicted of felony nonconsensual dissemination of private sexual images. Rodriguez was sentenced to $131, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, anger management, polite and respectful contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state and 3 years of supervised probation.

Michael D. Steffens, 57, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. Steffens was sentenced to $1,081, 15 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, maintain employment, 30 days of home monitor and 7 years of supervised probation.

Robert H. Stuart, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony domestic assault – fear. The defendant was sentenced to $1,081, 62 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, domestic abuse counseling, obtain permission to leave the state and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Sept. 25 – 29:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Tongyik M. Kuerkow, 46, St. Cloud, revoked license and no insurance, $481.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jiro G. Andrade-De Leon, 19, Albert Lea, revoked license, $281; Nyaruot G. Bang, 40, Mankato, revoked license, $281; Douglas J. Bertram, 55, Greene, IA, failure to have special permit in possession, $181; Gabriela R. De Alba, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Silverio M. De la Cruz, 35, Clovis, NM, no license, $181;

Shannon N. Fields, 22, Stoughton, WI, speeding, $121; Austin O. Gale, 24, Owatonna, speeding, $131; David J. Gillis, 56, Faribault, speeding, $131; Paul R. Hanson, 55, Gaylord, vehicle weight violation, $1,481;

Miguel E. Hernandez Bonilla, 20, South St. Paul, speeding and cancelled license, $481; Jacob G. Karas, 35, Albert Lea, following vehicle too closely, $131; Dale A. Koenen, 67, Clara City, speeding, $121; Daniyeal D. Martin, 38, Omaha, NE, revoked license and no insurance, $481;

Thomas M. Meisinger, 60, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Daniel Mendez Herrera, 30, Witchita, KS, no license, $181; Donald R. Peterson, 61, Orange City, FL, vehicle weight violation, $381; Miranda L. Potter, 23, Osage, IA, speeding, $121; Wendy J. Rahn, 42, Dodge Center, speeding, $121;

Juan P. Rios, 42, Kansas City, KS, speeding, $121; Abran Rodriguez Charadan, 56, Minneapolis, speeding and no license, $241; Tiffany A. Sanchez, 28, Waseca, speeding and no license, $321; Marion T. Spain, 94, Albert Lea, speeding, $121;

Thomas J. Stavnes, 22, Bloomington, speeding, $141; Stephanie V. Tarr, 24, Brooklyn Park, suspended license, $281; Sherrie J. Wilson, 26, Brooklyn Park, seat belt, $106; Rebecca C. Yiech, 44, Mankato, no license and no insurance, $381.

Owatonna Police Department

Jason A. Blanchard, 44, Marshfield, WI, parking violation, $37; Ryan M. Burr, 29, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, $181; Ivan D. Cowell, 65, Medford, seat belt, $106; Tai'ricca C. Einfeldt, 26, Owatonna, theft, $181; Chloe L. Germundson, 18, Mantorville, failure to yield, $131;

Angela R. Herplinck, 34, Owatonna, assault, $131 and 31 days in county jail; Sarah R. Larson, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Gilberto B. Luna, 20, Owatonna, no insurance and revoked license, $481; Ahmed M. Mohamed, 33, Faribault, permit violation, $131; Charles H. Newman, 31, Waterloo, IA, possession of marijuana, $131;

Scott A. Simon, 44, Owatonna, DWI and violation of restricted driver's license, $1,081, 180 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state and 2 years of supervised probation; Skyler S. Standke, 24, texting while driving, $131; Michael G. Torres Gonzales, 37, St. Paul, revoked license and speeding, $341; Tong Yang, 23, Faribault, failure to yield, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Sebastian G. Ambrocio Gomez, 18, Faribault, no license and falure to drive in single lane, $231;

Valerie J. Bartlet, 61, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Sean A. Brande, 22, Grantsburg, WI, suspended license, $281; Ashlie A. Byron, 33, Mankato, speeding, $121; Jorge Ceda, 36, Owatonna, no license, $181; Dale L. Deitchler, 53, Mendota Heights, speeding, $221; James M. Finn, 46, Mantorville, speeding, $161;

Pedro A. Garza, 28, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 2 days in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Laura K. Hager, 29, Mapleton, speeding, $221; Devon J. Hovey, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $281; Steven R. Klingbeil, 64, Wells, speeding, $141; Mary B. Kohlhaas, 57, Waseca, speeding, $121; Haylee E. Kremmin, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Billy A. Lynch, 32, Cocoa, FL, no license and speeding, $321;

Edith B. Martinez, 39, Blooming Prairie, no license, no insurance and speeding, $521; Vance T. Matejcek, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Bradley P. McNally, 52, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Audrey D. Pederson, 58, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Lori E. Read, 59, Lyle, speeding, $121; Tyler D. Skidmore, 18, Falcon Heights, speeding, $121; Esmerelda J. Solomon, 23, Austin, speeding, $121; Skyler S. Standke, 24, speeding, $121; Juan M. Zapata, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $121.

ARREST
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Jaime Martinez, 22, arrested at 4:23 p.m. Sept. 29, warrant arrest, $1,000 bail.

David John Wolkenhauer, 34, arrested at 6:18 p.m. Sept. 29, warrant arrest, held for court.

Michael Alvin Edgar Krengel, 31, arrested at 2:34 p.m. Sept. 29, assault, disorderly conduct and obstructing legal process, held for court.

Kelsey Kay Ball, 26, arrested at 11:38 a.m. Oct. 2, order for protection violation, held for court.

Skylar Alexander Guggisberg, 24, arrested at 12:32 a.m. Oct. 3, possession of stolen property, held for court.

John Thomas McGuire, 36, arrested at 10:55 p.m. Oct. 3, controlled substance possession, held for court.

James Jacob Voracek, 53, arrested at 6:21 p.m. Oct. 4, warrant arrest, held for court.

Jonelle Suezette Hill, 36, arrested at 2:01 a.m. Oct. 5, trespassing and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Courtney Kay Olson, 24, arrested at 10:23 p.m. Sept. 30, DWI, held for court.

Blendyer Javier Olais, 22, arrested Oct. 1, burglary, motor vehicle tampering, fleeing on foot and theft, held for court.

Mark Anthony Motl, 43, arrested at 2:29 a.m. Oct. 1, DWI-test refusal, held for court.

Caleb Michael Connolly, 27, arrested at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 2, warrant arrest, held for court.

Trace Michael Stanley, 26, arrested at 9:10 p.m. Oct. 3, warrant arrest, body only.

Shelby Lee Decoteau, 24, arrested at 9:11 a.m. Oct. 5, narcotics possession, held for court.

James Leonard Feyereisn, 35, arrested Oct. 6, felony controlled substance, no insurance and revoked license, held for court.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 215 complaints during the week of Sept. 27 – Oct. 3. Some of them include:

Sept. 27

Leak: At 11:17 a.m., a gas main was hit and it was blowing at Irvin St. and 5th St. in West Concord.

Sept. 28

Burglary: Deputies responded to a possible burglary in progress in the 60400 block of 185th Ave. in Dodge Center at 5:58 a.m.

Sex Offense: At 7:58 a.m., deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 3rd Ave. NE in Dodge Center.

Stolen Property: Deputies received a report of a stolen vehicle in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 12:52 p.m.

Sept. 29

Burglary: Deputies received information regarding a past action burglary in the 17400 block of Dodge/Mower Road in Hayfield at 6:31 p.m.

Disturbance: At 9:38 p.m., a disturbance occurred in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Sept. 30

Vandalism: Deputy took a report of vandalism to a mailbox in the 60900 block of 120th Ave. in Claremont at 8:26 a.m.

Larceny: A citizen reported that lights were stolen from her boat in the 400 block of 10th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 4:50 p.m.

Harassment: Deputies responded to a harassment incident on 2nd St. NE in Dodge Center at 5:32 p.m.

Larceny: At 5:45 p.m., a security officer caught a subject trying to steal property from a manufacturing building in the 500 block of Hwy St. E. in Dodge Center.

Oct. 1

Animal: Deputy received a report of animal abuse in the 100 block of 2nd St. SE in Dodge Center at 12:10 p.m.

Theft: Deputy took a report of a past action theft of a vehicle in the 18200 block of 595th St. in Dodge Center at 2:14 p.m.

Oct. 2

Vandalism: A citizen reported harassment and vandalism in the 14800 block of 530th St. in West Concord at 2:08 p.m.

Fireworks: Deputies received a complaint of two adult males setting off fireworks at West Park in Dodge Center at 5:23 p.m.

Suspicion: Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 200 block of Main St. E. in Hayfield at 5:39 p.m.

Oct. 3

Suspicion: At 5:48 a.m., a woman called deputies when a different woman was making weird gestures at her in her yard in the 200 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield.

Gas Leak: Deputies received a report of a gas smell at Maranatha Adventist School in Dodge Center at 8:06 a.m.

Harassment: Deputies received a harassment complaint from the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Dodge Center at 3:25 p.m.

Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 9:04 p.m.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Sept. 25 – Oct. 2:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Delaney J. Chomjak, 25, Hayfield, failure to yield, no insurance and revoked license, $530; Kimberly A. Dahl, 47, West Concord, assault, $180; Justin W. Dickerson, 37, Dexter, speeding, $120; Angela J. Leonard, 30, Austin, revoked license, $280; Freddie L. Littrel III, 51, Mantorville, burning of prohibited materials, stay of adjudication, 6 months of probation;

Mitchel L. Madery, 34, Kasson, speeding, $120; Brandon C. Nelson, 23, Byron, no insurance and registration violation, $310; Blake J. Randall, 22, Dodge Center, issue insurance ID card when insurance not in force, stay of adjudication, $100, 20 hours of community service and 6 months of probation; Hunter A. Skjeie, 18, Kasson, speeding, $140.

Kasson Police Department

Nasteho A. Abbas, 25, Rochester, speeding, $130; Pfeifer J. Allen, 48, Shakopee, theft, $130; Joseph E. Awdng, 24, Kasson, operate motorcycle with expired permit, $180;

Troy M. Dewbery, 34, Kasson, possession of synthetic cannabinoid, stay of adjudication, $100 and 6 months of probation; Ruth L. Johnson, 22, Rochester, speeding, $130; Dustin G. Meier, 36, Faribault, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, 34 days in county jail, $1,075, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, obtain GED, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation;.

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

- Sarah Luke – public nuisance - $300 bail
- Robert Luna – DWI – no bail
- Naykor Mabior – assault of police officer - $10,000 bail
- Jose Macias – revoked license – no bail
- Shane Mack – theft – no bail
- Faisai Mahamed – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
- Adrian Maloney – assault - $1,000 bail
- David Marmolejo – child neglect - $3,000 bail
- Tanya Marovich – theft by check - $1,000 bail
- David Martinez – DWI - $500 bail
- Evaristo Martinez – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Felipe Martinez – DWI – no bail
- Guadalupe Martinez – no insurance - $1,000 bail
- Heron Martinez – damage to property - $1,000 bail
- Joe Martinez – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Emmanuel Mata – burglary - $10,000 bail
- Roger Mathers – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Robert Mattson – revoked license – no bail
- Robert Maughan – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Victoria Mays – assault - $1,000 bail

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

FIRE WARRIORS

National Fire Prevention Week - October 8-14

Thanks to area fire departments for keeping our communities safe!

2017 Blooming Prairie Fire Department



Personnel List

Back Row Left to Right: Justin Krell, Bryce Schlichter, Josh Toquam, Wade Johnson, Dave Wradislavsky, Tim Wurst, Jared Brown, Jake Lembke, Isreal Wacek, Mike Ingvalson, Matt Madsen, Mike Johnson, Jim Wobschall, Mike Trom, and Lee Peterson.Front Row Left to Right: Dan Miner, Matt Kittelson, Lee Holtberg, Dean Naatz, Mike Hoffman, Jeremy Wangen, Mike Studer, Joe Morgan, Jay Iverson, and Ryan Heimerman. Missing: Rick Hansen, Del Peterson, and Jake Peterson. 28 Total Members.

2017 Ellendale Fire Department

Personnel List

Front Row, Josh Moen, Mark Lee, Shawn Larson, Dustin Burshem, Tyler McGowan, Back Row, Logan Busho, Terry Mikesell, Nolan McGowan, Bud Olson, Pat Kruger, Dan Rhoades, Steve Louks, Allen Lee



2017 Medford Fire Department



Personnel List

Tim Amberg, Jon Anhorn, Trevor Davis, Chris Ditlevson, Nick Donahue, Curt Edel, Dakota Ellingson, Rick Ellingson, Eric Finholdt, Nick Goodnature, Darren Hagen, Brad Hager, Rick Hager, Craig Helgeson, Rich Kucera, Rick Lee, Ben Maas, Kelly Markham, Matt Mullenbach, Troy Noble, Jon Possehl, Tony Renchin, Mark Ristau, Greg Sanborn, Kevin Sedivy, Dan Simon and Mike Smith.

2017 Owatonna Fire Department



Personnel List

Back row (L to R): Chief Mike Johnson, Reid Grayson, Korey Kamholz, Marlin Kath, Matt Halverson, Todd Ulrich, Bruce Thomas, Tyler Brase, Tore Osland, Ryan Seykora, Darien Hornes, Ben Hanson, Mike Gerhartz, Manuel Sanchez, Matt Kath, Al Huff. Front row (L to R): Chris Bruns, Kevin Kreiner, Courtney Hartle, Dave Beaver, Brody Dalland, Willie Grubish, Darin Brown, Anthony Kozelka, Randy Schroader, Leila Kath, Dalton Wanous, Jason Karsten, Mike Gerhartz, Drew Joenks, Tony Ringhofer

October 8 - 14
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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

SPARKING FIRE SAFETY

At a young age



Learning about fire safety can never start soon enough. Kindergarteners from Blooming Prairie Elementary got a lesson in fire prevention last week at the Blooming Prairie Fire Department in preparation for Fire Prevention Week, which runs Oct. 8-14.

Smoke alarms save lives!

- Make sure you have working alarms
- Check smoke alarm batteries monthly
- Replace alarms every 10 years



This message sponsored by these businesses concerned with keeping our community safe:

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Oct. 11
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting

Oct. 12
4 p.m. – Police Commission Meeting

Oct. 14
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Sons of the American Legion Oyster Stew and Chili Feed, Servicemen's Club

Oct. 16
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library

Oct. 17
10:30 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting
Lutefisk Dinner, First Lutheran Church


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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Oct. 12
3:30p.m. – 5:15 p.m. – Com Ed Class (Topic: Home Alone), Ellendale Media Center
4 p.m.– 7 p.m. – Com Ed Class (Beginner Piano Lessons with Brooke Lundberg), NR Choir Room
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Turbo Kick Exercise, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room

Oct. 14
12 noon – 6:30 p.m. – Com Ed Class, Tweite's Pumpkin Patch, Byron

Oct. 15
3 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Swedish Meatball Dinner, First Lutheran Church in Hope

Oct. 17
6 p.m. – 8 p.m. – Com Ed Class (Shutterfly Class), NRHEG High School Computer Lab
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – ECFE Adventures in Parenting Class, Ellendale Preschool Room
6:30 p.m.– 8 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North

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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Oct. 11
12 p.m. – Annual Fall Friends of the Arts Center Luncheon, Owatonna Arts Center
5:30p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – 50 plus Fit and Flex Workshop, Solid Yoga

Oct. 12
2 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library
3 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Medford Farmers Market, Christ the King Church parking lot
4:30 p.m.– 7 p.m. – Owatonna Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals, Owatonna Area Business Development Center
5 p.m. – Airport Commission Meeting, Airport Lounge
6 p.m.– 9 p.m. –Firefighter of Year Banquet, Owatonna Eagles Club
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Movies at the Library, Owatonna Library

Oct. 13
2 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Distributing gummy bear candy to support Habitat for Humanity, Fareway, Hy-Vee and Cashwise

Oct. 14
7 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Farmers Market, Central Park
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Historic Walking Tour of Main Street, Meet at Central Park Fountain
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Distributing gummy bear candy to support Habitat for Humanity, Fareway, Hy-Vee and Cashwise
1 p.m. – Local Author Chris Norbury event, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – 10 p.m. – Chubb's Brew-BBQ tasting and competition, Retrofit Companies
7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. – Owatonna Solo Parents and Singles Dance, Faribault Eagles Club

Oct. 15
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Hello Beautiful/Women's Expo, Holiday Inn
6 p.m.– 10 p.m. – Humor for Heroes Tour, Owatonna VFW

Oct. 16
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park & Rec Boarding Meeting – Trail Walk, Meet at City Shop

Oct. 17
9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
12 noon– 1 p.m. – History Uncovered, A Genealogy Series Brown Bag Lunch, Steele County History Center
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Library Board Meeting, Gainey Room at Library
5:30 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Study Session, Council Chambers
6 p.m. – Tech Tuesdays, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Proud to be an American



Submitted Photo

Three Glynn brothers were proud to be Americans as they raised the American flag prior to the last regular Minnesota Twins game at Target Field in Minneapolis. Shown from left are Dennis Glynn of Faribault, Don Glynn and Clete Glynn, both of Blooming Prairie. They are the brothers of Twins third base coach Gene Glynn. There were 40 members of the Glynn family at the game.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR BRIEFS

Help build a home, buy Gummi Bears

Gummi bears are going to be helping a local organization in its efforts to provide housing for an Owatonna family.

The Owatonna Court #1180 of the Catholic Daughters of America will be distributing Gummi Bear candy on Friday from 2 p.m. - 6p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Fareway, Hy-Vee and Cashwise in Owatonna. The group encourages area residents to support this project in order to help a local family in need.

During Oct. 31 courts across the state are distributing Gummi candy for a monetary donation. Funds from this campaign will be used to partially sponsor the cost of a Habitat for Humanity home.

Calvin and Dessa, along with their four children, are the recipients of a new home being built in Owatonna.

Annual grants of about $10,000 will partially sponsor the cost of a Habitat home.

Oyster Stew & Chili Feed in Blooming Prairie

The Sons of the American Legion is hosting its 6th Annual Oyster Stew and Chili Feed on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu includes oyster stew, chili, fresh break, corn bread, dessert, milk and coffee. Door prizes will also be present. Cost of the dinner is a free will donation to the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #52.

Singles invited to Singles Dance

The Owatonna Solo Parents and Singles will be sponsoring a Singles Dance on Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Faribault Eagles Club. The dance will be from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. with music by the "Gary Tyson Band." All singles and alumni are invited to attend. Tickets are available at the door and cost $8 for members and $9 for non-members.

Lutefisk dinner back in Blooming Prairie

First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie is bringing back its Lutefisk dinner on Tues., Oct. 17. The menu includes Lutefisk and Lefse, Swedish meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, cranberry salad, Norwegian pastries, coffee and milk. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a first-come, first serve basis.

In the evening, seatings are at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and require a reservation. Carryout is also available through reservation. You can make reservations by calling the church at 583-6621.

Group seeks sponsors for Festival of Trees

The Advocates for Developmental Disabilities of Steele County is planning its annual Festival of Trees fundraiser. The event will take place Friday, Nov. 17 at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna.

The group is currently seeking sponsors for the 27th annual event. Individuals, organizations or businesses may become a tree sponsor by purchasing a decorated artificial tree. For more information, call 507-451-9769 or email at add_steele@hotmail.com.

Trick or Treat Trail coming to Owatonna

The fourth annual Trick or Treat Trail will be Oct. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Owatonna. Ghosts and Goblins, Ghouls and Boys of all ages grab your trick or treat bags and head out to Manthey Park for the annual Trick or Treat Trail.

Visit local businesses along the trail for treats, games, a photo shoot, and crafts. New at this year's event will be free pony rides. The event is free, but if you'd like to donate to the community, food shelf donations will be accepted.

Northfield Art Guild presents realism and abstraction exhibit

The Northfield Arts Guild presents "Take the Fork in the Road: Realism and Abstraction" an exhibition featuring paintings by Julie Fakler, ceramic installation by Lisa Truax and colored pencil drawings by Steven Watson. This exhibition runs September 28 through October 28 in the Main Gallery at the Northfield Arts Guild Center for the Arts, 304 Division St. South.

■	E	F	T	S	■	■	■	■	C	A	B	S
S	L	O	P	E	S	■	■	R	E	L	I	E	F
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RECIPE CORNER

Oreo Hot Cocoa

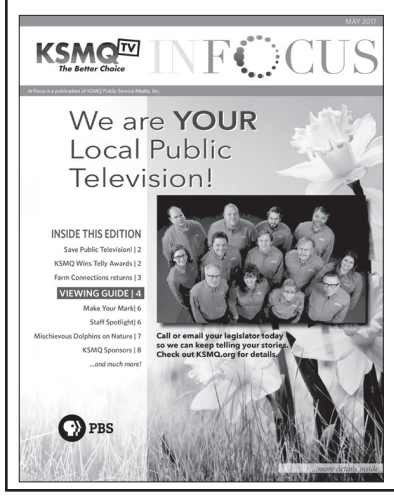
- 10 Oreo cookies, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 c. chocolate flavored syrup
- 1/2 c. mini marshmallows
- 3 c. milk

By Kayla Wacek

Blend chopped cookies, milk and syrup in a blender until smooth. Pour into a 2 quart saucepan. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring frequently until hot. Ladle into 4 mugs. Top with marshmallows; serve immediately. Serve with Oreo cookies.

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Bring on the lutefisk

Annual feed set for First Lutheran

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Bring on the lutefisk" might be the chant as hundreds of lutefisk lovers attend the annual lutefisk dinner at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

First Lutheran's annual dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Four serving times are planned: noon-walk-ins, serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the first serving of the day are sold all morning. Tickets for the other servings must be obtained in advance. Tickets cost $18 for adults, $6 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 are free. Carryouts by reservations only are $18.

Make reservations by contacting Danielle Hein at the church office at 507-583-6621 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.

The menu will include lutefisk and lefse, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, cranberry salad, Norwegian pastries and coffee and milk. More than 1,400 dinners were served last year.

Other activities planned the day of the dinner include a Used-A-Bit Shop, a Youth Candy Sale and a General Store featuring crafts and quilts.

Ruth Earl, chair of the event for the fourth straight year, said the final numbers from last year showed 1,378 hungry customers came through the doors during the day. That count, by 59, surpassed the count of 1,319 in 2015.

Earl credited the outstanding turnout to some warm weather, accented by a lot of sunshine. A hankering for some good, tasty lutefisk also brought out high numbers, she said. The noon serving attracted 736 customers and the pre-solds for the 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 hours totaled 642.

The popular tradition of lutefisk at First Lutheran in Blooming Prairie started back in 1936, said Earl. There were a few years from that time to the present that the menu was changed to offer chicken, some local church historians report.

"It takes an entire church to put on an event like this," said a thankful chair Earl. "Many people congratulated me but it's not me; it takes a lot of hard-working volunteers to make it a success," she said.

"Everybody needs to be thanked for making this event a success. We couldn't do it without the rosette makers, krumkake makers, dish washers, potato peelers, butter melters, waiters, greeters and many others."

Proceeds from the dinner go to the First Lutheran Church Women to distribute for local, regional, national and worldwide causes.



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Allyson Skillestad picks up a plate of lutefisk and a bowl of meatballs to be served to the table she waited on at the annual First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie Lutefisk Dinner last year.

Historical society offers State Capitol tour

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) will be touring the newly renovated State Capitol and the Como Conservatory on Tuesday, Nov. 7. The bus will depart from Steele County History Center at 8:30 a.m. and returning at approximately 4:30 p.m.

The day will begin at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, formerly Como Park Conservatory, opened in November 1915 fulfilling Mr. Nussbaumer's dream of someday adding a glass conservatory to Como Park. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory occupies one full acre under glass, managing six indoor gardens and three outdoor gardens and annually manages 50,000 plants from 1,684 separate species. The group will enjoy lunch at M ST. Café, the latest in the lineage of extraordinary dining options at The Saint Paul Hotel. The M ST. Cafe is the perfect sophisticated-yet-casual destination. Lunch is included in the ticket price.

The afternoon will be spent with a guided tour through the newly renovated State Capitol. This 1905 masterpiece has been returned to its original grandeur. The Capitol features the second-largest self-supported marble dome in the world as well as a wide range of decorative art, murals and paintings restored to original 1905 patterns and colors. The tour guide will share stories about the Capitol's history, art and architecture. Weather permitting, walk to the Quadriga (golden horses) on the roof.

Tickets for the tour are available at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna or online at Eventbrite.com. Member rate, $65; non-member rate $75. Space is limited and filling quickly.

Cancer Corner

Program provides free cancer screening for area residents

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Mayo Clinic Health System - Albert Lea and Austin
Sage Screening Program - Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening

The Sage Screening Programs help keep Minnesotans healthy through screening and early detection of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. Screenings are provided at participating locations free of charge to people who qualify.

The statewide breast and cervical cancer screening program provides free screening and follow up services to uninsured and underinsured women to increase the number of age-appropriate women who are screened for breast and cervical cancer.

The following services are free of charge to eligible women at participating facilities across the state.

Screening services:
- Office visit for breast and/or cervical exam
- Annual screening mammogram (breast exam required)
- Pap smear every three years for women age 21 to 29 and every five years with High Risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV) co-test for age 30 to 65

Diagnostic services:
- Office visit for breast or cervical services (results counseling or breast surgical consult)
- Diagnostic mammogram
- Fine needle aspiration of breast lump, including pathology reading
- Colposcopy, including biopsy
- Endometrial Biopsy (when done as a follow up for specific Pap result)
- Breast ultrasound
- Outpatient breast biopsy

ELIGIBILITY
Women who meet all the criteria are eligible:
- Breast - Age 40 or older
- Cervical - Ages 21 to 65
- Have no insurance or are underinsured**
- Meet income guidelines

The Sage Program has long-standing relationships with select clinics to provide funding for case management and screening services for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer. In addition, Sage has awarded grants for special projects that add to services by focusing on those people who are most in need of screening services.

To assist in determining eligibility and scheduling an appointment for a free breast and cervical cancer screening appointment at a participating Sage clinic, call toll-free 1-888-6-HEALTH or (888) 643-2584.

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SteeleWheels car care

Light the way for safer nighttime driving

Routine vehicle maintenance protects drivers on the road while also protecting the often considerable financial investment they make in their cars and trucks. Maintenance guidelines have changed thanks to technology, but drivers must continue to care for their vehicles to ensure the safety of themselves, their passengers and fellow motorists.

From the time they first get behind the wheel, many drivers recognize the need to periodically change their oil and have their tires rotated. But few drivers may understand the importance of maintaining their vehicles' headlights, and just how compromised they and their passengers might be when driving with old, dimming or foggy headlamps.

Burned out lights greatly diminish driver visibility and may even draw the attention of law enforcement. But headlight bulbs don't just burn out overnight. As bulbs age, their light output gradually reduces due to use and factors such as humidity, electrical resistance and filament fatigue. Drivers concerned about the efficacy of their headlight bulbs can take steps to improve their visibility when driving at night.



Philips headlight bulbs and Headlight Restoration Kit will help drivers improve nighttime visibility and safety.

• Accept your own vulnerability. The human eye is not adapted for nocturnal vision. As a result, drivers' visual acuity may be reduced by as much as 70 percent when driving at night. Cloudy, dim headlights only exacerbate that problem, further compromising the safety of everyone on the road. Avoid aggressive driving and always obey the speed limits, even when it's late at night and roads are empty.

• Learn to recognize headlamp clouding. According to the automotive lighting innovator Lumileds, sunlight, ozone, road pollution, and even chemicals used in car washes can contribute to headlamp clouding. Clouded headlamps often appear hazed and yellow and reduce headlight output considerably. Routine headlamp inspection can help drivers discover clouded lamps that can greatly compromise nighttime visibility.

• Restore clouded headlamps. Clouded headlamps do not necessarily need to be replaced. The Philips Headlight Restoration Kit can help drivers restore their clouded headlamp lenses. The kit employs a protective UV coating that effectively restores yellow, hazy lenses that have been compromised by years of exposure to the elements.

• Replace headlamps that are past their prime. While not all clouded headlamps need to be replaced, some aging or outdated bulbs are best replaced with new models designed to produce substantially more light output. Drivers whose vehicles are equipped with standard halogen headlights may be surprised to learn that such lights typically begin to break down within two to three years of installation, during which time light output might be reduced by as much as 30 percent. Compared to standard halogen bulbs, Philips X-tremeVision Bulbs can put substantially more light on the road while producing longer beam patterns that make it easier for drivers to see more of what's ahead of them at night.

Drivers' visibility is dramatically reduced once the sun goes down, but maintaining headlamps can help drivers combat that loss of vision. More information about headlamp maintenance and the alternatives to traditional halogen headlights is available at www.philips.com/automotive.





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YOUR AGRI CONNECTION

FARM LIVING PLUS

October weed of the month: Black Locust

■ Emilie Justen, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

October's Weed of the Month is a tree called black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia). Black locust is native to North America but not native to Minnesota. It has been widely planted as an ornamental plant and for erosion control, and has been documented to be invasive in the upper Midwest.

Black locust is a fast growing tree in the legume family. Seedlings have long pairs of thorns, and mature trees can reach 40-90 feet in height. The leaves are alternate, pinnately compound with 7-21 oval leaflets. The bark of mature trees is dark brown and deeply furrowed with flat topped ridges. Flowers are showy, fragrant, and white, and appear in May through June on drooping clusters. Seeds form in bean-like pods that are 2-4 inches long. The trees form colonies by suckering from the roots, especially after being cut or damaged.

Black locust is native to temperate forests and wooded slopes in the southern Appalachians and Ozarks. It spreads primarily through intentional human plantings and disturbance. The seeds are long lived and can spread by wind. The seedlings are fast growing which allow the species to colonize an area quickly. Once established, the trees reproduce vigorously by root suckering and stump sprouting to form thick groves. Black locust can outcompete other tree species and native plants to form a monoculture on disturbed sites.

Black locust is a Restricted Noxious Weed in Minnesota. Although landowners are ultimately not required to control or eradicate Restricted Noxious Weeds on their properties, they are encouraged to manage black locust appropriately to prevent future spread of this species and degradation of native habitats.

Several management tactics are available for black locust. For all options, infestation sites will need to be monitored and treated repeatedly until the seedbanks are depleted. Stumps and sprouts that appear to have died can resprout after several years.

• Mowing and burning can stimulate suckering and clone production so is only recommended in conjunction with herbicide treatment.

• Large infestations can be managed with cut-stump or basal bark herbicide applications. Herbicides applied to the stems or cut stumps spread into the root system and provide better control. Foliar applications of herbicide can be effective when combined with revegetation efforts. When using herbicide treatments, always check with the University of Minnesota Extension, co-op, or certified landscape care expert for assistance and recommendations. There are several businesses throughout the state with certified herbicide applicators that can be hired to perform herbicide applications.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Black locust has pea-like flowers and small, oval-shaped leaflets. Photo courtesy: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

What are springtails and what are they doing in your soil?

ON THE FARM



Claire LaCanne

Collembolans, commonly known as "springtails," are extremely common and ubiquitous insects, but they are nearly microscopic and because of that, they are often overlooked. They range from 1/16th to 1/8th of an inch long, and their diminutive size may be the reason you think you've never encountered one of these little buggers, but it is estimated that there are tens of thousands of springtails in just one square meter of agricultural soil. As their name suggests, springtails can jump a great distance using their tails. Their tail is actually a specialized forked appendage called a furcula, located underneath the abdomen.

When not in use, the furcula is tucked under the body, set like a mouse trap. When a springtail is threatened, fluid rushes into base of the furcula, and it extends down, hits a surface, and propels the critter as much as a yard forward. Their ability to jump incredible distances sometimes causes people to think they are fleas. Fleas can also jump impressive distances, but have hard round bodies compared to springtails' soft elongate bodies.

Springtails are associated with damp conditions and organic debris and are found outdoors in soil, leaf litter, decaying plant matter, and rotting wood. They are found in diverse habitats from tundras to cornfields, and they feed on fungi, pollen, algae, or decaying organic matter. Springtails may also inhabit the soil of houseplants or other moist places inside the house. Springtails that infest houseplants are only found in soil that is exceedingly damp or in soil mixes containing high percentages of peat. They feed on decaying roots and fungi and do not harm living plants, but if you have a problem with springtails in houseplants, let the soil dry out and water less frequently. Moisture control is the most effective strategy to decrease springtail populations.

Typically, seeing springtails is a positive thing. Springtails are harmless to people; they do not bite or sting us, nor damage food products, clothes, or furniture. In fact, they are beneficial insects to have in agricultural soils or in one's garden soil. They play important roles in the decomposition of organic materials, cycling of nutrients, and formation of soil micro-structure. Like most of our under-recognized soil invertebrates, they play a role in the soil food web and contribute to the health of the of soil community. There is also evidence that springtails benefit plant health by feeding upon fungi, which may cause plant diseases.

You can promote collembolan presence in your soil by keeping soil covered with plant residue and other organic material, disturbing the soil less frequently, and encouraging other microbial life in your soils. If you would like to know if there are springtails in your soil, you can bring a hand lens into the field or garden, pull back some plant litter, and observe. You may also be able to catch some collembolans in a simple plastic cup pitfall trap. If you would like further instructions on how to sight these critters, please contact me.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears on the farm pages regularly. She may be reached at lacanne@umn.edu or by calling 507-444-7691.

Annual land rent meetings set in area

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION

Landlords, farmers, and agri-business professionals are invited to attend one of the informative land rent meetings being held across Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota Extension Agriculture Business Management Team provides the free meetings. Determining a fair and profitable farm rent agreement, which satisfies both the landowner and the farmer, can be challenging, and the team can help.

David Bau, extension educator in ag business management, will provide guidance for determining fair rental agreement through examples, factsheets, county and statewide rental averages, and worksheets.

Topics covered at the meetings will include historic and projected farmland rental rate trends, current farm land values and sales, input costs, corn and soybean prices, and personalized worksheets. The worksheets will help attendees determine rent that a farmer will be able to afford in 2018, determine the rate of return to the landlord at current market values, and examine flexible rental agreements.

The free meetings will be held in locally at: Rice County 4-H Building, 1900 Fairgrounds Dr. #17, Faribault, on Thursday, Nov. 30, 9-11 a.m. or Steele County Community Center, 1380 S. Elm Street, Owatonna, on Thursday, Nov. 30, 1-3 p.m.

Minnesota Crop Report

MDA crop research grants available

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced $1.5 million available to applicants for applied Crop Research Grants through the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program. The maximum grant award is $250,000 per project, which may last up to three years.

Crop Research projects must focus on improving agricultural product quality, quantity and value. Projects must benefit Minnesota farmers and the state's economy in the next three to five years. Farmers, institutions of higher education, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, agricultural cooperatives, and agricultural businesses with research capabilities are encouraged to apply.

Applications for the Fiscal Year 2018 grants must be received by 4:00 p.m. November 22, 2017 and may be submitted to the MDA by mail, email, or in person. To view grant details and the Request for Proposals, visit the Crop Research Grant Program webpage. The online application is now available.

Visit the AGRI Crop Research Grant Program Recipients webpage for a summary of previously funded projects.

The AGRI Program was created by the Minnesota Legislature to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. The AGRI Program focuses on creating jobs and profitable businesses in the areas of livestock investment, value-added business and market development, crop production and processing research, and renewable energy.









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Solo Travel Savings Tips for Retirees

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good travel companies that offer good deals for single travelers? I've taken a couple tours since I retired a few years ago, but the single-supplement fee really cuts into my budget.

Solo Sally

Dear Sally,

Solo traveling is a growing trend among baby boomers and retirees. Nearly 1-in-4 who travel today, go it alone according to a recent Visa Global Intentions Study. But one of the biggest drawbacks among solo travelers is the single supplemental fee – which is an extra fee charged to single travelers who stay in a double occupancy room alone.

To help you avoid this extra charge, more and more travel companies and cruise lines are making adjustments to accommodate the growing solo-traveler market. Here are several to check into.

Singles Travel

There are a variety of travel companies today that specialize in vacations for solo travelers, including Singles Travel International (SinglesTravelIntl.com) and Singles Travel Getaways (SinglesTravelGetaways.com). Both companies offer tours, cruises and adventures in the U.S. and overseas, and will match you with a roommate to avoid the single supplement, or won't charge you if a match can't be arranged.

General Tour Operators

Some big operators in this category that have lots of solo travelers include Intrepid Travel (IntrepidTravel.com), which handles more than 100,000 travelers each year, sending them to more than 100 countries. And G Adventures (Gadventures.com), which has more than 700 tours around the globe, and offers a variety of travel styles. Both of these companies can pair you with a roommate, and some tours offer your own room option for an additional fee.

And for higher-end luxury travel check out Abercrombie & Kent (AbercrombieKent.com), which offers a 50 percent single supplement discount on their select small group solo travel trips and cruises, and Tauck (Tauck.com), which has no single supplement on their European river cruises.

50-Plus Travel

If you're interested in trips designed for adults 50 and older consider ElderTreks (ElderTreks.com), Road Scholar (RoadScholar.org) and Overseas Adventure Travel (OATtravel.com).

ElderTreks specializes in exotic adventures worldwide, and will match single travelers with roommates on most of its trips, and doesn't charge if a match can't be arranged.

Road Scholar specializes in worldwide learning adventures, and has designated trips that offer the same price for solo travelers as for those traveling in pairs.

And Overseas Adventure Travel, which operates in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, the Middle East, Cuba, Australia and New Zealand, has free single supplements on all its land tours and either free or low-cost single supplements on its small-ship adventures.

Cruise Lines

If cruising is your thing, there are a number of cruise lines that have some ships with single-occupancy cabins, including Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL.com), Royal Caribbean (RoyalCaribbean.com) and Vantage Deluxe World Travel's river ships (VantageTravel.com).

Or, consider booking a cruise at SinglesCruise.com, which uses a variety of different cruise lines for their single customers. They provide roommate matching.

Solo Women

For solo women travelers, there are a host of tour companies and clubs, like GutsyWomenTravel.com, Women-Traveling.com, SerenDipityTraveler.com, TheWomensTravelGroup.com and Womens-Travel-Club.com that will either match you up with a roommate, or reduce their single supplement fee.Travel Partner

If you'd rather find a suitable travel partner before you book your next trip, there are a number of free websites that can help you here too. See Travbuddy.com, TravelFriend.us and TravelersMeeting.com. Or, to find a cruise buddy try CruiseMates.com, which has a message board where users can post roommate requests.

For more information on solo travel, check out SoloTravelerWorld.com, which offers solo travel tips, destinations and stories, and also publishes a monthly list of solo travel deals.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
Oct. 9, 2007
Dan Evans, Publisher

Mail carrier Clarence (Butch) Boyd retired from the Post Office on September 25, 2007 after 34 years of service. Butch, who was working at the Municipal Liquor Store in 1976, was called to do sub mail delivery and did so until he was hired full time in 1980. For the last 26 years, he has also drive a school bus in the afternoons after he finished his mail route. He carried about 3,000 pieces of mail a day and said, "It would be all the way up to the ceiling in my car."

The Masonic building located at 415 E. Main Street in Blooming Prairie has been undergoing a facelift in recent weeks. The building's owners, Warren Iverson and Frank Henefield, employed the services of Mark Anderson to complete the work on the 84-year-old building, which had sustained some water damage over the years and needed some general repairs.

20 Years Ago
Oct. 7, 1997
Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Hometown Insurance won the 1997 Beautification Award for "Best Flowers on Main Street." Steve Bunn and Sharon Schroeder planted the flowers earlier this year and diligently attended to them during the summer. Austra and Dale Hansen gave Hometown the award plus a $25 BP Bucks prize for their hard work.

First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie is presenting a one-woman play, The Greatest Expectation, on Friday, Oct. 10, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the church. The Greatest Expectation is about four women of the Bible who are unexpectedly pregnant: Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth and Mary. Margaret Andersen, who has written the play and portrays all four women, is a professional actress from New York City. She has performed throughout the country and other parts of the world for the past 20 years.

50 Years Ago
Oct. 12, 1967
Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers

Over one-half of the goal of $75,000 has been pledged in the fund drive in connection with the Blooming Prairie Cooperative Creamery wherein patrons and businessmen are signing notes pledging their credit in an attempt to keep the dairy plants operating, it was announced to the Times on Tuesday. Most of the notes have been in denominations of $500 or more, it was reported. Approximately $24,000 was raised at the first meeting on Sept. 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Meyer, well-known area couple, will be honored at an "open house" in observance of their 45th wedding anniversary on Oct. 15 at the Community building in Blooming Prairie.

A robbery attempt at Strohschein Ford's used car lot in Blooming Prairie at 1:45 a.m. last Sunday was unsuccessful due to the alertness of Night Police Officer Jens Jorgenson. Officer Jorgenson was making his rounds when he heard a noise in the used car lot. Upon investigation, he found the trunk lid open on one of the Strohschein vehicles and the spare tire half way out. The thieves evidently saw Officer Jorgenson approaching and made off on foot without the wheel and tire.

75 Years Ago
Oct. 8, 1942
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Jimmy Fitzgerald, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Fitzgerald, was painful burned Friday afternoon at the Fitzgerald country home near here. The little fellow found some gasoline in a can and after saturating some of it on his right hand struck a match. Results followed quickly. He received second degree burns on his right hand that are causing the lad considerable pain. He was brought to town and Dr. Melby rendered medical aid.

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

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**NOTICE OF TESTING OF OPTICAL SCAN VOTING SYSTEM
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN
STATE OF MN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Independent School District No. 756 shall perform a public accuracy test of the optical scan voting system to be used in the November 7, 2017, election. The test will be conducted on Monday, October 30, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. at the Steele County Administration Center located at 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. Interested individuals are authorized to attend and observe. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Clark at 507-583-4426.

October 9, 2017

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Pam Hameister, Clerk

10/10

Steele County Second Half

Non-Agricultural Real Estate Taxes Due October 16, 2017

When paying in our office, remember to bring in your tax statement.

Payment Drop Box Available

Located at Administration Building
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

10/10

ESTATE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE**

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

**Court File Number:
74-PR-17-1796**

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

**Estate of
Harriet J. Bartosch,
Decedent**

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on November 13, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., by this Court at Owatonna Fire Hall, 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota.

1. Notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.

2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:
Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

BY THE COURT
Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
10/03/2017

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator
10/03/2017

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

10/10, 10/17

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: 07/21/2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $169,665.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kristina K. Klocek, A Single Woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 07/22/2016 as T000073918 CERT # 19127 in the Office of the County Register of Deeds, Steele County, Minnesota
The mortgage was assigned for value as follows:
Assignee: Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Assignment dated: 08/30/2017
Assignment recorded: 09/07/2017
Assignment recording information: T000075272 CERT # 19127
All in the records of the County Register of Deeds in and for Steele County, Minnesota.

TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 17-336-0210
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 2, Heers Addition No. 4, Owatonna, Minnesota.
Torrens Certificate No.19127
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1709 Greenwood Place, Owatonna, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Freedom Mortgage Corporation
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: $174,620.96 AS OF 11/15/2017.
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes.
Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 11/28/2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, 204 E. Pearl, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law.
The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is 6 Months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on May 28, 2018, or the next business day if May 28, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.
Publication to begin the week of: 10/09/2017-10/13/2017
Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee/ Mortgage Assignee
The Sayer Law Group, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

10/10, 10/17, 10/24
10/31, 11/7, 11/14

NOTICE TO FARMERS

Sealed bids will be received by the Steele County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, P. O. Box 890, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, until 1:00 p.m., October 23, 2017 for lease of approximately 77 acres of farmland located in the E 1/2 of Section 28, Aurora Township (County Landfill property) in Steele County for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. The farmland consists of 51 acres of grassland and 26 tillable acres.

Bids shall be submitted on a dollar amount per acre basis on a bid form supplied by the County. To view the property and/or obtain a bid form, please contact Bruce Holland, Landfill Supervisor, with questions regarding this lease opportunity at the landfill (9420 SE 64th Avenue, Blooming Prairie, MN), Telephone: (507) 402-1719.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any technical defects and to award the lease to other than the highest bidder, or more than one bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the County will be best served thereby.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

10/10, 10/17

NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FORMER STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SITE

Proposals will be received by the Steele County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, P.O. Box 890, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060, until 12:00 noon, December 5, 2017 for the purchase and development of the former Steele County Highway Department properties along Hoffman Drive in the City of Owatonna.

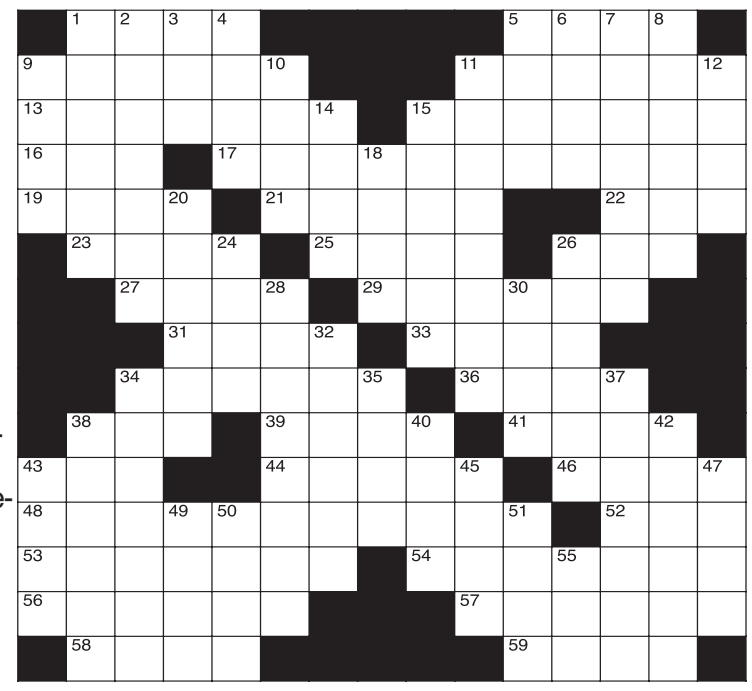
Submittal requirements are detailed in the Request for Proposals, which can be obtained on the Steele County website at www.co.steele.mn.us, from the Steele County Planning and Zoning Office, or the Steele County Administration Office, both located at 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, 55060.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to request any additional materials as deemed necessary.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

10/3, 10/10, 1017

WEEKLY CROSSWORD - ANSWERS ON PG. C6



CLUES ACROSS
1. Newts
5. Taxis
9. Ski down these
11. Solace
13. Thieves of the sea
15. Diacritical mark
16. Frost
17. Enmities
19. Furnace for baking
21. Founder of female institute
22. Eight
23. Earl Grey and chamomile are two
25. Messenger ribonucleic acid
26. Dull, unproductive pattern of behavior
27. A large and hurried swallow
29. Large nests
31. A way to choose
33. Grocery store
34. Drains
36. Hawaiian wreath
38. Where fish live
39. Get rid of
41. Beyond, transcending
43. Uncastrated male sheep
44. Asserts
46. Snoopy and Rin Tin Tin are two
48. Windy City footballer
52. Green veggie
53. Director
54. Conditioning
56. Spoke foolishly
57. Legislative body
58. Square measures
59. Cheek

CLUES DOWN
1. Call forth
2. Front legs
3. Third-party access
4. Hairlike structure
5. Ghanaian money
6. Settled down
7. Ill-natured
8. Choose
9. Mountain in the Slovenian Alps
10. Samsung laptops
11. Inquire into
12. Not slow
14. Thailand
15. Front of the eye
18. Kentucky town 41549
20. Extreme disgust
24. Not fast
26. Smelled bad
28. Portended
30. Leader
32. Comedian Noah
34. Course
35. Sloven
37. Perfect places
38. A vast desert in N. Africa
40. Monetary unit of Angola
42. Clerks
43. Canadian law enforcers
45. Without (French)
47. Having wisdom that comes with age
49. Delicacy (archaic)
50. Grows older
51. Bitterly regrets
55. It's present in all living cells (abbr.)

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



NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 756, Blooming Prairie, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 7th day of November 2017, for the purpose of electing four school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO FOUR

○ KELLY BRAATEN
○ PAM HAMEISTER
○ RODNEY KRELL
○ DEAN MESHKE
○ _____
○ _____
○ _____
○ _____

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows: Polling Place #1 – Blooming Prairie Elementary School Gym, 123 2nd Street NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

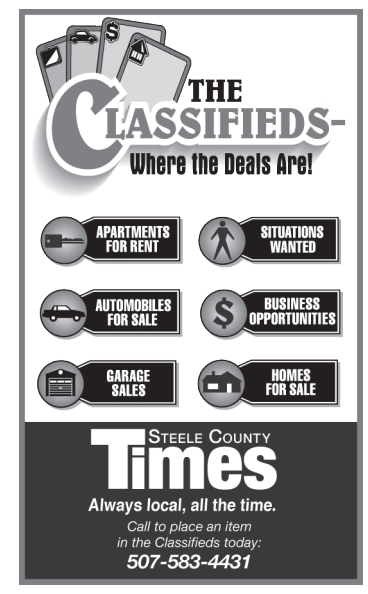
Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 12:00 o'clock p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 9, 2017

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Pam Hameister, Clerk

10/10, 10/17





FORECLOSURE

17-107550

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 15, 2008
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $80,300.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jacqueline J. Robinson, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 16, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000358537
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Thereafter assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lots 15 to 26, both inclusive in Block 3, Clarke's Addition to the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota
That part of the South Half of 7th Street NE (Pope Street) which lies S of Lot 1, Block 4, Clarke's Addition, North of Lot 20, Block 3, Clarke's Addition East of the East line of Center Avenue (Pine Street) and West of the Westerly right of way line of State Highways 218 and 30 in the village (now City) of Blooming Prairie (now Vacated)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 801 Center Ave N, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-109-0315
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $72,905.11
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: October 27, 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 April 27, 2018, or the next business day if April 27, 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: August 31, 2017

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

9/5, 9/12, 9/19
9/26,10/3, 10/10

FORECLOSURE

17-107230

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 7, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $69,900.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Marcia K. Prestegard, single woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1002489-0000001611-4
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Rescue Mortgage, Inc. DBA Mortgage Depot
SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 3, 2010, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000369179
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Bank of America, N.A.; Thereafter assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC; thereafter assigned to J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 3 in Block 2 in Pointview Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 314 Southview St, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-134-0203
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $65,408.19
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: November 17, 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 May 17, 2018, or the next business day if May 17, 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: September 18, 2017

J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

9/26, 10/3, 10/10
10/17, 10/24, 10/31

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 3, 2015
MORTGAGOR: Earl Eugene Butenhoff and Linda Eileen Butenhoff, husband and wife as joint tenants.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for American Nationwide Mortgage Company, Inc. its successors and assigns.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded September 4, 2015 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000403975.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ditech Financial LLC. Dated August 22, 2017 Recorded August 25, 2017, as Document No. A000414480.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100969901641507013
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: American Nationwide Mortgage Company, Inc.
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Ditech Financial LLC
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2455 Fox Hollow Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 17-582-0403
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 3, Block 4, North Country Addition No. 2, Steele County, Minnesota
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $272,253.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $282,042.55
That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE:
Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on June 1, 2018 unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

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

Dated: September 20, 2017

Ditech Financial LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/ Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
8 - 17-004745 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/26, 10/3, 10/10
10/17, 10/24, 10/31

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 22, 2012
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $238,555.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Phillip E. Daley and Carol S. Daley, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 30, 2012 as Document Number A000384891 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 1, Block 1, South Prairie Park Addition, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1915 LEMOND PLACE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $198,769.80
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-516-0101
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: November 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM.
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota. To pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 14, 2018.

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

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

Dated: September 21, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-1014-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

9/26, 10/3, 10/10
10/17, 10/24, 10/31

FORECLOSURE

17-107800

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 6, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $183,673.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Trevor Kruckeberg, a single man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100867104732506290
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed August 7, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000392843
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
The North 3 feet of Lot 8, and all of Lot 9, Block 2, Tom Peterson Addition, City of Blooming Prairie
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 530 Memorial Dr NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-115-0209
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $177,822.57
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: November 30, 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 May 30, 2018, or the next business day if May 30, 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: October 4, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

10/10, 10/17, 10/24
10/31, 11/7, 11/14

STEELE COUNTY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF TAX-FORFEITED LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the Steele County Auditor in Owatonna, I shall sell to the highest bidder those parcels of land described in the list contained herein, which have been classified as non-conservation lands and appraised as provided by law. This sale will be governed by the provisions of Sections 282.221 to 282.226 of the Minnesota Statutes and by the Resolution of the Steele County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale, which Resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the parcels of tax forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on the List of Tax Forfeited Land, which is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 by the Steele County Auditor at the Steele County Auditor's Office in the Steele County Administration Center, for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on the List of Tax-Forfeited Lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the sale shall be for CASH OR APPROVED CHECK.

Information about buying tax-forfeited land can be obtained at www.co.steele.mn.us" www.co.steele.mn.us or at the office of the County Auditor, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. Telephone (507) 444-7410.

Lands to be sold are as follows:

Township or City	Description of Property for Sale	Basic Sale Price	Assessment Before Forfeiture
305 & 307 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	14-100-1310 East Half of Lot 6, Block 13, in the Village (now City) of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. EXCEPT: The East 12 inches of South 102 feet thereof.	$ 7,500.00	$ 3,194.68
City of Owatonna (Bare Lot-Academy St.) Owatonna, MN 55060	17-151-0209 Morningside Blk.2 Lot 9 Ex. to Bergh's Morningside	$ 1.00	$ 252.52
408 Chestnut Ave. Owatonna, MN 55060	17-123-0102 Lot 2, in Block 1 of Bigelow's Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota.	$ 14,000.00	$ 2,430.66

Given under my hand and official seal at Steele County, Minnesota this 26th day of September, 2017.

_____
Laura Ihrke

Steele County Auditor
Steele County Administration Center
630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
Telephone: (507) 444-7410

10/3, 10/10, 10/17

Classifieds

3-WEEK SPECIAL: $32
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER







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To place an ad: Call: 507-583-4431, E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net, Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

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

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Caleb's Pet Sitting, Cats & Dogs, please call me at 507-634 -7907. 33tfc

GARAGE SALE

Riverside Park, Mantorville. Every Tuesday 11 am - 5 pm May-October Farmers' & Artisans' Market: Artists, crafters, Watkins products, baked goods, flea market & farmers' market vendors, non-profit fundraising groups welcome, $5/wk. vendor fee, 507-635-5554, www.mantorvilletourism.com

16 7th St. E. Mantorville. (Blue rambler across from courthouse parking lot) Sat 8am-3pm. Rummage Sale/ moving Sale. Tons of household items, kitchen, garage and lots of home decor. 43p

1200 West Main Street Kasson Thursday 9-6. Ladies and teen name brand clothes, Queen size bedding, clear vases used in wedding, household items, Santa collection, and much misc. 43p

FOR RENT

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 an 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

BLOOMING PRAIRIE 1 bd second floor smoke free apts for 62+ or disabled persons. Rent based on income & ALL utilities included! 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704. Equal housing opportunity. 41-42c,43nc; 44nc

AFFORDABLE RENTALS! 1 bd in Kasson & 2 bd in Mantorville. Family & senior rentals. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 41-42c, 43nc, 44c

Hayfield-For Rent- Great Western Apartments. 1,2, & 3 bedroom apartments, includes all utilities, laundry onsite. Available immediately. Call (507)796-0152 or (507)330-9788. 43,44,45nc

Lower duplex- 2bdrm w/ washer & dryer, shared garage, close to Kasson schools. $570.00 a month plus deposit. Call 634-4337 after 6:00pm. 43,44,45nc

1 BD~ CLAREMONT Rent $525 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. 43, 44p; 45nc

LEARN Something New Every Week in the Dodge County INDEPENDENT

FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for $9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc

Pies for sale. Fresh Apple frozen take and bake pies are now available; made by the D0dge Center Seventh Day Baptist Ladies Aid- also Triple Berry, Peach, Blueberry, Rhubarb and Rhubarb-Strawberry. Call Joan at 507-696-3399. 42, 43, 44nc

EMPLOYMENT

Looking for part-time help milking in a parlor. Call 507-634-4308. 42tfc

Livestock CDL Driver, Southern MN/NEIA area, Haul to Tyson/JBS/Hormel, can be home every night, 6-8+ loads/week, paid percentage of load rate, must have driving experience-livestock experience not necessary, Call/ text 507-517-4221 if interested. 43,44,45nc

MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 43p



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Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord.

►PT AM, PT PM and Float positions available.
►Must have current MN drivers lilcense and pass background check.
►Paid training provided!
►AM's/Floats: $10.00 – $10.50
►PM's: $11.00 - $11.50

CALL HEIDI OR KARLA AT 507-527-2456 OR APPLY AT 205 SOUTHVIEW STREET, WEST CONCORD.
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TO APPLY

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Part-time substitute Kitchen Helper

for noon meal program at Rochester High Pointe. 5 days/wk. Approx. 25 hours/week.

For more information and application, visit Semcac's web site at www.semcac or contact Semcac Senior Nutrition, PO Box 549, Rushford, MN 55971, 507-864-8231.

Applications must be postmarked by Sept, 15, 2017.

EOE.

Semcac

POWDER COAT PAINTER



RDM of Minnesota currently has 2 positions available for EXPERIENCED (2+ years) powder coat painters.

•Hours are Monday-Thursday 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
•Pay based on experience and performance.

Please send resume to:
receptionist@rdmofmn.com

RDM OF MINNESOTA

DRIVER WANTED

Warehouse Plus, Inc. has openings for a Class A CDL Truck Driver to join our livestock hauling team. Clean driving record preferred and current medical card is a must. Monday-Friday with some required Saturdays in the Claremont, MN surrounding area. Home daily.

Experience a plus but will train the right person.
Paid Holidays and Vacation pay.

Contact Levi @ 507-251-8130 for an application and interview.

Warehouse Plus, Inc.
20981 County Highway 24 • West Concord, MN 55985

QUALITY TECH

RDM of Minnesota, an ISO-certified company in Dodge Center, MN, is seeking a full-time Quality Tech with flexible hours.

Applicants must be able to:

- Determine from blueprints and specifications to include GD&T; the dimensions, finishes, processes and methods of inspection; precision instruments (i.e. CMM, calipers, micrometers), gauges, tools, and set-up required for checking surfaces and variations.
- Uses quality tools (and others) to troubleshoot, identify and analyze problems to the true root-cause level, and work with the appropriate teams to implement solutions and ensure the identified root – because problems are resolved.
- Determines disposition of finished product by collecting, classifying, analyzing and interpreting production and quality data; judging product acceptability in comparison to defined specifications.
- Experience with CMM programming and FARO Arm Edge with Laser scanning preferred.

Compensation package available to attract and retain outstanding talent.

Qualified candidates may send their resumes to:
receptionist@rdmofmn.com

RDM OF MINNESOTA

Pine Haven Community

is pleased to announce the implementation of a nurse residency in our long-term and skilled care facility. The goals of this program are to prepare nurse graduates to care for patients with various levels of acuity and complexity, and assist with the transition from student nurse to practicing nurse.

•RN or LPN programs available
•Extended orientation
•Monthly focused learning experiences
•A personal mentor assigned to each nurse resident
•Oversight by an RN with a master's degree in nursing education

REQUIREMENTS:

•Recent (within one year) graduate from an appropriate school of nursing
•Current Minnesota license prior to start date
•Commitment to one year of continued employment following nurse residency completion

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Pine Haven community

For more information regarding employment opportunities please contact Human Resources at 507-356-8304 ext. 112

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(507)634-6640

Free advance care planning classes offered this fall

The Honoring Choices Advance Care Planning program will be hosting several upcoming, free classes and activities to help people talk about and write about their future health care decisions.

"Have you had the conversation?" is a two-session activity in which participants will learn how to have a conversation about their wishes with their loved ones. The second session will involve participants sharing their experiences. These sessions will be offered on Oct. 19 and Nov. 16 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Owatonna Public Utilities and also offered Oct. 30 and Dec. 6 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Faribault Senior Center.

The "Advance Care Planning and Health Care Directive" class allows attendees an opportunity to understand and complete an advance care directive. The class will be offered on Nov. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Owatonna Hospital and on Dec. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at District One Hospital in Faribault.

To register, please contact Kerry Hjelmgren, Advance Care Planning Coordinator, at 507-331-5061 or honoringchoices@allina.com.

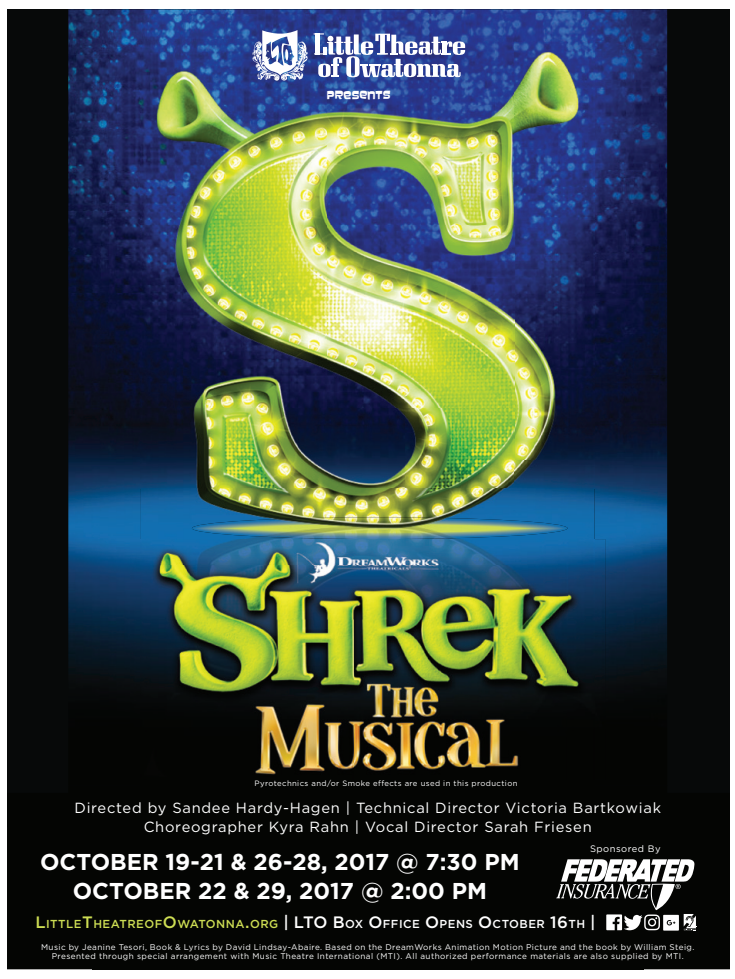
Honoring Choices Minnesota Advance Care Planning program for Faribault and Owatonna is funded by Faribault Area Hospice Foundation, Owatonna Hospital Foundation and Federated Insurance. Honoring Choices provides free education and support to individuals and families participating in advance care planning conversations and completing an advance directive. To learn more contact Kerry Hjelmgren at honoringchoices@allina.com. Follow on advancecareplanningmn.blogspot.com.

Shrek opens next week in Owatonna

Little Theatre of Owatonna announces show dates and times for the upcoming production, "Shrek the Musical."

Sandee Hardy-Hagen is directing the show with technical direction by Victoria Bartkowiak. The choreographer is Kyra Rahn and the vocal director is Sarah Friesen. Performance sponsor is Federated Insurance Company.

Set in a mythical "once upon a time" sort of land, 'Shrek the Musical' is the story of a hulking green ogre who, after being mocked and feared his entire life by anything that crosses his path, retreats to an ugly green swamp to exist in happy isolation. However, isolation ends when familiar fairy tale creatures appear and invade his domain. Shrek then begins an adventure to the kingdom Far Far Away to regain his swamp and help the fairy tale creatures. As usual for fairy tales, his adventure will conclude with a happy ending.



Performances of 'Shrek the Musical' will be 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on Oct. 22 and 29. Smoke and pyrotechnics will be used during the performances.

Show tickets are available on LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org to the public beginning Oct. 14. The LTO Ticket Box Office opens to the public Monday. Box Office hours: M-W: 4-6:30 p.m.; Production Thursday: 4-7:30 p.m.; F: 4-7:30 p.m.; Sat: 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Sun: 12:30-2 p.m.

'Shrek the Musical' is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) with music by Jeanine Tesori, book & lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire. It is based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig.

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