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STEELE COUNTY
Times

SPECIAL INSERT:
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SERVICE FOR OTHERS

Volunteers build house for area family

"Affordable housing is a huge issue in our county. I wholeheartedly believe that everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to live."

Ellen Heydon
Habitat for Humanity

Calvin Chambers assisted other volunteers Friday with building the house that his family will live in later this year. The house, which is located on Glendale Street in Owatonna, is being constructed through Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca area. Chambers and his wife, Dessa, and their four children will enjoy the house once it's completed.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Behind the backdrop of a beautiful fall day, 17 volunteers donated their sweat and talents to help build the latest Habitat for Humanity home in Steele County Friday.

With hammers pounding and siding being cut to size, there were volunteers everywhere—inside and outside the home under construction on Glendale Street on the west side of Owatonna. The home is being built for Dessa and Calvin Chambers and their four children between the ages of 5 and 13.

"With 17 people, it's double what we usually have," said Ellen Heydon, community engagement coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. "We have six outside while the rest are inside doing sheetrock. They all volunteer their time."

On Friday, volunteers from the state office of the Catholic Daughters of America and local courts pitched in to help. Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca is the recipient of a grant from the Catholic Daughters. When the house is completed later this year, Catholic Daughters will turn over a $10,000 check to Habitat, according to Lori Mickelson of the Waseca chapter of Catholic Daughters.

The grant is supported by Gummi Bear candy that was sold by the Owatonna court in local grocery stores earlier this month. Throughout October, courts from all over the state distributed Gummi candy for monetary donations.

"Our mission is unity and charity," Mickelson said just before heading back into the house to do more construction. "We love doing service projects for others."

Habitat for Humanity broke ground on the house in early July. The non-profit organization hopes to finish the house by the end of the year. "We hope to have them in by Dec. 31," Heydon said. "We'd love to see them home for Christmas."

SEE **HABITAT, A3**

Kidney transplant recipient gets boost

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Alonso Hernandez, general manager of the Steele County Food Shelf, got in on the action at the silent auction which was part of a fundraiser for him. Alonso will soon receive a kidney from his son Ashley 38.

Hundreds attend fundraiser for Alonso Hernandez

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of friends of Steele County Food Shelf general manager Alonso Hernandez attended a fundraiser for him Saturday at the Owatonna Eagles Club.

Hernandez has been awaiting a kidney transplant and the fundraiser was organized by his friends and family to help with extra medical expenses. Hernandez, 63, and his son Ashley, were scheduled to report to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester today (Tuesday).

Ashley will donate a kidney for his father Alonso. The surgery was originally scheduled for Aug. 31 but postponed.

"We were ready and I had the surgeon's autograph on my side," said Ashley.

"It's going to happen," Ashley confided. "I just can't wait to have it over with and I'll lie down right here if they want me to," he added.

The Owatonna Eagles Club was busy with a spaghetti supper and silent auction to benefit Hernandez. The family also held a pool tournament and bean bag toss at Reggie's and at the Bridge Street Tavern the weekend before. More than $3,000 was raised.

SEE **ALONSO, A3**

Board to vote on new contract for Golberg

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Golberg

The contract for Steele County's new administrator is now in the hands of the county commissioners.

After negotiating terms of the contract with commissioner Greg Krueger and interim county administrator Janice Fransen last week, the Steele County Board will vote on the new contract for Scott Golberg tonight (Tuesday) at the regular board meeting, which begins at 5 p.m. The meeting will be at the Administration Building in Owatonna.

If the contract is approved, which is expected to happen, Golberg would start his new duties as county administrator Monday.

There won't be much of a learning curve about the county for Golberg in the new role as he has been with the county for 36 years. He has most recently served as the environmental services director.

Golberg would replace Laura Elvebak, who resigned in April under a cloud of controversy. The board was in the process of firing Elvebak when she quit. She had been on paid administrative leave at the time of her departure.

Since she left, Elvebak has filed a lawsuit against the county alleging sexual discrimination, violations of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law and violation of the Minnesota Whistleblower Act.

For the love of lutefisk

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

What weighs 1,250 pounds and serves 1,397 persons?

It's lutefisk, of course, and this was on the minds of many customers who attended the 74th year of serving the popular Scandinavian delicacy. It was on their minds, either to eat it to satisfy a hunger, or to pass it by and eat meatballs instead.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Four-year-old Natalie Van Wyk of North Mankato came a long ways to eat at the annual First Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner on Tuesday, Oct. 17. Did Natalie eat some lutefisk? Check her plate.

More than 200 volunteers worked to make this First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie lutefisk dinner one of the most popular and well-run dinner of its type in Minnesota.

"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."

Ruth Earl, chair of the event for the fourth straight year, said the final numbers for the Oct. 17 dinner showed 1,397 hungry customers came through the doors to either consume lutefisk and all the other goodies, or just to consume the other goodies, which included meatballs.

Earl said 742 were served at the noon seating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Three evening seatings at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 counted 655 customers.

SEE **LUTEFISK, A3**

Village Affair this Saturday in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The organizers of the 45th annual Village Affair bazaar and craft fair welcome all guests to its big event on Saturday at the Blooming Prairie High School.

Admission is free and the event is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Village Affair spotlights more than 75 craft exhibitors. It is sponsored by the Blooming Prairie AAUW (American Association of University Women) and by the Women of Today. These two organizations joined hands four years ago to continue this well-attended event.

More than 137 booths were rented last year. Booths will be set up in the commons area, in one section of the gymnasium and in the east and west hallways. Exhibit spaces measure 6x6 foot, 4x8 foot and 5x7 foot. Booths rent at $24 each.

SEE **VILLAGE, A3**

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Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893

OUR VIEW

Pork producers help build a brighter future

With Minnesota being a leader in many areas ranging from health care to manufacturing and even wind power, there is one area sometimes easily overlooked: pork production on the farm.

Minnesota is a leader in pork production. And what better time to share in this excitement than during National Pork Month, which runs throughout the month of October.

So the next time you sit down at the table to eat some bacon, a pork chop or ham, think about the impact hog farmers make on our society.

The state ranks second in the number of pigs raised and second in value of the animals, according to the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. In 2013, Minnesota's hog producers marketed 14 million pigs on 3,300 farms.

There is great value in hog production. More than $7 billion is generated in economic activity from pork production. The gross income from Minnesota pig farms in 2013 was $2.6 billion.

In addition to pig farmers, raising hogs creates an additional 22,500 jobs like construction, trucking, feed milling, accounting and food processing.

Pigs ate 147 million bushels of corn and 53 million bushels of soybeans in 2013, most of which was grown in Minnesota.

Producers seem to be committed to the care of their animals throughout every stage of the pig's life. Hogs are fed high quality diets that meet their nutritional needs, farmers use the expertise of veterinarians when making decisions on administering antibiotics to their pigs and all health care products used on pig farms are Food and Drug Administration approved.

Hog production is huge in our corner of southeastern Minnesota. There are a number of large hog farms throughout the area. In addition, the country's largest meat processor is located at Hormel in Austin.

The MPPA points out that U.S. pig farmers have made great strides in the sustainability of pork. Based on per pound of pork, water use has reduced 41 percent, land use 78 percent and carbon footprint 35 percent, the MPPA says. Pig farmers have reduced their carbon footprint by availability of better genetics, adoption of new technologies and fewer sows giving birth outside, among other ways.

Producers are committed to producing safe food, safeguarding natural resources in all industry practices, producing a work environment that is safe and contributing to a better quality of life in our communities.

We want to salute the efforts of our area pork farmers. They are helping to ensure a safe food supply through the pork products they produce. Pork producers help unite a brighter future not only for their own industry, but also for the rest of us.

YOUR VIEW

Readers should realize what a jewel they have

To-the-Editor:

OUTSTANDING!

Yeap, your redesign of the paper is outstanding.

I really like the overall appearance. Not only great type but very good headlines, outstanding grouping of news.

It's just a very attractive paper. Well done, Rick and staff.

Your communities are very fortunate having such an outstanding product leading them. Keep up the good work. Certainly hope the people of the area realize what a jewel they have.

Chuck Warner
Brownton

Brokeback on the Prairie

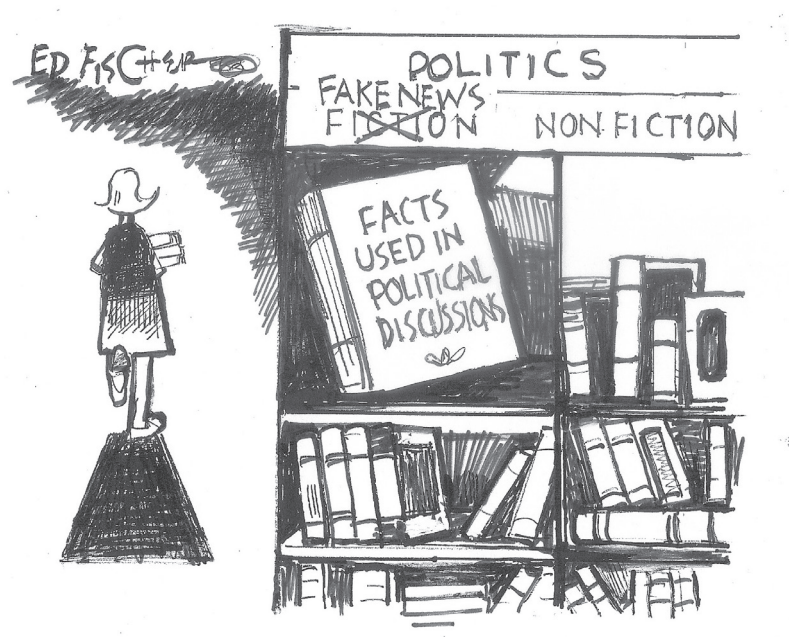
To-the-Editor:

Kudos on the National Book Award for Annie Proulx, who will receive the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters on Nov.15 in New York. Bibliophiles in the southeastern Minnesota area may be surprised to learn that she once lived in our corner of the state, in Byron.

Back in 1983, I was going through the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Rochester. A mutual friend introduced me to Annie and she offered to write a story about anything that I might like to leave behind for family and friends. That short story was eventually published, now 20 years ago, in The New Yorker Magazine under the title of "Brokeback Mountain" and then as a movie in 2005...and now you know the rest of the story. Oh, I'm a two-time cancer survivor now, too.

I wish I knew how to quit you.

Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie



Habitat builds and spreads humanity in Steele County

Medford Mayor Lois Nelson, left, helped cut a piece of siding Friday afternoon for the latest house being constructed by Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca. Joining Nelson with volunteering on the project was Carole Schumacher of Waseca. They were just two of the 17 volunteers who assisted at the house on Friday.

Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

Talk about a working mayor.

Medford mayor Lois Nelson definitely fits the characterization of a working mayor. But perhaps it's not what you may think.

I caught up with Nelson, who was dressed in her grubs and cutting yet another piece of siding for a house being constructed in Owatonna last Friday. But this wasn't just any house. It is the latest house being built by Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca area.

For about eight hours, Nelson put aside her role as mayor and helped with Habitat's latest housing project on Glendale Street on the west side of Owatonna.

She isn't the type to let the grass grow under her feet. If she's not promoting the community of Medford, she's volunteering for other organizations even if it means going outside of her own city. She brings a new meaning to community as it encompasses the greater area of Steele County. Community means no borders in Nelson's eyes.

The mayor was just one of 17 workers who showed up Friday to help Dessa and Calvin Chambers, along with their four children, realize their dream of owning an affordable house. Barring any huge delays, the family hopes to move in by the end of the year.

"I hope to finally feel settled in life, and feel like my home is my home, plan a future," Dessa said, adding she is excited to decorate, hang pictures and having it be there place.

It's truly nothing short of a miracle to see the teamwork displayed in getting the house built. Strips of siding, sheetrock and other products were being handled by the volunteers both inside and outside the house as others waited with hammers in hand ready to build.

Perhaps what's most impressive with this entire project is the educational component that goes along with it. Habitat doesn't just turn the keys over to the family and they go on living happily ever after.

In amongst the volunteers was Calvin helping to build his own house. Habitat requires at least 300 hours of sweat equity from the homeowners working right alongside volunteers and other Habitat homeowners. But there's more.

Habitat is a community-based program assisting homeowners, future homeowners and renters with financial literacy, energy conservation, home maintenance and community involvement. Homeowners are taught the four cornerstones of financial literacy: budgeting to create savings, debt reduction and asset building, building a good credit rating and consumer protection.

Trained volunteer coaches work one on one with the homeowners to improve their financial situation for free.

As Mayor Nelson demonstrates, volunteering is a key aspect to being a well-rounded citizen. There are ways you can help through construction, construction support, office support and serving on the board. Volunteers help build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter with Habitat's program.

It's inspiring to see so many people who care about their fellow humans by going in hot pursuit of contributing to such a worthy cause.

GUEST COLUMN

Job Shortages: The Tidal Wave we've been watching for 20 years

BY BRAD MEIER

It's the problem that's been looking our state and country in the face for a couple decades, and now it's here.

The retiring of the baby boomers, smaller populations and a strengthening economy have splashed this tidal wave of worker shortages on our businesses and economy. Demographers and Human Resource professionals will say that no one should be surprised, after all they've been predicting this problem for a generation. What is surprising is that no real answers materialized after all these years.

There are ways that businesses, governments and organizations are trying to deal with the worker shortage-efficiency, modernization, flexible schedules, flexible work spaces, working from home, apprenticeships, and many more. Yet, the economy locally and statewide is hiring at such a rapid rate that we are considered beyond full employment.

How are worker shortages being addressed in the Owatonna area?

Awareness and exposure to careers in Steele County for our high school aged kids is a key priority of the Chamber (and our members), the United Way, Workforce Development, Junior Achievement and the school districts. Twenty-five percent of graduating seniors don't have a plan after graduation. Forty percent of the 75 percent that go off to college don't complete their college education.

Most Americans live within 18 miles of their parents, so talking to our local students is our best spot to focus. We find that most students don't know what opportunities are available right here for possible careers. This is the focus of our efforts with the new Workforce Coordinator (Anisha Zak), Made in Owatonna Days tours, Steele Co Works website, and Steele Co Works publication as our partners and the Chamber work long term on this challenge.

Immigration is also seen as another important way we will be able to add workers to a shrinking workforce. Since the population growth numbers for our country are flat to declining, there are simply not enough people for the economic growth we have. There are federal policies that will dictate how many new immigrants enter the country. Locally, however, attracting new people to our community needs to be a priority. Rolling out the welcome mat to immigrants and others is and will be part of the workforce solution.

SEE **GUEST, A3**

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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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $42
Elsewhere in Minnesota $44
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
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2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award
(Awards presented by Minnesota Newspaper Association and National Newspaper Association)

ALONSO: *Hundreds attend fundraiser*

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Alonso Hernandez, center, is flanked by his sons, grandson and a Steele County Food Shelf board member. All were in attendance at a fundraiser at the Owatonna Eagles Club for Alonso who will soon receive a kidney transplant. Donor is his son Ashley, far left. Also shown are Alonso's son Caleb, Darrel Hansen (Food Shelf) and Lewis and son Sebastian.

FROM PAGE A1

Dr. David Dow, organizer of the fundraiser, said preliminary estimates show the fundraiser bringing in over $7,000. More than 300 tickets were sold in advance, Dow said.

"It's amazing to see this type of response; people are very giving," Dow said. One visitor even brought in a huge jar of coins to pay for his spaghetti dinner ticket.

"I hired him 15 years ago," said a smiling Stormy Trom, former executive director of the Steele County Food Shelf.

Owatonna Mayor Tom Kuntz and his wife Shelby were two of the active silent auction bidders and successful on a few items.

"Alonso always has a smile and is always giving, not asking," remarked Mayor Kuntz. "It's time we helped him," Kuntz emphasized.

Alonso, an American citizen, offered this thank you: "Thank you from the bottom of my heart to every single person helping me with this challenge. If there is anything I can do for anyone, please let me know. God Bless America!"

VILLAGE: *This Saturday in Blooming Prairie*

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

A Blooming Prairie couple, Corinne and Dale Swanson, participated in the Blooming Prairie Village Affair last year and plan to be back for this year's event on Saturday.

FROM PAGE A1

Pam Folkens and Mandy Doocy are chairs of the event.

Shoppers at the Village Affair can pick up fall arrangements, holiday decors and of course, many items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many of the items are hand crafted.

Shoppers at the Village Affair can pick up fall arrangements, holiday decors and of course, many items for Christmas. Many of the items are hand crafted.

"This event is one of the most popular community events in Blooming Prairie, says chair Fokens.

HABITAT: *Area house built*

FROM PAGE A1

Heydon said it usually takes six months to complete a house depending on weather conditions and timing of the year.

Habitat, Heydon said, is focused on safe and affordable housing. Homeowners are expected to pay about 30 percent of their gross monthly income to the mortgage. She said Habitat often finds that families are paying more than what's affordable for them.

"Affordable housing is a huge issue in our county," Heydon said. "I wholeheartedly believe that everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to live," she added.

Looking at the house currently being built, Heydon hopes the Chambers will be able to live there for the rest of their lives. "This is their forever home," she said, noting it is being constructed with everything accessible for them to utilize in their later years.

Some of the key requirements to qualify for Habitat for Humanity include ability to pay and willingness to partner, according to Heydon. "We require at least 300 hours of sweat equity," she said. "It helps them be independent homeowners."

Heydon said Habitat homes are built with energy efficiency in mind. Prior to moving, some homeowners have paid $400 or more in utility costs, but they drop to around $100 with a Habitat home. "We build energy efficient and the utility costs go down," she said.

Habitat intentionally does not finish the basements for families moving in. "It's fun as a new homeowner to plan those future projects," Heydon said.

Heydon started as a Habitat volunteer 3 ½ years ago and joined the staff a year ago as a part-time coordinator. "It's just so cool," she said of her role with Habitat. "It's not every day you get to go home and say you made a difference today," she added.

This is Habitat's second house this year. The group hopes to improve nine households with new housing by 2019.

LUTEFISK: *A Scandinavian delicacy*

FROM PAGE A1

This year's count surpassed last year's total of 1,378, thus meaning 19 more customers were fed this year.

"There are many people calling and organizing work details," Earl said, adding many people need to be recognized.

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

It seems like every church member has a job or is willing to take on a new responsibility, said Earl. Other helpers come from other churches.

Warm weather again greeted the lutefisk event. The day's menu included meatballs and gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, cranberry salad, buns, lefse, rosettes, krumkake, milk and coffee.

Lutefisk lovers began arriving at the church two hours before serving began.

This year's dinner event featured involvement of First Lutheran youths who are raising monies for a mission trip to Houston, Texas next summer.

Many of the 20 youths planning to take the trip either worked a bake sale or helped as wait staff. The youths profited $1,300 on the bake sale. Students also receive community service points at school.

In addition to preparing 1,250 pounds of lutefisk, church workers made 6,000 meatballs from 168 pounds of ground beef and 56 pounds of pork.

Other interesting lutefisk statistics included: 800 pounds of potatoes, 80 pounds of cranberries for cranberry salad, 48 gallons of corn, 1,120 rounds of lefse (4,480 pieces). Church workers made 1,900 rosettes and 1,400 krumkake for dessert.

Preparation for the annual lutefisk dinner actually begins the day following the last dinner and leading to the next one.

The Rev. Jeff Sandgren, interim senior pastor who has been serving First Lutheran Church since March 1, and his wife Lisa worked their first lutefisk dinner. "This community tradition is simply amazing," he said. The Sandgrens served both the noon and evening meals.

"People are enjoying one another at this event and some even eat the fish," joked Sandgren, who declined to eat the lutefisk. Sandgren was the star of the party on Tuesday as he came in a pair of bib overhauls he borrowed from Jeff Zwiener of Blooming Prairie.

Sandgren sported a white handkerchief in his back pocket and also brandished a Swedish flag in a front pocket. A small sign on the back of his bibs said he was a Swede "and please pray for me."

"Pastor Jeff is quite the character and set the tone for the day," said chairwoman Earl. "He put us at ease and we are very thankful for him and his humor," she said.

Newly elected First Lutheran senior pastor Heidi Heimgartner was also circulating the church on this day, greeting visitors and working wherever she was needed.

"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.

Earl said she was proud of how pretty the table settings looked. "Our customers enjoy being served family style and our workers in turn had so much fun finding out where the lutefisk lovers were from and why they liked the lutefisk," Earl remarked.

"We all had a good time working together, joking back and forth," Earl related. She said she made her rounds through the church during the dinner, and was kept on her toes by some friendly teasing coming from the potato peelers or from the workers in the kitchen.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The annual First Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner always goes off without a hitch and it's a credit to Marilyn Blome, left and Ruth Earl, right. Marilyn chaired the event for over 20 years and Ruth has chaired the successful community event for the past four years.

Earl said she heard lots of favorable comments from customers who left the dinner fully satisfied. A few customers came to the noon seating and returned for an evening seating.

It wasn't just the tasty food that drew people to the dinner. It was a couple of sale promotions offered in the General Store and in the Used-A-Bit Shoppe, both located in church rooms.

The Rev. Chris Miller of Rochester, who served as a bridge pastor at First Lutheran last January and February, piloted his Kawasaki motorcycle to the dinner from Rochester. "I'm 68 and had never tasted lutefisk until today," Pastor Miller confided. "I had three helpings," he further confessed.

Gina (last name not known), a native of Korea, admitted to having the maximum number of servings, four. "I love fish," she said as she tucked her lutefisk inside her lefse.

One happy customer left fully satisfied and said she had heard that another diner came in a wheel chair but left without one, walking away due to the strength gained through the lutefisk.--WINK-WINK!

Tapping his friend Don Coughlin on the shoulder, Garry Ellingson told him: "I'm your guardian angel and think you've had enough lutefisk."

Some guests came as far as from Texas to enjoy the lutefisk. Others were on the road for four hours to join the festive Scandinavian fun.

Oliver Thoe, 93, of Hayfield, said he has been coming to the Blooming Prairie dinner for many years. "I grew up with it," he admitted. Mearald Elvebak of Albert Lea was another early visitor and said he hasn't missed many of the Blooming Prairie dinners.

Lana Ingvalson Gilster, Minneapolis and formerly of Blooming Prairie, says she cannot miss the dinner. "It's such a nostalgic trip for me each fall, attending my hometown church filled with familiar faces, smells and countless good memories!" she said.

Gilster shared a website that provides critiques about lutefisk dinners in the Midwest, including Blooming Prairie. Go to lutefiskloverslifeline.com.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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GUEST: *Job shortages*

FROM PAGE A2

Housing and affordable housing continue to be part of the workforce challenge too. As we are out doing visits with employers through the Grow Minnesota! program (a business retention and expansion program of the Minnesota Chamber) the housing issue gets brought up in tandem with the workforce shortage issues they are facing. They are running into both a lack of houses available and a lack of apartment spaces, especially affordable or subsidized apartments. There are three new apartment projects in the community right now, one that is built and operating, two others that are starting to build. This will start to help, but more will be needed.

As our businesses locally and throughout Minnesota struggle to keep above water during this worker shortage challenge, we are seeing positive ideas happening. We are especially excited about the programming locally that includes many different organization and businesses to get career ready before they graduate high school. It's a problem that's not going away any time soon and we are working on finding ways to address the constant workforce needs of both our future employees and our business community.

Brad Meier is the president and CEO of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

When Will Medicaid Pay for Nursing Home Care?

Dear Savvy Senior,
What are the eligibility requirements to get Medicaid coverage for nursing home care?
Caregiving Daughter

Dear Caregiving,

The rules and requirements for Medicaid eligibility for nursing home care are complicated and will vary according to the state where your parent lives. With that said, here's a general, simplified rundown of what it takes to qualify.

Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid, the joint federal and state program that covers health care for the poor, is also the largest single payer of America's nursing home bills for seniors who don't have the resources to pay for their own care.

Most people who enter nursing homes don't qualify for Medicaid at first, but pay for care either through long-term care insurance or out-of-pocket until they deplete their savings and become eligible for Medicaid.

To qualify for Medicaid, your parent's income and assets will need to be under a certain level that's determined by their state. Most states require that a person have no more than about $2,000 in countable assets that includes cash, savings, investments or other financial resources that can be turned into cash.

Assets that aren't counted for eligibility include their home if it's valued under $560,000 (this limit is higher – up to $840,000 – in some states), their personal possessions and household goods, one vehicle, prepaid funeral plans and a small amount of life insurance.

But be aware that while your parent's home is not considered a countable asset to determine their eligibility, if he or she can't return home, Medicaid can go after the proceeds of their house to help reimburse their nursing home costs, unless a spouse or other dependent relative lives there. (There are some other exceptions to this rule.)

After qualifying, all sources of your parent's income such as Social Security and pension checks must be turned over to Medicaid to pay for their care, except for a small personal needs allowance – usually between $30 and $90.

You also need to be aware that your parent can't give away their assets to qualify for Medicaid faster. Medicaid officials will look at their financial records going back five years to root out suspicious asset transfers. If they find one, their Medicaid coverage will be delayed a certain length of time, according to a formula that divides the transfer amount by the average monthly cost of nursing home care in their state.

So if, for example, your parent lives in a state where the average monthly nursing home cost is $5,000 and they gave away cash or other assets worth $50,000, they would be ineligible for benefits for 10 months ($50,000 divided by $5,000 = 10).

Spousal Protection

Medicaid also has special rules for married couples when one spouse enters a nursing home and the other spouse remains at home. In these cases, the healthy spouse can keep one half of the couple's assets up to $120,900 (this amount varies by state), the family home, all the furniture and household goods and one automobile. The healthy spouse is also entitled to keep a portion of the couple's monthly income – between $2,030 and $3,022. Any income above that goes toward the cost of the nursing home recipient's care.

What about Medicare?

Medicare, the federal health insurance program for seniors 65 and older, and some younger people with disabilities, does not pay for long-term care. It only helps pay up to 100 days of rehabilitative nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay.

Find Help

For more detailed information, contact your state Medicaid office (see Medicaid.gov for contact information). You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see ShiptaCenter.org), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues.

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.

RECIPE CORNER

BANANA BREAD

2 Eggs	2 c. flour
1 c. Sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
4 T. shortening (butter)	1 c. mashed bananas
3 T. sour milk	1/2 c. chopped nuts (optional)

Mix together and bake using bread pan at 350˚ for 1 hour. Yield: 1 Loaf.

by Donna Maixner

Sponsored by: KREJCI FORD 15TH PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER Blooming Prairie 583-2046

RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
Oct. 23, 2007
Dan Evans, Publisher

For almost 20 years, Farmer John and Jan Ulland have been offering their acreage south of Blooming Prairie to the public as a destination for all that the fall season has to offer and more. Appropriately, they call it Farmer John's Pumpkin Patch.

Steve Sviggum, former politician who led in the chambers of our State Capitol for many years as Speaker of the House, addressed the Chamber of Commerce. After being introduced, Sviggum, did not go up to the podium as a speaker would usually do. He didn't even go to the front, side or to the rear of the crowd that was seated at long tables. He stood behind folks, at times with his hands placed on that person's shoulders, as he would speak to another on a first-name basis.

20 Years Ago
Oct. 21, 1997
Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Giving youth a chance to participate in local government, the Blooming Prairie City Council invited the junior high student council to sit in on a meeting. Each of the six were paired off with a council member, city administrator or city attorney and helped answer and ask questions at the Oct. 13 meeting. Those participating included Elizabeth Kollar, seventh grade, paired with Jean Lindboe; Elisa Ingvalson, seventh grade, Bill Newman; Margaret Romeo, eighth grade, H. Peterson; Kristi Schwake, eight grade, Randy Schwake; Gary Tashima, seventh grade, City Attorney Frank Henefield; Lori Krejci, eighth grade, Mayor Harold Ulrich; Jessica Smith, eighth grade, City Administrator Todd Prafke.

Dan Callen, after reading the article that was written in the Times, volunteered to head the scouting program as cubmaster.

Mary Caroline (Miller) Paulson turns 100 on Oct. 22. She is a resident at Prairie Manor.

50 Years Ago
Oct. 26, 1967
Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers

Seven members of the Blooming Prairie Future Farmers of America Chapter attended the National Convention in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 10-13. They were Pat Burke, Gary Medgaarden, Mark Ditlevson, Leslie Hansen, David Grant, Rodney Goodwin and Arlie Olsen.

Miss Marsha Lindquist of Blooming Prairie has been selected for the 1967-68 Warriorettes, a girls drill and dance team at Winona State College. Miss Lindquist is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lindquist.

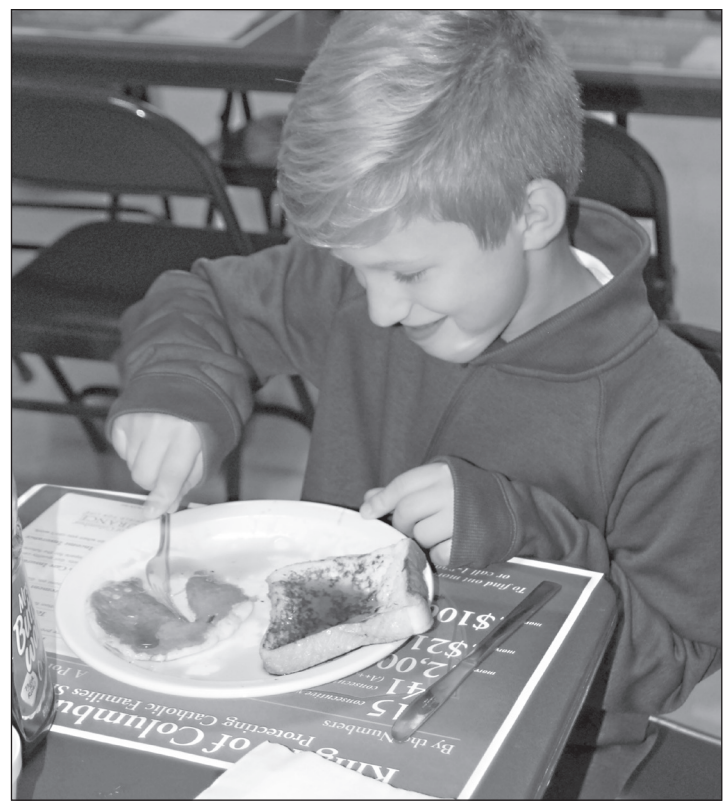
Mrs. Alice Kaplan was the lucky winner of a three-day holiday expense-paid vacation at a drawing held at Oleson's V-Store in Blooming Prairie last Saturday, Martin Oleson, proprietor of the firm, announced.

75 Years Ago
Oct. 22, 1942
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Seldom has it been our duty to record so sudden a death. A dark gloom of sorrow spread over Bixby and community when it was whispered from one to another Sunday and Monday that "Eddie" Wencl, 30, was gone. Without warning, the grim hand of death struck him down Sunday evening at 7 o'clock, following a severe heart attack. His sudden demise was a great shock to his relatives and hosts of friends. He called on friends at Bixby Sunday morning and seemingly was in excellent health. Wencl was a well-known farmer in the area.

At a very impressive ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Oswald, Sr., were honored at a meeting of the Blooming Prairie Commercial Club held Monday evening at the Community Building. In recognition of being the parents of five sons now serving in the U.S. armed forces, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald became members of the Emblem of Honor Association, with headquarters in New York City.

Daddy stork established a new high three year record for births during 1941 in Steele County, according to tabulations released this week by Clerk of District Court, S.C. Goff. With births soaring over deaths by a margin of nearly two to one, Mr. Goff's records show that 407 "blessed events" took place in Steele County during 1941. The grim reaper "mowed down" 190 citizens in the county during the same period.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Breakfast is a very important meal for everyone. Just ask Blake Seykora, 10, of Owatonna. Blake works on his french toast, part of the menu at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church Knights of Columbus breakfast in Litomysl on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants

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

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BLOTTER SPOTLIGHT: Suspicion: On Oct. 12, deputies responded to suspicious activity on 700th Street near Blooming Prairie in Westfield Township. Someone reportedly had been banging on the front door of a residence. No one was located.

CRIME BRIEF

Man charged for impersonating police

An Owatonna man has been charged for allegedly assaulting a juvenile and impersonating a police officer.

Formal charges were filed against Keith Haskell Friday for an incident that took place near Cash Wise Foods in Owatonna Sept. 4.

Officers responded to a shoplifting incident at Cash Wise and a nearby fight. Officers found the two calls were related. According to police, Haskell took matters into his own hands and went a bit too far.

Haskell pursued two juvenile shoplifting suspects in a vehicle from Cash Wise and blocked their car in the 500 block of Adams Avenue, police said. Haskell allegedly identified himself as the "police" and pulled one of the juveniles out of the car, restrained him and used pepper spray to defend himself, the criminal complaint alleges.

After the driver escaped, Haskell approached the other occupant and threatened him with pepper spray and a "stick," police said. Haskell requested the car keys, removed the juvenile from the car and used an arm restraint to hold him, according to the complaint.

Police found an expandable police baton and pepper spray in Haskell's vehicle.

Witnesses heard squealing tires, observed Haskell pull the driver out of the car and identified himself as a cop, according to police.

Haskell was arrested and released after the incident. The formal complaint was filed in Steele County District Court last week.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
Oct. 14
Dispute: At 7:53 p.m., officers responded to a neighborhood dispute in the city. They issued a citation.
Oct. 15
Assault: Police responded to an assault in the 400 block of 2nd St. SE at 2:15 p.m.
Warrant: At 7:46 p.m., police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of 1st St. NE.
Oct. 16
DWI: Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Highway 218 and 9th Ave. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 1:10 a.m.
Owatonna Police
Oct. 13
Suspicion: At 1:26 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity at Rose St. W. and Hoffman Dr. NW. They made an arrest at the scene.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Cherry St. NE at 7:22 p.m.
Oct. 14
Trespassing: Officer arrested a subject for trespassing in the 600 block of Mound St. SW at 8:08 a.m.
Theft: At 5:06 p.m., a theft occurred in the 100 block of 11th Place NW.
Oct. 15
Assault: Officers responded to an assault in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:11 a.m.
Disturbance: At 6:32 a.m., police responded to disorderly conduct in the 400 block of 11th St. NE.
Thefts: Police received theft reports from the 1200 block of Truman Ave. SE at 10:32 a.m., the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:06 p.m. and the 600 block of South St. E. at 8:07 p.m.
Welfare: Officer completed welfare check in the 200 block of McKinley St. E. at 1:31 p.m.
Vulnerable Adult: At 5:57 p.m., police received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of Nature Valley Place NW.
Oct. 16
Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from 20th Ave. NE at 10:14 a.m.
Fight: Officers responded to fights in the 300 block of School St. E. at 11:47 a.m. and 1:12 p.m.
Disturbance: A disturbance occurred on 5th St. NE at 11:48 a.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 600 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 1:12 p.m.
Trespassing: Police responded to a subject trespassing on 26th St. NW at 8:36 p.m.
Probation: At 10:40 p.m., officer arrested a subject for violating probation in the 500 block of School St. E.
Oct. 17
Mental Health: Officers responded to a mental health incident on 10th Ave. NE at 3:12 a.m.
Drugs: Police responded to drug activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 10:55 a.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 300 block of Glendale St. NW at 11:41 a.m.
Warrant: At 1:31 p.m., police made a warrant arrest at Kelly St. NW and Riverside Ave. NW.
Dog: Police received a dangerous dog report from the 1100 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 5:40 p.m.
Suspicion: Officers responded to suspicious activity at Riverside Ave. NW and Sylvan St. NW at 9:37 p.m.
Oct. 18
Restraining Order: Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:25 a.m.
Hit and Run: A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Broadway St. E. at 11:10 a.m.
Crash: At 4:25 p.m., paramedics and police responded to a crash with injuries at Bridge St. W. and Florence Ave. NW.
Drugs: Drug activity was reported in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 5:47 p.m.
Oct. 19
Intoxication: Police responded to a report of an intoxicated subject at Bridge St. W. and Walnut Ave. N. at 3:54 p.m.
Threats: At 4:24 p.m., police responded to a subject making threats in the 400 block of 14th St. NE.
Thefts: Officers took theft reports in the 1200 block of 18th St. SE at 5:18 p.m. and the 600 block of Vine St. E. at 8:40 p.m.
Hit and Run: A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:26 p.m.
Steele County Sheriff
Oct. 13
Arrest: Deputies assisted another agency with arresting a subject in Meriden Township at 6:06 p.m.
Bite: Deputy responded to an animal bite in Somerset Township at 10:59 p.m.
Oct. 14
DWI: At 3 a.m., deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated on Interstate 35 southbound in Medford Township.
Child Protection: Deputies received a child protection report from Medford Township at 5:59 p.m.
Oct. 16
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 8:53 a.m.
Fraud: At 9:10 a.m., a fraud incident occurred on 81st St. SW in Lemond Township.
Crash: A motor vehicle accident occurred in the 9700 block of 3rd St. NW in Deerfield Township at 12:03 p.m.
Domestic: Deputy assisted with a domestic disturbance on 31st St. SE in Summit Township at 9:04 p.m.
Oct. 17
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 5900 block of 48th St. SE in Havana Township at 8:05 a.m.
Crash: A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at Main St. N. and 2nd Ave. NW in Medford at 4:37 p.m.
Oct. 18
Restraining Order: Deputy received a report of a restraining order violation in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. in Owatonna at 6:16 p.m.
Oct. 19
Warrant: Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 9:13 a.m.
DWI: At 8:41 p.m., deputies arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 1st St. SW and 2nd Ave. SW in Medford.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 9 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Sarah J. Colbert, 49, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana. She was sentenced to $131, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 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 Oct. 9 – 13:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Riley J. Forcelle, 19, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Marco A. Hernandez Yepez, 45, Austin, no license, speeding and no insurance, $431.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Jody L. Anderson, 55, Jordan, speeding, $121; Robert A. Cohenour, 50, Brownsdale, failure to change information within 30 days, $101; Amber M. Dawson, 31, Waseca, speeding, $121; Reese T. Doll, 27, Rochester, seat belt, $106; Michael J. Dreyer, 36, Rose Creek, speeding, $141;

Christopher R. Dwyer, 27, Faribault, revoked license, $281; Roxanne M. Eaton, 59, Madison Lake, speeding, $121; Jon R. Ghan, 26, Eden Prairie, speeding, $131; Donald R. Greenleaf, 25, Waseca, revoked license, $281; Sharon K. Hanson, 68, Racine, WI, speeding, $121; Star M. Ibarra, 41, Medford, seat belt, $106; Jordan M. Keesling, 23, Blaine, speeding, $141; Rahulkumar K. Lall, 36, Rochester, speeding, $121; Luciano R. Maya, 48, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Tyler J. McClatchey, 23, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Edelgard F. Mejia, 43, Owatonna, failure to stop on red light, $131; Quianna Q. Melton, 21, Minneapolis, no insurance and no child passenger restraint system, $331;

Laura M. Moran-Kruchten, 34, St. Paul, speeding, $121; Jennifer L. Olson, 39, Waseca, DWI, $406, 1 day in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Braden P. Pederson, 20, Plymouth, speeding, $131; Fidencio Perez Victorino, 30, Albert Lea, speeding, $131; Ryan N. Quiggle, 38, Andover, no insurance, $281; Carmelo Reyes Jimenez, 30, Houston, TX, seat belt, $106; Taylor M. Schultz, 21, Stacy, speeding, $121; Jose Sosa Alcocer, 20, Dallas, TX, no license, $181; Jose E. Sosa Venegas, 18, Owatonna, speeding and no license, $381; Christopher E. Thompson, 45, Mankato, axle violation, $481; Luis A. Zuniga, 20, San Antonio, TX, no license, $181.

Owatonna Police Department
Shawn E. Alanis, 26, Lonsdale, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Kelly A. Castellano, 31, Faribault, theft, $143.86; Tai'ricca C. Einfeldt, 26, Owatonna, cancelled license and speeding, $331; Sasha D. Garces, 20, Owatonna, theft, stay of adjudication, 1 year of supervised probation; Amy J. Garza, 36, Owatonna, theft, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Tina L. Gilbertson, 50, St. Paul, theft, $131 and 17 days in county jail; Chad G. Griffin, 36, New Richland, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Isaac Guerrero, 18, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, $381, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Vincent F. Guggisberg, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Payton A. Hatch, 17, Canton, SD, speeding, $131; Molly A. Hensrud, 27, Owatonna, theft, $106; Davina L. Herron, 26, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, $381; Ann-Marie P. Kirkhus, 48, Owatonna, no insurance and revoked license, $481; Patrick T. Kraling, 47, Owatonna, expired license and seat belt, $206; Kenneth C. Kranda, 69, Owatonna, speeding, $121;

Joel A. Machacek, 22, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Zakeria M. Newman, 23, Owatonna, no license, $181; Jeremiah J. Petersen, 35, Owatonna, DWI, $406, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 160 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Autumn L. Sabin, 22, Owatonna, DWI, $406, 2 days in county jail, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Raymond K. Scott, 39, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Joel O. Spafford, 35, Eyota, stop sign, $131;

London C. Stangler, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Patricia D. Stark, 49, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, $131; Harrison L. Stiller, 27, Owatonna, invalid license, $131; Ryan S. Theissen, 34, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Nathaniel B. Thompson, 29, Owatonna, window tint violation and bumper height violation, $181; Jennifer M. Villafan, 35, Medford, no insurance, $281;

Patrick R. Wallace, 31, Owatonna, domestic assault, $1,102.70, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse diagnostic assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Marisa Wencl, 37, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Crystal L. Wright, 38, Faribault, theft, $131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Isaac Zapata, 26, Owatonna, expired tabs and no insurance, $111.

Steele County Sheriff's Office
Colt C. Amos, 34, Rochester, possession of marijuana, $131; Wayne A. Breitbarth, 35, Waseca, speeding, $121; Nicholas A. Buban, 20, New Berlin, speeding, $121; Timothy M. Colstrup, 53, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Jesse J. Delgado, 21, Apple Valley, speeding, $281; Emigdio Flores, 45, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Andrew C. Frye, 55, Hinckley, speeding, $221;

Dalton J. Jasmer, 17, Faribault, speeding, $121; Leeroy J. Khote, 23, Atlanta, GA, speeding, $141; Ceirra M. King, 22, St. Paul, invalid license and speeding, $231; John E. Lynch, 51, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Caitlin E. Mileur, 25, Carver, speeding, $281; Mary B. Oudekerk, 51, Mankato, speeding, $121; Nicholas A. Poe, 20, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Chris A. Rivas, 21, Faribault, windshield violation, no insurance and revoked license, $521; Christopher J. Roth, 41, Spring Valley, speeding, $281;

Robert D. Thies, 55, Ellendale, DWI, stay of adjudication, $581 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without adjudication; Brian A. Westerlund, 47, Albert Lea, speeding, $121; Delwyn D. Whitefeather, 47, Geneva, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, $531;

ARREST
Steele County

Owatonna Police
Jessica Linn Alwes, 26, arrested at 8:29 p.m. Oct. 15, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Stetson Pierre Fox, 30, arrested at 7:27 a.m. Oct. 15, disorderly conduct, held for court.

Antonio Taylor, 36, arrested at 11:31 p.m. Oct. 16, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Chauncey Marie Mitchell, 51, arrested at 12:41 a.m. Oct. 18, felony violation of conditions of release, held for court.

Elizabeth Francis Olson, 57, arrested Oct. 20, DWI, domestic assault and assault, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
Juvenile Female, arrested at 9:34 p.m. Oct. 16, domestic assault/assault, held for court.

Matthew David Swenson, 35, arrested at 6:45 p.m. Oct. 17, probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Fahad Said Mohamed Hilowle, 23, arrested at 11:20 p.m. Oct. 19, DWI and revoked license, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 9 – 16:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office
Michael P. Cutway, 38, Owatonna, failure to yield, $130; Yesenia A. Galvan, 27, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $480; Kimberly J. Jensen, 27, Rochester, cancelled license, $280; Patrick C. Lammers, 20, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Jonathon L. Landry, 31, Austin, invalid license, $180; Abdulaziz A. Mohamed, 26, San Diego, CA, invalid license, $180; Suzanne M. Prestridge, 60, St. Peter, speeding, $140;

Ethan B. Scanlan, 18, La Crescent, no insurance and seat belt, $305; Timothy H. Schultz, 54, Fairmont, DWI, $555, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Adilene Valeriano Hernandez, 20, Rochester, speeding, $220.

Kasson Police Department
Makayla A. Anderson, 16, Mantorville, speeding, $120; Brock A. Besse, 38, Rochester, speeding, $130; Christopher R. Burden, 30, Hayfield, controlled substance crime, expired registration and no insurance, stay of adjudication, $975, 56 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Thomas W. Johnson, 50, Dodge Center, speeding, $130.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Justin A. Ean, 64, Eyota, speeding, $130; Cassandra L. Hron, 28, Hayfield, stop sign, $130; Carissa M. Lewis, 32, Owatonna, speeding, $140; Darrin L. Oakland, 51, Owatonna, seat belt, $105; Kara J. Sloan, 36, Stewartville, failure to change information within 30 days, $100; Jayde K. Zelinske, 31, Byron, failure to yield, $130.

West Concord Police Department
Stephanie L. Morris, 38, Dodge Center, speeding, $120; Carrie L. Sanvick, 49, Rochester, speeding, $140.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 181 complaints during the week of Oct. 11 – 17. Some of them include:

Oct. 11
Larceny: Deputy took a report of the theft of cash in the 400 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center at 11:27 a.m.
Oct. 12
Tampering: At 8:46 a.m., a woman called deputies to report someone put sugar in her gas tank on Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center.
Threats: Deputies received information regarding a past action disturbance in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 4:21 p.m.
Oct. 13
Threats: At 2:07 a.m., a subject made threats in the 200 block of 1st St. SW in Dodge Center.
Civil: Deputy assisted with a verbal disagreement between a tenant and contractor in the 400 block of 4th Ave. NE in Hayfield at 9:18 a.m.
Civil: Deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 500 block of 3rd St. SE in Hayfield at 6:24 p.m.
Environment: At 6:25 p.m., a tank was left on the side of the road at County Road 16 and 205th Ave. in Dodge Center.
Narcotics: Deputy found narcotics during a traffic stop at 1st St. NE and 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 7:32 p.m.
Oct. 15
Larceny: At 9:12 a.m., a Dodge Center citizen reported the theft of both license plates from his vehicle in the 700 block of 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Theft: Deputy took a report of a stolen planter from the 500 block of 12th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 1:20 p.m.
Oct. 16
Civil: Deputy assisted a subject with retrieving property out of his mother's residence in the 16700 block of 660th St. in Dodge Center at 6:49 a.m.
Larceny: At 7:49 a.m., a citizen reported items stolen from his vehicle in the 800 block of 5th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.
Vandalism: Deputy received a report of vandalism to the playground equipment at Memorial Park in Claremont at 9:08 a.m.
Juvenile: Deputies received a juvenile complaint from Triton Elementary at 12:32 p.m.
Oct. 17
Child Neglect: Deputies began an investigation of child neglect at Triton High School at 12:35 p.m.
Noise: Deputy received a noise complaint from the 100 block of 1st Ave. NE in Hayfield at 4:50 p.m.
Vandalism: Deputy took report of vandalism to a truck in the 100 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield at 7:01 p.m.

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

- Guadalupe Munoz – false name - $3,000 bail
- Ricardo Munoz – DWI - $6,000 bail
- Charlene Murry – DUI – no bail
- Deq Mursal – DWI - $3,000 bail
- Olvidio Narraez – DWI, no license - $1,000 bail
- Jennifer Nikolite – disorderly conduct - $500 bail
- James Neubauer – traffic - $500 bail
- Dai Nguyen – drugs – no bail
- Benito Nieto – terroristic threats – no bail
- Juana Nin – theft – no bail
- Jason Nolan – theft by check - $5,000 bail
- Pedro Nolasco – revoked license - $500 bail
- Gracie Nunez – theft - $10,000 bail
- Joan O'Quist – FTA-obey order - $3,000 bail
- Kelley Oelker – worthless check - $500 bail
- David Olivo-Santana – unauthorized use – no bail
- Janice Olmo-Munoz – shoplifting - $500 bail
- Bobby Olseth – property damage - $400 bail
- Rodger Olson – DWI – no bail
- Omot Oman – DWI - $12,000 bail

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

OBITUARIES

Mary Ann Copp
Owatonna

Mary Ann Copp, 80, of Owatonna, died Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017 at Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

She was born July 12, 1937 in Owatonna Township, the daughter of George and Vlasta (Kubat) Spatenka. She was baptized at Associated Church in 1952. Mary Ann graduated from Owatonna High School, Class of 1955. On July 9, 1960, she married Paul Copp at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Mary Ann painted and wallpapered before beginning her 20-year career at Jostens, retiring in 2009. She was a lifetime member of the Hugo Matejcek V.F.W. Auxiliary #3723 and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She volunteered at Associated Church, in the schools serving lunch, the bloodmobile, the V.F.W., the Legion, the V.A. Medical Center in Minneapolis and the Veterans Home in Hastings. She enjoyed trips up north to the cabin, baking bread, canning, reading, flower gardening, collecting loon figurines, visiting the shut-ins and mentoring her granddaughters.

She is survived by her sons, Denis (Dawn) Copp of Owatonna, Chris Copp of Claremont, and Jay (Onie Kaiser) Copp of Owatonna; five granddaughters, Suntanna, Hannah, Sierra, Hailey and Danielle; siblings, Robert Spatenka of Owatonna, John (Janice) Spatenka of Blooming Prairie, Katherine Kyllo, Donna Wobschall and Pat Bock all of Owatonna and sisters-in-law, Lois Spatenka and Janice Spatenka both of Owatonna.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Copp; parents, George and Vlasta Spatenka; daughter in law, Roxanne Copp; brothers, Jim, George Jr., Richard, Calvin (Arlene) and Frank Spatenka; sisters, Joyce Johnson, Lorraine Rowe and Alice Spatenka; brothers-in-law, Rodney Kyllo, Hubert Rowe, Dave Wobschall and Dave Bock and sister-in-law, Lois Spatenka.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 23, 2017 at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with Rev. Coqui Conkey officiating. Interment was in the Bohemian National Cemetery in Owatonna.

Zenobia Jane Haberman
Blooming Prairie

Zenobia "Nobie" Jane Haberman, 90, of Blooming Prairie, died Friday, Oct. 20, 2017 at Allina Health System in Owatonna.

Zenobia Jane Vernes was born Jan. 29, 1927, in Blooming Prairie, the daughter of Hans A. and Sara (Nelson) Vernes. She attended elementary school in Blooming Prairie and graduated from Franklin High School in Portland, Oregon in 1945. Her family had moved to Portland in 1942, so her father could work in the ship yards.

After graduation, Nobie worked for a retail credit company and PBX until returning to Blooming Prairie in 1955. On Dec. 18, 1965, she was united in marriage to Henry Haberman at Community Lutheran Church in Geneva. Following their marriage, the couple made their home on the Haberman family farm.

Nobie enjoyed having her grandchildren visit and loved to cook, bake and mow her large yard. She was a member of Community Lutheran Church, its Rebecca Circle as well as a Women's Bible Study. She especially enjoyed going to her Saturday morning coffee group. After Henry's death on Nov. 3, 1989, Nobie continued to live on the family farm until her death.

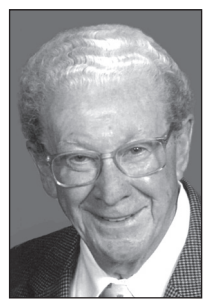
Survivors include her daughters, Marion (Harold) Johnson of Dodge Center and Jenelle Gallus of Hastings; a daughter-in-law, Charlotte Haberman of Blooming Prairie; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Elaine Thompson of Scappoose, Ore.; two sisters-in-law, Otilla Anderson of Mankato and Garnet Vernes of Vancouver, Wash., and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death parents; Hans and Sara Vernes; her husband, Henry Haberman; two sons, Gerald and Donald; one sister, Edna Hryciw; two brothers, Conrad and Ingvald Vernes and a son-in-law, Leonard Gallus.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Oct. 27, 2017, at Community Lutheran Church at Geneva with the Rev. Dr. Kristin Venne, officiating. Interment will be held at the Danish Lutheran Cemetery, Summit Township, Steele County, following her cremation.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Dale A. Hanson
Blooming Prairie



Dale A. Hanson, 83, of Blooming Prairie peacefully passed away on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017 at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna.

Dale was born on May 10, 1934, at a family farm in Newry Township, near Blooming Prairie to Aldine and Aura (Berg) Hanson. He attended a one-room country elementary school, and graduated from Blooming Prairie High School.

Dale was a veteran of the Korean War in the United States Army, serving as a cryptologist in Japan with the National Security Unit. Following his honorable service, he returned home and attended Austin Junior College before earning his undergraduate degree from Mankato State University. He later attended graduate school at both St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona and Michigan State University in East Lansing. On September 5, 1959, Dale married Austra Giga in Owatonna.

Dale enjoyed a lifelong career in the computer industry, starting as a programmer with Remington Rand Univac, before joining IBM in 1962, working in Rochester, Minnesota; Lansing, Michigan; Milan, Italy; Palo Alto, California; and Fort Worth, Texas. He retired in 1992 and the Hansons moved back to Blooming Prairie, establishing a branch of the Käthe Wohlfahrt Company, which distributed traditional hand-made German Christmas ornaments across the United States.

He was a proud member of the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, where he served as a lector and sang in the choir. He was also a member of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce; the American Legion, Post #91; the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #878 of Blooming Prairie; and the community board of Arkema. Dale loved the theater, music, fishing, golfing, and gardening. He and Austra created a prairie wildflower garden, enjoyed by the local community. They traveled extensively—to Alaska, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Europe, Israel, Mexico, Oman, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and Latvia, Austra's native country.

Dale is survived by his wife, Austra, of Blooming Prairie; children Bea (Stephanie Davies) Hanson of Brooklyn, N.Y.; John (Robyn) Hanson of Grand Marais, Minn.; sister Doris Samuelson and sister-in-law Gloria Hanson; nieces and nephews, other relatives; and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant son, Paul; brothers Kasper (Norma) Hanson, Lyle (Evelyn) Hanson and Luther Hanson; sister Lorna Hanson; and brother-in-law Rolyn Samuelson.

Dale will be remembered for his exceptional kindness, gentleness, and compassion.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie, presided by Rev. Jeff Sandgren and Rev. Heidi Heimgartner.. Interment was at the Red Oak Grove Cemetery, rural Austin.

Donations in Dale's memory may be directed to the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club, First Lutheran Church, or a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Artemis Jack Riffe
Owatonna

Artemis Jack Riffe, 6 months, Owatonna

Artemis Jack Riffe, age 6 months, passed away, Oct. 14, 2017, surrounded by loved ones, at St. Mary's Hospital, in Rochester.

Artemis was born April 1, 2017 to parents Nick and Katy (Pogones) Riffe, in Owatonna. His family will miss his giggles, and his smile will live forever in their hearts.

He is survived by his parents; one brother, Osiris; paternal grandparents, Edward "Ed" and Michele Riffe of Owatonna; maternal grandparents, Mark "Bean" and Brenda Pogones, of Blooming Prairie, great-grandparents, Bev Fuller, of Owatonna and Ruth Riffe, of Cushing, Oklahoma; uncles, Jake (fiancé Katie Richards) Riffe, of Owatonna, Patrick (Jessica) Krueger, of Hope, Kelly (Tony) Caywood, of Owatonna, Johnny (Jenna Hansen) Pogones, of Ellendale, and many cousins. He is preceded in death by 6 great-grandparents.

For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com. Brick Meger Funeral Home of Owatonna handled funeral arrangements.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 24
Lindsey Schiefert
Wendy Schabert
Rae Jean Hansen
Sara Anderson
Sara Sletten

Oct. 25
Rebecca Johnson
LuAnn Becker
Jennifer Peterson
Timothy Wolf
Sue Schmeling
Bob Braaten

Oct. 26
Gary Wiese
Diane Krejci
Glenda Janning
Derrick LaMotte

Oct. 27
Gloria Snider
Courtney Hackensmith
Mike Swenson
Violet Miller

Oct. 28
Brody Bishop

Oct. 29
Tom Vermilyea
Katie Williamson
Joanne Nahlovsky
Monica Prihoda

Oct. 30
Steven Krell
Mark D Rasmussen
Sam Wencl
Jim Richards

Oct. 31
Jean Wilke
Jacob Naatz
Bob Remker
Kari Forystek
Sharon Anderson
Christopher Naatz

ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 26
Dale & Rosalie Underwood
Ron & Glenda Janning

Oct. 27
Megan & Tim Fredrickson

Oct. 28
Frank & Diane Vorlicek

Oct. 29
Muriel & Ragna Thompson

Oct. 30
Cecil & Lois Friesner

Sponsored by:

Best kept secret!
Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS
Tuesday - Ham
Wednesday - Turkey
Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef
The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wed., Oct. 25
Meatloaf, Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Orange Slices, French Bread, Cream Puff

Thurs., Oct. 26
Ham Balls (Alt: Salisbury Steak), Fresh Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Cup

Fri., Oct. 27
BBQ Ribs, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, 7-Layer Salad, Carrot Cake

Mon., Oct. 30
Swiss Steak/Tomato Sauce, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetables, Blushing Pears

Tues., Oct. 31
Beef Stew, Seafoam Salad, Batter Bun, Baked Apple

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT
SITUATIONS WANTED
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
GARAGE SALES
HOMES FOR SALE
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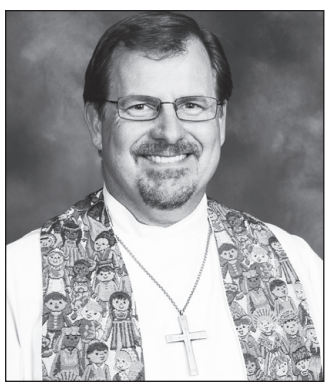
Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

45th Annual AAUW & BP Women of Today
Village Affair
Sat., Oct 28th
9am - 3pm
LUNCH SERVED
10:45 - 1:00
Food Prepared by
Conger Inn Victory Catering
OVER 75 Vendors
BEVERAGES & TREATS SERVED ALL DAY
FREE ADMISSION ~ Blooming Prairie High School
All Proceeds to Scholarships for Local Students

Vandal's Family Market
Prices Good 10/24 - 10/30
Pepsi
12oz 8 Pack 2/$8
2 Liters 5/$5
Lipton Iced Tea
.5 Liter 12 Pack $4.99
Pure Leaf Iced Tea
18.5oz 6 Pack $4.99
Klarbrunn
Sparkling Water
12 Pack $3.49
IZZE Sparkling Water
12oz 8 Pack 2/$8
Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!
237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671

PASTOR'S CORNER



PASTOR PAUL HAUSCHILD

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAYFIELD

"Never Too Late to Find Forgiveness"

PBS recently aired a wonderful, yet heartbreaking, series on the Vietnam War. This story came to mind as I watched the series:

On June 8, 1972, a nine-year-old Vietnamese girl, her clothes flaming from gasoline bombs, fled the American-led assault on her village of Trang Bang. With her yes screwed shut and her mouth spread wide in a scream of pain, she was captured on film in America's most remembered Vietnam wartime photo.

In Officer John Plummer's nightmares, this picture flashed huge, in black and white, to a sound track of children screaming. His order had directed bombers to shower Kim Phuc's village with the chemical explosives. For years, guilt over destroying and maiming the villagers haunted the officer. Women and alcohol were his escape of choice.

Twenty years after the destruction of the village, Officer Plummer asked Christ to take control of his life, unleashing God's ultimate power to end guilt. Although free from guilt, he carried inside himself scars somehow linked to the thick, white scars on the neck, arm, and back of the now-grown Vietnamese girl. Six years later, Plummer knew he needed to find her. In an effort to meet her face to face, he tracked her down while she was visiting America.

Unlike the June 1972 event, no photographer captured the moment when Plummer explained to Kim Phuc who he was. But in the middle of a busy sidewalk, the soldier, now 49 years old, and the child, now 33 years old, embraced. "She just opened her arms to me," Plummer later said. "I fell into her arms sobbing. All I could say is, 'I'm so sorry. I'm just so sorry.'

"It's all right," she replied as she patted Plummer's back. "I forgive. I forgive."

This touching story reminds me of the insanity of war, but also the pain of living with sins and burdens that need to be forgiven. Let our goal be to, not only extend forgiveness to someone, but also to humble ourselves enough to ask for forgiveness.

When we think of our loving Lord, nothing we've ever done is too bad to ask forgiveness for. And it's never too late to ask. God "is faithful and just to forgive us, and to cleanse us from our sins" (1 John 1:9).

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
507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS
4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont
Pastor Alan Broadwell
507-528-2404
Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun.
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
507-676-5696
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
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
507-567-2272
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
507-451-2165
Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.

CATHOLIC

CHRIST THE KING
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)
Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Key fob required after hours or weekends

CHRISTIAN

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT
540 SE 18th St., Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.
Sunday Connections: 10:15 a.m.

PENTECOSTAL

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

METHODIST

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST
43089 180th St., Medford
(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.

SIMPLE CHURCH
4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna
(Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's)
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.
Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Bishop Dennis Martin
507-583-7532
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed.

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ
800 Havana Road, Owatonna
507-451-1546
www.associatedchurch.org
office@associatedchurch.org
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow)
Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Kirk Johnston
507-477-2631
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna
Pastor Bob Brauer
507-340-7143
Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat.
Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat.

UCC

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

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VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
507-684-3421
www.vibrantlifeag.com
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun.
Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun.

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST
104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
507-583-2673
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
& 6:30 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.

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A

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455-1465
theradzoo.com

B

Buy costumes that are made of flame-retardant material.

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Owatonna
414-0308

C

Costumes should not be too dark to see.

Completely Kids & Maternity
Owatonna
444-4100

D

Don't cut across yards or driveways.

Extreme Custom Powder Coating
Blooming Prairie
583-7448

E

Eat before going out to Trick or Treat

Steele County Child Association
Owatonna
210-8175

F

Follow all traffic laws and signals.

Flooring Frenzy
Owatonna
446-0069

G

Go slow drivers. Be careful!

Car Time of Owatonna
Owatonna
446-9218

H

Healthy snacks should be considered whenever possible

Dr. Deborah J Lien
Blooming Prairie
583-6613

I

Investigate candy wrappers before eating.

The Bakery
Blooming Prairie
583-4433

J

Jackets should be worn over costumes on cool Halloween nights.

Cedar Floral
Owatonna
451-7673

K

Know how and where to contact your parents.

Darrick's Preferred Auto
Blooming Prairie
583-9994

L

Light your jack-o'-lantern with a battery- powered light instead of a candle.

Claremont Service Center
Claremont
528-2233

M

Make sure shoes fit and are tied tightly

Sweet Towing
Owatonna
451-3424

N

Never enter a stranger's home.

Cole's Electric
Owatonna
451-1387

O

Only eat candy after your parents have checked it.

Vandal's Family Market
Blooming Prairie
583-6671

P

Props, such as a sward or wand should be flexible toys.

Jesse's Boot Store
Blooming Prairie
583-9900

Q

Quietly pass by unlit houses.

Cashwise
Owatonna
451-7220

R

Remember to walk, and not run, between houses.

Holland Family Dental
Owatonna
451-7250

S

Stay in neighborhoods you are familiar with.

Josten's
Owatonna
455-6100

T

Tricks should never be harmful.

Main Street Dental
Blooming Prairie
583-2141

U

Unfamiliar pets and animals should be avoided.

Cashwise
Owatonna
451-7220

V

Visit only houses that have a porch light on.

Flooring Frenzy
Owatonna
446-0069

W

Watch for cars - ALWAYS!

Blooming Prairie Chamber
Blooming Prairie
583-4472

XYZ

Youth should always give zombies the right of way at crossings.

STEELE COUNTY Times

FOOTBALL FRENZY

Week 8

Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

Fall playoffs underway

If the Blossoms can get by Southland tonight in quarterfinal playoff action, there is a good chance that the team will meet Rushford–Peterson again in the semi-finals. Fans will then be hoping that the team has found a way to stop Trojan running back Ethan Sense. Sense gashed the Blossom defense for 277 yards by himself in R-P's win over the locals last Wednesday, and they will have to slow him down at least if they have any hope of defeating R-P.

That game would be played again at Rushford, and the Blossoms have had a dickens of a time winning on the Trojan field. Now would be a good opportunity to turn that streak around. If that scenario could happen, and the team could reach the finals, they would then have to stop Goodhue's premier runner, Mason Heimer. It may be wishful thinking, but it is fun to dream a little.

The BP volleyball team earned one home match, and we are hoping that resulted in a victory for the Blossoms. Should they have won that, their next match would be at Grand Meadow next Thursday, with a likely meeting against hayfield in the offing. At least there is hope there.

The cross-country teams will be competing at Rochester Thursday in the section meet, with chances to advance to the state. Senior Alec Ille has earned a state spot two years in a row, and he has strong aspirations for a third such trip. The best of luck to him and to all the other Blossom runners as they tour the course in the meet.

The junior varsity and junior high football teams have concluded their fall sports schedule, as has the junior high volleyball teams. The JV football team had a great season, losing just one game, and the junior high football teams also had their share of success. The 8th grade volleyball team lost just five matches, and the seventh grade improved to the point that it finished the season at a .500 record. A tip of the hat goes to all the non-varsity fall sports' teams.

Honors continue

Their respective institutions have recently honored four individuals. BP graduates Amy Bishop Potter and Kari Zwiener Forystek, both were inducted into The University of Minnesota Mankato Athletic Hall of Fame as members of the 1995 golf team that finished fourth at Nationals.

A 1967 graduate, Jim Turner, entered the Kasson-Mantorville High School Athletic Hall of Fame this month. Turner taught and coached at that high school for 34 years. And BPHS Athletic Director Ali Mach returned to her Pine City High School on Oct. 7 to be inducted into that school's Athletic Hall of Fame. She starred in tennis at Pine City, and here at BPHS coached the softball team that won the state Class A softball championship in 2013.

SEE **LINES, B6**

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna linebacker Cole Rocha (25) wraps up a Trojans' ballcarrier during the first half of the Huskies' 48-0 thumping of New Prague Wednesday night in New Prague. The Huskies defense allowed 28 yards of offense in the first half.

No.8 Owatonna bounces back with 48-0 thumping of New Prague

BY JOSH ZIMMER
SPORTS EDITOR

NEW PRAGUE - In a play on words from the lyrics of hip-hop artist Big Sean, last week No.8-ranked Owatonna took an "L," but Wednesday night against New Prague the Huskies bounce back.

Rolling to a 35-0 halftime lead, the Huskies added a pair of touchdowns in the second half to finish the regular season with a 48-0 thumping of the Trojans.

"I thought our kids did a nice job," commented Huskies head coach Jeff Williams.

It didn't take long for the Huskies to establish the tone.

On the opening drive, Owatonna marched 64 yards - all on the ground - before star running back Jason Williamson pounded his way in for the score from six yards out. That appeared to be the focus Wednesday night for the Huskies. In 34 offensive snaps in the first half, Owatonna kept it on the ground for 20 attempts. Williamson led all rushers with 14 attempts in the first half for 127 yards and a pair of scores. The junior running back would finish the game with 135 yards on 16 carries. Coach Williams noted that it was imperative to get the run game going.

"We wanted to see if we could get a little physical, something that we fell we'll have to do," commented Coach Williams.

After being forced to punt on their second possession, the Huskies' passing game started to slowly get back into the flow that was prevalent in the early goings of the season. On-back-to-back scoring possessions, the Huskies were able to get on the board thanks to a pair of Abe Havelka touchdown passes. His first was an 18-yard strike up the right hash to fellow senior Noah Budach to extend the lead to 14-0. His second touchdown pass was a pure display of simply not being denied. After fullback Mitch Wiese caught a quick dump pass at the 20-yard line, the senior two-way starter barreled over a defender from roughly 8-yards out before bowling into the end zone for a 21-0 lead for Owatonna.

The Huskies would score on two of their final three possessions of the half on the ground with Havelka punching it in from four yards out before Williamson capped a two-play drive from 12 yards out for a 35-0 lead.

Defensively, the Huskies were simply dominant. On seven possessions, the Trojans never entered Owatonna territory. In fact, New Prague's offense ran 24 plays for just 28 yards. For the game, the Huskies allowed 169 yards of offense.

On the Trojans's fifth possession of the contest, Owatonna linebacker Cole Rocha hauled in an interception, which would set up for Havelka's touchdown run.

"They were focused and they wanted to bounce back," added Coach Williams. "Probably good to play in a short week, get a bad taste out of their mouth, bounce back and rest up for the playoffs."

On their first play of the second half, the Huskies look to provide a final blow to the Trojans. Backed up on their own 16-yard line, Havelka looked to his left to find Dalton Kubista with a step on his defender down the sideline. Putting the ball just behind the back shoulder, Kubista made a great, leaping catch and raced 84 yards to give the Huskies a 42-0 lead.

"I was pleased to see Abe really settle down in the second half," commented Coach Williams. "He had a really, really good game in the second half."

On the ensuing Owatonna possession, Havelka found Budach for a 36-yard strike. It has been quite the second half of the season for the senior receiver as he continues to show the depth of the Huskies passing attack. Wednesday's performance marked the fourth-straight week that Budach was Havelka's leading receiver.

"When someone goes down, you need someone to step up and be the guy. Budach has been that guy," Coach Williams added.

For much of the second half, the Huskies' second team units were on the field, managing to hold the Trojans starters at bay. With the win, the Huskies will now have roughly nine days to prepare for its opening Section ____ contest, facing the winner of Rochester John Marshall and Austin. Coach Williams said that the down time comes with the ability to recover.

"For where we are physically, it's a big deal for us," Added Williams. "If we are going to win a section title this year, we need out guys. All of them."

Owatonna will await the winner of Austin and John Marshall.

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FILE PHOTOS

Comeback falls short for Blossoms

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

For the second time in less than a week, the Awesome Blossom football team mounted a late comeback to give them a chance to win. This time, however, time ran out before the comeback would be complete, and BP took another disappointing loss to Rushford-Peterson 39-35 on Oct. 18.

BP dropped to 6-2 for the season and also relegated the team to the No. 3 seed in the playoffs. The team will host Southland tonight (Tuesday) at McFarlin Field.

If BP should meet the Trojans again in the playoffs, and that is a distinct possibility, fans can hope the Blossoms will have found a way to bottle up R-P's Ethan Sense. The junior running back dashed the Blossom defense for 277 individual yards in the narrow Trojan victory. Sense scored five touchdowns in the contest. BP's Seth Peterson threw for five TDs also, but two interceptions hurt his cause.

"We let a runner take the game away from us again," remarked Coach Chad Gimbel. "We are not playing with a lot of confidence right now, and we will have to get that swagger back before the next game, if we want to succeed. I give the guys credit for the comeback, but we can't afford to get such a slow start."

The two late touchdowns gave the Blossoms a chance, but it was a fourth quarter drive by the Trojans that proved fatal. R-P used almost seven minutes off the clock in the 12-play drive, with Sense pushing through for two yards and the score. BP made it close with the two late touchdowns, but time ran out on the locals.

After R-P had scored to make the score 39-28, Peterson ended a 57-yard drive with a pass to Tim Wolf for 10 yards and the score. Brad Staska was perfect on extra points for the game, and BP closed the gap again on a 7-yard pass from Peterson to Max Romeo. The Blossoms then recovered an on-side kick, but just two seconds remained, and that ended the game.

The Trojans opened the game, with Sense gashing the Blossom defense for 58 yards and a two-yard touchdown run. BP quickly retaliated, culminating with a 12-yard touchdown toss to Gabe Hagen, but Sense and the Trojans marched to another score, this time from 6 yards out. R-P scored once more in the second quarter to take a 20-7 lead into the halftime break.

BP scored twice in the third quarter to once for R-P. Peterson passed for 35 to Gabe Hagen for one score, after runs for 37 yards on keepers, after Peterson found Colin Lerum for 18 yards and another touchdown. That set the stage for the fourth quarter comeback.

Rushford – Peterson
14 6 6 13 = 39
Blooming Prairie
7 0 14 14 = 35
BP Team Stats
BP rushing – 164 Total
Romeo 83, Peterson 81
BP Passing Peterson
21 for 43 277 total
BP Receiving – Hagen 6 for 112 yards, Wolf 6 for 63, Lerum 3 for 56 yards

LINES: *Fall playoffs*

FROM PAGE B1

Congratulations and a tip of the hat to those four individuals. Well earned!

Participation high

The MSHSL Bulletin publication reported some interesting statistics regarding Minnesota participation in high school sports. The state currently ranks 10th in the nation for the number of students who participate in sports. Logically, the bigger states of Texas and California rank first and second in number of participants, but to rank 10th, even with of our smaller population than a lot of the other states bodes well for Minnesota students.

Football leads the way in overall numbers, as over 25,000 boys play 11-man football. Track is second, with 17,000 boys and 16,000 girls participating in that program. Basketball comes in third with almost 14,000 boys and 13,000 girls involved in that sport.

The publication breaks down the number of participants in every sports program offered by the Minnesota State High School League, and numbers are available through the league bulletin. The tenth rank is the same as last year, although several hundred more students did participate in some sport this past year. That is certainly an interesting statistics and is factual proof of the widespread interest in high school sports in the state.

What's up?

Several events have been or are coming up in the near future of which residents should be aware. The BP Chamber of Commerce met at the BP Bakery last Wednesday, with Supt. Barry Olson the featured speaker, and the newly formed Blooming Prairie Youth Club held its first open house last night. It gave citizens another chance to visit the club and discover its activity and its value, and we hope attendance was good.

On Nov. 2 another wine and beer-tasting event is scheduled, and detailed information will be available next week. School board election and bond referendum voting takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 8, and the all-school musical "Legally Blonde" takes the stage on Nov. 9-11.

Later in the month of November the BP Youth Club will hold its second annual Heroes Breakfast to honor the local business, corporate, and individual heroes, and on Thanksgiving Day, the annual Gobble Wobble will again take place, beginning at 8 a.m. For those people who complain about the absence of activity in the community, where have you been?

I don't know how much longer we can expect to encounter this unseasonably good weather, but we hope it lasts long enough for the local farmers to complete the harvest. Continue to enjoy fall, and we'll talk again.

FOUR-POINT STANCE
JOSH ZIMMER

So long ...

To quote the iconic Boyz II Men, It's so hard to say goodbye to yesterday.

As some may have known, whether through the grapevine or through interactions with myself, my run at as the Steele County Times Sports Editor has come to an end as I am ready to take the next step in this journey of life to start my family.

With this column, I will be officially crossing the finish line.

There are so many people I would like to reach out to and say thanks. However, first let me start with you, the citizens of Steele County who have been supportive of our efforts here in the sports department. When I came in to the position, there was a lot anxiety, mostly due to the fact that I knew nothing about the area or its sports teams. However, rather than heckle and even hassle (although I felt like I needed it sometimes) you all were generous enough to let this little Montana boys feel right at home. The actions from the public in my year as the Sports Editor that I witnessed speak to the immense amount of character that is flooding the county.

To the coaches, thank you for being so forthcoming and diligent. I understand the hassle of losing a tight overtime contest to quickly spout your takeaways by either an email or an interview. The fact that you were so quick to make sure we had every detail either explained to me or sent, made it so much easier to provide you all with the coverage you deserved.

As for the athletes, thank you for displaying your talents at the highest level in any given contest. More importantly, I commend you all for the ELITE level of class displayed through contests. There were a lot of memories to point out in terms of what I enjoyed seeing, but I can guarantee you, that talent and the performances I got to see will stick with me for a while.

Lastly, I'd have to thank Times Publisher Rick Bussler.

There are no words to the amount of gratitude I have toward the Steele County Times. While I felt like I had an immense amount of experience, I was pretty green when it came to print journalism. However, there must have been something there because he we are a year later. To allow me to have full control of what we covered, how we covered and the manner in which we ethically conducted our department, thank you. I hope that the next eager journalist who comes in will be able to continue to refine what we built. The experience I gained, I owe you big time and will take it with me on my next adventure.

As I write this, I tried to be bold with my thanks because there were some many people who showed genuine respect for me while I was there. However, I want to give a big thanks to Marc Wiese. The city of Owatonna has one heck of a human being. Thank you for getting me involved early when I knew nothing and no one, and getting me entrenched in the community. Most of all, I enjoyed being able to stop by a practice and just talk football for a good minute.

I will still be active as ever on Twitter, I am pegged as a millennial after all. I will also still be deeply entrenched in the sports journalism for those interested in my work. I am excited for this next step of my life, but also have a tough time coming to grips that my time with the Steele County Times has ended. Despite what the stigma is that surrounds a weekly paper, I absolutely loved my job and those who I was able to not only interact with, but work with as well.

May you all continue to have the same generosity that I was able to feel.

With that, I will officially being putting down my pen for now.

God bless.

Defense propels NRHEG to victory

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

An outstanding defensive effort propelled NRHEG to a 34-8 victory over LCWM in the final regular season game on Oct. 18.

The win evened the Panther record at 4-4 and moved them into the section 2A playoffs tonight (Tuesday) on the home field.

"We played outstanding defense," commented Coach Dan Stork, "with a healthy Alex Buckmeier back from an injury to lead the way. Tyler Jacobson and Cole Staloch also continue to play well, as Jacobson rushed for three touchdowns against LCWM."

The Panthers took a quick lead in the game on a Jacobson run of 1 yard, with just 2 minutes gone. The PAT gave the home team a 7-0 lead. Just less than four minutes into the second quarter, Jacobson reached the end zone again in another 1-yard run, and the Panthers added a third touchdown with just four minutes left in the half. Jacobson had to run 7 yards this time for the score.

Panther Perry Peterson joined the attack late in the third quarter in a 13-yard dash, and NRHEG finished its scoring just over a minute into the final quarter, when Lonnie Wilson ran through the defense for 28 yards. LCWM counted a touchdown and two-point conversion midway through the fourth quarter to end the scoring for the game.

Unusual Football Players

Girls make history at NRHEG

BY JOSH ZIMMER
SPORTS EDITOR

It's often thought, but rarely seen.

It's rarely seen and never understood.

However, across the United States, there has been an incline in females who are now donning a helmet and shoulders pads to play high school football.

For three New Richland-Heartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School students, they are attempting to break the stigma that girls can't play football.

Senior Jamie McShane, junior Haley Westrum, and freshman Claire Arndt have been in the thick of the competition for the NRHEG football team this season. Arndt and Westrum are in their first year as members of the Panthers football team while McShane is one of eight seniors on the roster. All three players noted that ultimately, the decision to join the football team was due to having it around the their respective households growing up.

"I've always loved watching it," commented all three players in unison.

McShane added that at first, she didn't think girls could play just because she hasn't seen many players that are females. However, she went out on a limb as a freshman and the rest is history.

"I've been a lineman ever since I joined," she added.

Ardnt can be found next to McShane with her hand in the dirt, lining up amongst the offensive and defensive lines for the Panthers. Both players also noted that their teammates didn't hold back when matched up against them in practice.

"They don't take it easy on us," commented McShane. "That makes it a lot of fun for us."

While Arndt is the lone player of the three not to see action on the varsity, McShane has seen action as a reserve and on special teams for the Panthers the last three seasons. Unlike her two teammates, Westrum's road to the Panthers football team may have had the same initial response, but was bolstered by a playful joke made years prior.

As a soccer player apart of the NRHEG-Waseca co-op Westrum was at a fall awards banquet. During the festivities, Panthers Head Coach Dan Stork made a simple joke that at the time, made have garnered a few laughs, but planted the seed for the young soccer player.

"Seventh grade year, Coach Stork was making jokes of me being the kicker because he saw me kick a football in gym one time," she recalled. "So I've always had it in the back of my mind."

Fast forward a few years, the love of soccer was never lost, but Westrum noted the travel started to wear on her a bit. After participating in cheer as a sophomore, the junior kicker noted that since she was already at the games, she was one step closer to the field.

"I was already at the games, so I just the next step from the track to the field," she added.

By taking that extra step, the trio of Panthers became a part of nearly 2,000 high school girls that play football across the country. However, that's not to say that they received their fair share of criticism. All three players recalled moments when they felt like there was a few eyebrows raised the first few days of practice. Although, all three have stated that has the days wore on and the practice time continued to build, that their teammates started to become more accepting. Arndt noted however, that opponents often make their thoughts known after the game has concluded.

"I have had a whole team where not a single player accepted my handshake," she recalled. "They either move their hand out of the way or give like a fist bump."

Not all opponents however, are that subjective to the idea of a female playing football. Westrum noted that after the WEM game she had a moment with an opposing player that was like a shot of confidence.

"He grabbed my hand, looked me in the eyes and told me, 'nice kicking," she stated. "It's nice to have a guy on the opposing team support the fact that I'm a girl playing football."

McShane and Westrum hope to do their part in keeping the Panthers season alive Tuesday in the opening round of the Section 2AA tournament.

MID SOUTHWEST-EAST

	Div.	Overall	
Fillmore Central	6-2-0	6-2-0	
Rushford-Peterson	4-0-0	6-1-0	
Goodhue	4-0-0	8-0-0	
Blooming Prairie	4-1-0	4-1-0	
Wabasha-Kellogg	3-3-0	3-3-0	
Cotter High School	3-4-0	4-4-0	
Southland		1-4-0	25
Hayfield	0-3-0	0-5-0	
Kingsland		0-5-0	16

MID SOUTHWEST-WEST

	Div.	Overall
Minneota	5-0-0	7-0-0
Lac qui Parle Valley	3-1-0	4-2-0
Ortonville	2-1-0	4-4-0
Dawson-Boyd	1-1-0	2-1-0
Yellow Medicine East H.S.	1-3-0	1-5-0
Lakeview	0-1-0	0-2-0
Canby	0-2-0	1-3-0

SOUTH CENTRAL-BLUE

	Div.	Overall	
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown H.S.	3-1-0	5-3-0	
Sibley East		2-0-0	40
LeSueur-Henderson		2-5-0	36
Maple River	1-0-0	6-1-0	
Norwood-Young America	1-1-0	3-3-0	
Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial	0-1-0	1-5-0	
G-F-W	0-1-0	0-4-0	
New Richland-H-E-G H.S.	0-3-0	0-4-0	

BIG SOUTHEAST-RED

	Div.	Overall	
Northfield H.S.	5-0-0	8-0-0	
Owatonna		1-0-0	19
Rochester Century	1-1-0	3-4-0	
Rochester John Marshall	0-1-0	0-3-0	
Rochester Mayo	0-1-0	1-3-0	
New Prague	0-2-0	1-4-0	

FOOTBALL STATE RANKINGS

Class 1A	Class 2A	Class 5A
1 .BOLD	1. Caledonia	1. Chaska
2 .Goodhue	2.MinneapolisNorth	2. Robbinsdale
3. Wabasso	3. Hawley	3. Northfield
4. Minneota	4. Triton	4. Elk River
5. Braham	5. Redwood Valley	5. Apple Valley
*Receiving votes: Ottertail Central, Ada-Borup/NCW	*Receiving votes: Pipestone Area, Maple River	*Receiving votes: Owatonna, Mankato West

Northstarfootball-news.com
Rankings as of Oct. 23

*Source: Northstarfootball.com

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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.

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** Because the last regular season high school football game will be played tomorrow night (Wednesday), and playoff contest will not be known ahead of time, the football contest will now be just ten college and ten NFL games. Contest still has five weeks to go, so keep entries coming.

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 _____ *

This week's winner is Mike Grunklee with 3 wrong.

1. Wisconsin at Illinois

2. Rutgers at Michigan

3. Penn State at Ohio State

4. TCU at Iowa State

5. N. Car. State at Notre Dame

6. Mich. State at Northwestern

7. Indiana at Maryland

8. Minnesota at Iowa

9. Nebraska at Purdue

10. Oklahoma State at West Virginia

11. Chicago at New Orleans

12. Minnesota at Cleveland

13. Oakland at Buffalo

14. L.A. Chargers at New England

15. Atlanta at N.Y. Jets

16. Carolina at Tampa Bay

17. Pittsburgh at Detroit

18. Houston at Seattle

19. San Francisco at Philadelphia

20. Dallas at Washington (tiebreaker)

Rahrick third, Anderson fourth in Section 1AA tournament

ROCHESTER – For the second-straight season, a pair of Owatonna High School girls tennis players saw their season end in the Section 1AA individual tournament.

After dropping their semifinal matchup, singles' players Emily Rahrick and Sara Anderson were faced up against each other in the consolation semifinal round. Rahrick would top Anderson 6-1, 6-0. Huskies head coach Curt Matejcek commented that both players had fantastic seasons for the squad, going a combined 55-11. Rahrick went 28-5 while Anderson was 27-6.

In the semifinals, Rahrick, the tournament's No.2 seed, was pitted against Farmington's Brooke Hapuku. Despite taking a trio of games in the first set, she would be upset 6-3, 6-0. Anderson drew No.1 seed Emma Trncic of Rochester Mayo in the semifinal round. After being swept 6-0 in the opening set, Anderson rebounded to make it a battle in the second set before falling 6-4.

BP Boys run third

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Senior Alec Ille earned All-Conference honors for the 5th time, and the Awesome Blossom cross-country boys finished third in the always-tough conference meet at Janesville Tuesday, Oct. 17. The Blossom girls ended 7th in the 10-team meet. Loyola/Cleveland and Martin County West took first and second for the boys, while LCWM won for the girls.

Ille finished fifth individually for the boys with a 17:56 time over a very demanding course, and Cameron Kubista also ran a good race in 19:05 to place 13th. Isaac Ille and Ethan Grant followed with times of 20:12, and 20:32 respectively, and Alex Miller ran his personal best time of 20:48 to help the team score. Jesse Schewe and Brian Jimenez finished the run for the boys.

The girls were hindered without leading runner Bobbie Bruns, who sat out the meet with a sprained ankle. The 8th grader had led the Blossoms in every meet this season and earned All-Conference honors as a 7th grader last year. Abby Smith led the team in this meet with 23:20 time, followed by Asha Lightizer and Jerrin Jax with times of 25:00 and 25:53. Three other girls- Emily Anderson, Rose Michaud, and Abby Braaten- all ran the course under 28 minutes. Olivia Johnson finished the run for the girls.

Hosea Baker and Ty Forystek placed 15th and 16th for the junior high boys over the 3200 course, and Adam Larson and Dylan Johnson ran 22nd and 23rd for the JV boys. Jackie Hyland placed 6th for the JV girls, and Alex Stoltz and Haley Finholt ran for the BP junior high girls, placing 23rd and 24th.

NRHEG BOYS RUN WELL

Daniel Nydegger and Ben Lewer both earned Honorable Mention All-Conference honors with times of 19:29 and 19:34, and the team laced 9th in the meet. Kollin Reese, Agro Gushwa,, and Gavin Anderson all followed the first two, with times of 20.53, 22:26, and 23:41. "Nydegger and Lewer both ran good races," commented Coach Mike Weber, "and Reese lowered his time by over half a minute in the run. It was a good effort by the boys over a tough course."

Madisyn Buetel led the Panther girls with a 24:00 time, and Jade Mely followed with 25:20. Mia Williams rounded out the girls' runs with a 28'19 time. Buetel made the Honorable Mention all-Conference list.

Area VB teams swept

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Both BPHS and NRHEG volleyball teams suffered sweeps on their home courts Tuesday, Oct. 7. Medford won three games Over the Blossoms, while Maple River played rude visitor to New Richland in three straight games as well..

The Blossoms could not stop Tiger hitter Emma Kniefel, who recorded 13 kills and several blocks in Medford's victory. The Tigers won 25-12, 25- 17, and 25-10. Julia Worke and Aryen Ingvalson had 4 and 3 kills for BP, Heather Pirkl had 12 assists and 14 digs, and Linnea Sunde added 12 digs.

The Eagles put down the Panthers in their match by scores of 25-22, 25-20, and 25-19. NRHEG stayed close in three of the four games, but could never quite get over the hump to record a win. Alexis Anderson had 7 kills and 12 digs for the home team, Olivia Christopherson chipped in 9 digs, and Hannah Budach had 9 assists in the match.

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE
Results Week Two Oct. 11 2017

Team Standings

	Won	Lost
F & M Bank	9.5	2.5
B to Z Hardware	7.5	4.5
Kosters' Kar Corner	5	6
J & H/Dairy Queen	6	6
Epic Contracting	4	8
Bunkies Lanes & Grill	3	9

High Team Game –Scratch	
F & M Bank	582
High Team Game- Handicap	
B To Z Hardware	582
Nigh team Series- Scratch	
F & M Bank	1660
High team Series- Handicap	
B to Z Hardware	1648
High Game Individual	
1. Alysa Ressler	173
2. JoAnn Nielson	166
High Series Individual	
Jo Ann Nielson	451
2. Carol Heimerman	437

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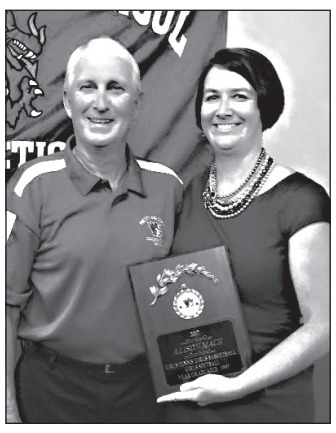

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Top Left: Blooming Prairie athletic director Ali Mach was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Pine City High School on Oct. 7. Middle: Kari Forystek and Amy Potter, both in center holding plaque, were inducted into the 41st MSU Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 6. They are pictured with their parents. Right: Jim Turner of Kasson has been inducted into the Kasson-Mantorville High School Hall of Fame. Turner is a 1967 graduate of Blooming Prairie.

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Three BPHS graduates and one BPHS staff member recently received high honors at their respective educational institutions, illustrating once again several of the many successes the local school personnel have attained.

Amy (Bishop) Potter, a 1989 graduate and Kari (Zwiener) Forystek, who graduated in 1991, both were part of the ladies' golf team at Mankato State University that was inducted into the 41st MSU Athletic Hall of fame on Oct. 6.

The team, of which both girls were a part of, finished third in the nation three years in a row and fourth in 1993. Potter participated in several activities in high school, such as volleyball, basketball, and golf, as well as the all-school musicals, band, and other pursuits. H Peterson coached the girls' golf team in high school, and Potter has fond memories of her high school golf career.

She joined the MSU golf team as a walk-on and thrived under the tutelage of Coach Mike Campa, who she remembers as a patient man willing to spend as much time with the girls as they wanted. A highlight for Potter came when she received the Most Improved Golfer award two years in a row. That was a testament to Campa's teaching.

Probably a bigger highlight for her in her college career was playing at the National golf tournament in Boston, and she also played at several beautiful golf courses during her college years. After graduating from MSU, she taught at Farmington for two years and then took a position at Waseca, where she taught for 20 years until retiring to be a full-time mom and joining many volunteer efforts along the way.

Potter has been married to Matt Potter, also a MSU grad, for 23 years, and they have three children – Hannah is 16, and twins Isaac and Sophia are 14. Both Potter and her husband earned club champion honors at Waseca Lakeside Golf Club this past summer.

COLLEGE GOLFER

Kari Forystek graduated two years behind Potter, but they golfed on the same team for two years in high school and then again on the golf team at MSU. In high school, Forystek also joined in several activities besides golf, playing basketball and having roles in the all-school musicals, just to name a few. She golfed two years at MSU.

Forystek has been married to husband Chad, who is a sergeant with the Steele County Sheriff's Office, for 21 years, and they have three children. Kylie is a freshman at St. Benedicts' College, Maren is 15, and Ty is 12. Forystek is currently a secretary in the BP school district office. She enjoys her work and supporting her own and other BPHS students in their many activities.

1967 GRAD IN K-M HALL

Jim Turner, a 1967 graduate of BPHS, gained fame as a member of the only boys' basketball team to advance to the state basketball tournament (1966) and still considers it as a highlight of his life. He was named, along with his brothers, as a Blossoms Forever Athlete of the year and also was honored with his teammates of 1966 for that award.

Besides basketball, Turner participated in track and football at BPHS and had roles in the class plays. After graduation he played basketball at Austin Junior College for two years and then went to Mankato State University, graduating in 1971 with an education degree. He took a teaching position at Kasson-Mantorville High School and taught there for 34 years, until his retirement in 2005.

Turner coached several positions, including varsity basketball, assistant football, and varsity golf. His basketball teams won two HVL titles and a District 4 championship, and he coached several state qualifiers in golf. He was inducted into the Kasson-Mantorville High School Hall of fame in early October.

BLOSSOMS AD HONORED

BPHS Athletic director Ali Mach begins her third year in that position, after teaching science and coaching softball at the local high school for many years. Pine City High School inducted her into its Athletic Hall of Fame in ceremonies on Oct. 7. While in high school, Mach played basketball and softball, and starred on the tennis team as well and graduated in 1997.

She attended St. Thomas University and played tennis there, but also did some coaching of tennis and softball at St. Paul Academy. After earning her degree at St. Thomas, she took the teaching position at BPHS and has been on staff ever since. Her record as the high school softball coach is unmatched in her tenure, and she has the distinction of being the only BPHS coach who took the softball team to the state tournament, not once, but four straight years.

The effort finally paid off, when the Awesome Blossoms won the Class A state championship in 2013. The team improved its placing every year at state, taking second in 2012, before the title-winning season the following year. Mach also coached junior high basketball at BPHS for several years.

While in the classroom she was instrumental in making plans to build the school greenhouse, with the culmination in its construction five years ago. The greenhouse is used regularly as a hands-on tool for science classes in the high school.

The Blooming Prairie school district is justly proud of the accomplishments of its graduates and staff members, and it points to the quality of individuals who have represented the school and its personnel.

Motorist allegedly flees police after initially stopping

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After initially stopping for police, an Owatonna man decided to take off and lead the officer on a wild chase that ended with him driving into the ditch.

Aaron Dean Robinson-Velzke, 30, has been charged with fleeing in a motor vehicle, which is a felony. In addition, he also faces a gross misdemeanor charge of second-degree DWI refusal to take a test and misdemeanor charge of driving after suspension.

A Steele County Sheriff's deputy was running radar in the 7000 block of Crane Creek Road on Oct. 7. At about 10:18 p.m., the deputy clocked a vehicle traveling 68 mph in a 55 mph zone. A computer check also revealed the registered owner of the vehicle had a suspended license.

The truck stopped at the entrance of Crane Creek Park. The driver identified himself as Robinson-Velzke. The deputy noted his speech was thick and slurred and an odor of an alcoholic beverage was coming from his breath, according to the criminal complaint.

When the deputy asked Robinson-Velzke if he could submit to field sobriety tests, Robinson-Velzke became hesitant and asked the officer if he could give him a ride home. The driver then indicated he was just going to leave and put the truck into drive, the complaint said.

The deputy put the truck into park, but Robinson-Velzke continued to try to put it into gear. He was also revving the engine. Robinson-Velzke got the truck into reverse and the vehicle rolled back a few feet. The deputy retreated to his squad car.

Court records show Robinson-Velzke allegedly drove off on 52nd Avenue reaching speeds of 90 miles per hour. He started to turn onto 26th Street when his vehicle went into the ditch.

Robinson-Velzke got out of the truck and came up the ditch. He allegedly told the deputy that he made a mistake and should have just taken the tests, the complaint said.

While at the Owatonna hospital, the deputy requested a blood test from Robinson-Velzke, but he would not give consent.

State driving records show Robinson-Velzke has a previous refusal to test in September 2012.

He faces a maximum sentence of three years in jail and a $5,000 fine on the felony fleeing charge.

Fundraiser at Litomysl

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

It's a family affair. Many families attended the annual Knights of Columbus breakfast at the Holy Trinight Catholic Church in Litomysl. Going through the breakfast line are Jason Sexter, Kelly Mullenbach and kids Madison Sexter, Michael Sexter and Makayla Sexter.

Submitted Photo

Roger Sorenson of Blooming Prairie's First Lutheran Church Memorial Committee presents a $500 check to Elyse Baker, Abused Children's Program Coordinator of the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County.

BP church makes donation to crisis center

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Memorial Committee of First Lutheran Church recently presented a check for $500 to the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County.

Committee member Roger Sorenson of Blooming Prairie presented the check to Elyse Baker, Abused Children's Program Coordinator of the Crisis Resource Center of Steele County.

The crisis center is a non-profit organization that provides support and service to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The CRC also works with children who have witnessed abuse.

With the program, advocates provide:

- 24 Hour Services
- Advocacy and follow-up support
- Court Accompaniment
- Crisis Information
- Education Programs
- Information and Referral
- Order for Protection and Harassment Restraining
- Order filling assistance
- Reparations Assistance
- Safety Planning
- Support Groups

All Crisis Resource Center services are free and completely confidential.

Owatonna groups offering Manufacturing Challenge

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna Area Business Development Center and the Owatonna Economic Development Authority are sponsoring The Manufacturing Challenge, a Simple Goal.

The Manufacturing Challenge is open to:

- Start-ups or businesses in their first two years of operation
- Entities that are presently home-based including garages
- Entities that, due to a new product or unprecedented growth, need some help getting to that next level.

Details and instructions for making an application can be found on the Center's website: www.owatonna.biz. Just follow prompts labeled "Manufacturing Challenge."

Contestants are encouraged to seek confidential guidance if they have questions about the information they are required to provide in the application.

Prizes will be provided with the help of various community businesses and organizations.

The Owatonna EDA is offering a $10,000 forgivable loan.

The development center is offering a total prize valued at $6,792 including lease payment savings, free Internet access for 12 months, free office for first 12 months, free utilities for first three months.

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The products will be arriving to the BP High School the week of October 27. These products would make perfect Christmas Gifts.

If you have any questions, or would like an FFA member to stop by your home or place of employment, please feel free to contact Mr. Rinkenberger at the BPHS Ag Dept. at (507) 583-4426 ext. 468

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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

BP Chamber finds out schools are offering a flurry of activity

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

There's a lot happening in Blooming Prairie schools these days. Just ask the Blossom leadership.

That leadership of the schools paid a visit to the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce at its regular monthly meeting on Oct. 18 at The Bakery in Blooming Prairie.

Representing the school district were Superintendent Barry Olson, High School Principal John Worke, Activities Director Ali Mach and Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch.

"We're off to a good start and just finished our parent conferences," said Principal Worke. "We had 45 percent parental attendance at the conferences," Worke informed the chamber members.

Worke said few staff changes took place at the high school with Angie Carlson now teaching junior high English and Eric Vigeland becoming the school technology lead person.

"We are focusing on character building," Worke related. He also saluted mental health professional Susan Arnold of the South Central Human Relations Center who is on site at the high school every day. She meets with 18 students and six parents on a regular basis.

Worke said BP Class of 1961 graduates were taken on a tour of the high school on Oct. 7. He also said about 30 tours were led over the July 4 holiday at the high school and at the elementary school.

Principal Worke asked Chamber president Greg Johnson if the student ambassador program, started by former president Luke Swenson, would be continuing. Johnson said he supported the program and confirmed it will continue.

Ali Mach made a plea for coaches. She said the school is especially in need of more coaches for the high school boys' basketball team. She said 43 boys are expected to report to boys' basketball practice.

Principal Staloch said the elementary school is emphasizing character and relationship building. On the first day of school, Staloch said staff members wore t-shirts proclaiming "We Believe in You."

Staloch said the enrollment is continuing to grow and is listed at 419 for K-6 and just over 100 for pre-kindergarten. Staloch thanked the chamber and Linda Klemmensen for their work on the Junior Entrepreneur program.

The Backpack program, which provides food for needy students over the weekend, is in its second year and serves 54 kids. Donations keep the program alive with First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie serving as the fiscal agent.

Staloch also spoke about the Lego robotics program, which allows students to be active in programming and coding. They also learn from team work, Staloch said. The local Parent Teacher Organization, the BP Education Foundation and Arkema support the robotics programs.

"I'm proud of how our community supports us," Staloch said.

During the business portion of the meeting, Chamber President Greg Johnson said he believed BP's Main Street looked "so inviting" to shoppers.

Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble announced that the annual Chamber banquet will be held on a Thursday night in January.

A Veterans Day dinner is set for Nov. 11. Reservations should be made by Nov. 3.

A Touch of Charm was congratulated for observing its 29th anniversary.

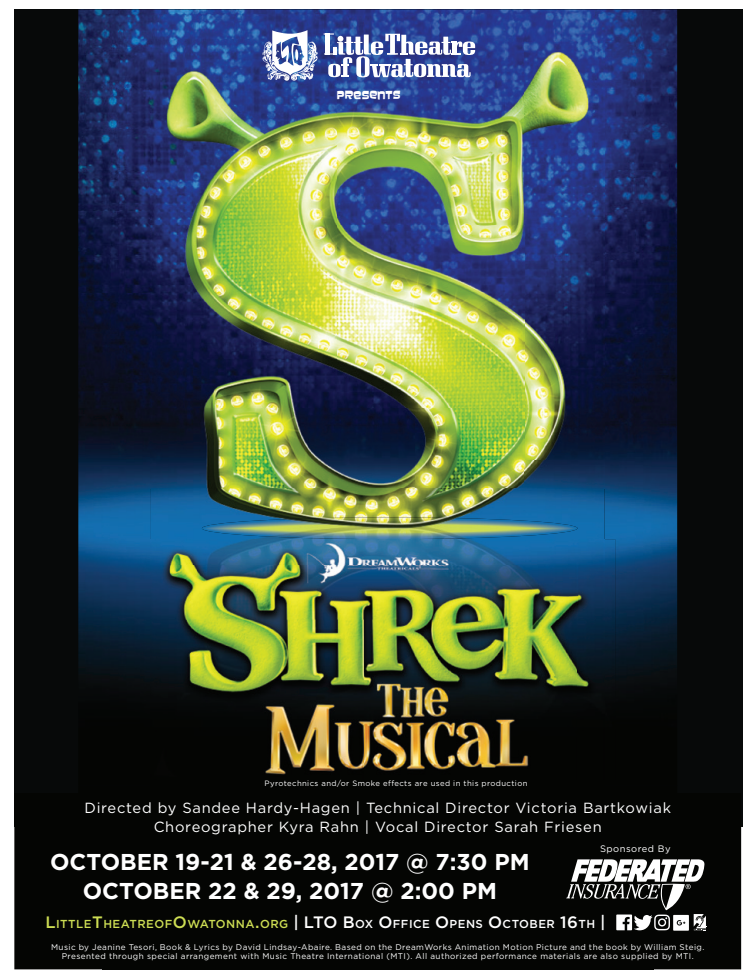
Director Noble said she has been selected as a Super Bowl volunteer. Barry Olson said his wife Diane was also selected.

Following adjournment of the business meeting, members listened to Superintendent Olson explain the three questions on the Operating Levy Referendum ballot for Tuesday, Nov. 7.

If all three questions pass, it will mean that the district will receive $160 more per pupil unit. There is no impact on taxpayers if the operating levy first question passes. The second question is for technology and the third question is for reducing class size.

A taxpayer owning a $150,000 value house would only see taxes increase by just over $47 a year.

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



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

BP Cancer Group to have booth at Village Affair

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will have a booth at the 45th annual Village Affair at the Blooming Prairie High School on Saturday, Oct. 28.

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will again have a booth at The Village Affair on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Blooming Prairie High School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Here, Jennifer Milton and Cheri Krejci work the booth at last year's Village Affair.

The Village Affair takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A variety of baked goods including the Scandinavian favorite, lefse, will be on sale at the BP Cancer Group. The Cancer Group will also be selling 8 oz. Soy candles in 10 different scents.

Amy Trotman and Joann Nielsen are chairing the BP Cancer Group's activity at The Village Affair. Last year, Cheri Krejci and Jennifer Milton worked the booth to earn monies for the BP Cancer Group.

The BP Cancer Group is one of the most active organizations in Blooming Prairie, leading many fundraisers during the year. The 2017 year has been one of the busiest years ever, says BP Cancer Group treasurer Cheri Krejci.

Two months ago in September, the Cancer Group enjoyed one of its best cancer auction weekends ever.

Krejci said that all Paint Blooming Prairie activities including auctions, flags, family bingo, 50-50 raffle, Cut for a Cure and the Prihoda raffle accounted for more than $60,000, a record. Last year, the auctions earned $32,000 and all Paint BP Pink activities garnered $50,000.

BP Cancer Group board members will present a check to the Eagles Cancer Telethon next January. The BP Cancer Group handed over a $63,000 check to Eagles Telethon officials last January.

In the past, monies have been channeled to the Hormel Institute for cancer research purposes.

The late Eunice Coughlin started the BP Cancer Group in 2001 at age 80. She was driven by a family history of cancer and a desire to help fight the dreaded disease.

Couglin was instrumental in sponsoring a silent auction and bake sale at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie. The efforts raised over $1,700.

Trotman and Nielsen are hoping many of The Village Affair guests will stop by and check out their unique bake sale items and other items of interest. Admission is free to The Village Affair.

Next BP Cancer Group activity will be Turkey Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Pizza Cellar. Jingle Bingo is also planned for sometime in December.

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

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Passport to holiday gifts

Hospital Auxiliary plans holiday bazaar

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

"There's something for everyone" at the Owatonna Holiday Bazaar scheduled for Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Owatonna Hospital. Two of the bazaar's three chairs, Kathy Ihlenfeld and Gloria Kenow show some of the items that will be available in the Pink Pantry gift shop.

Travelin' to some holiday bazaars this winter?

Pick up a passport and travel to the Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary 2017 Holiday Bazaar planned from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 3 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4.

The bazaar destination will be the Owatonna Hospital, Allina Health.

"There's something for everyone," says Holiday Bazaar tri-chairs Kathy Ihlenfeld, Gloria Kenow and Nancy Westphal.

There's something new this year at the Holiday Bazaar. As guests enter the hospital's main entrance on Nov. 3-4, they will receive a "Passport."

Take the "Passport" and have it stamped in every display room. Travelers will then be eligible for the drawing to be held when the bazaar ends. A prize will be given at all six locations: Gift Shoppe, Santa Stocking Stuffer, Bake Sale, Sewing Room, New/Nearly New and Books are Fun (Collective Goods).

The Owatonna Hospital Auxilary was founded in 1952 and since that time, it has been raising funds through activities to provide gifts to the hospital and scholarships for students pursuing nursing or health related careers.

The Auxiliary assists with "unfunded expenses" and uses bazaar proceeds to purchase HALO Swaddle Sleep Sacks for the hospital's Birth Center. One is given to each baby born at the Owatonna Hospital Birth Center.

Kenow and Ihlenfeld explain that the sleep sacks are a "big expense" with about 500 expected to be given out this next year.

The HALO is an original wearable blanket replacing the loosely fitted blankets in the crib. These blankets help prevent SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). The Birth Center provides education about the importance of babies sleeping on their backs.

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary is "WE CARE" -- we care about patients, we care about hospital staff and we care about the community.

The first gift from the Auxiliary to the hospital was made in 1960 when $2,700 was given to provide furnishings for patient rooms, the nursery and waiting rooms.

Kenow said the Auxiliary during its history has given out $500,000 not including scholarship monies.

Let's take a preview trip to the Holiday Bazaar.

Stepping through the hospital entrance, visitors will be welcomed by a huge Christmas tree and by live greeters. Each visitor is then given a passport.

From there, visit the Pink Pantry (hospital gift shop) which will have plenty of holiday items centering around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gift shop supervisor Marcia Sullivan is organizing an informal style show. Four to six models will be wandering the bazaar areas during the bazaar.

A bake sale is featured across from the Pink Pantry. "The men who come to the bazaar really enjoy the style show and the bake sale," Kathy said.

Baked items for the bake sale include thanksgiving and Christmas treats, pies, mini pies, cookies, specialty breads, candy, bars, etc. The bake sale will also feature fresh kolaches, popular dark and light fruit cakes and cinnamon and caramel rolls plus delicious scones and lemon blueberry bread.

A sewing room displays holiday items created by busy sewing elves. Warm mittens will be available along with many special baby items.

Stop by the Santa Stocking Stuffer Room (outside vendor) across from the bake sale. Stocking stuffers galore will be found, including sports items or that fun gag gift. Most items are priced at $6 and thus they are affordable for everyone. Some specialty items are priced slightly higher.

The Santa room always has something out of the ordinary. Last year, a sale on men's and women's socks brought a lot of interest, Kenow and Ihlenfeld said. Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins items can be found here.

Books Are Fun (outside vendor) is back again this year under the name, "Collective Goods." Many craft items are available here. STEM books are popular and offered for sale as are puzzles, games and cookbooks.

A New/Nearly New Room features fall decor as well as glassware, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, toys and much more. Wreaths, arrangements, wall hangings, Christmas gifts and other merchandise can be found in this room. A plethora of battery-operated Christmas items will be on sale in the New/Nearly New Room.

Find collectibles you have been searching for. Some Precious Moments dolls will be available.

While shopping, visitors likely will work up an appetite. The cafeteria has special menus for Friday and Saturday.

The Friday menu will include chicken noodle soup, Wisconsin cheese soup, grilled hamburgers, salmon, chili dog and glazed chicken over rice.

The Saturday menu features loaded potato soup, chicken wild rice soup, walking taco, lemon pepper chicken, rice pilaf and a fish sandwich.

Bazaar visitors can have soup and a sandwich for under $3 and a hot meal for $5-$6. Serving is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary counts more than 200 volunteers, 100 of them working the Holiday Bazaar. The bazaar and the Auxiliary's Festival of Tables are its major fundraisers.

Students share in excitement over school musical

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

"This year will be my most memorable one, as I have the lead, and I think the play is modern, upbeat, and funny."

Those were the comments by BPHS senior Emma Christianson, when referring to this year's all-school musical at Blooming Prairie High School. "Legally Blonde" will take the stage for the first of three performances on Friday, Nov. 10, and, if the rest of the cast is as excited as Christianson is, the production should please everyone.

The play is based on the 2001 movie that starred Reese Witherspoon, and as a play, was even nominated for a Golden Globe award at one time. Elle is an intelligent, but slightly airheaded high school graduate who follows her steady boyfriend to Harvard to be near him. Complications immediately arise when her boyfriend breaks up with her for another co-ed.

Elle has to make some tough decisions, so she enters Harvard Law School in order to win back her boyfriend. That doesn't happen, but she does discover that, despite no one else believing she can do it, she has infinity to be a good lawyer and an ability to help others. The action goes in several directions from there.

Junior Ian Wayne won the role of Warner Huntington 111, and this is his first major role in an all-school musical. Unlike Christianson, "I never auditioned for any specific role," remarked Wayne. "I just wanted to give it a try, and here I am. I think the play is not too long, but it is both funny and serious. I really enjoy it, and I think we have a lot of talent in the cast."

Freshman Charlie Heimerman auditioned for the part of Professor Callahan "because he is a pompous and quirky character," commented Heimerman. "I like the play because of my role and the funny story line. It is different, but still very entertaining."

Tenth grader Baylee Sorenson has the role of Elle's mother, and she echoed the other cast comments. "It is fun and a lot of things happen all the time. Some of the dances are a little demanding, but I think it will all come together. I didn't audition for any specific part, but I am glad to get the one I did."

On the other hand, senior Max Romeo tried out for the role of Emmett. "We could try for the role we wanted and I got the part because it is a more modern musical, and the songs are melodious and fun to sing. Practice has been going well, and I think the audience will really enjoy the production."

Another student satisfied with the part she got was Reese Millam. The freshman commented, "We all went to group auditions, and I was well satisfied to get the role of Margot. It is a lot of fun to work with my friends on the songs and the dances. I love the chance to be a part of the theater and to connect with others outside of the classroom setting. Everyone gets a chance to shine in this production, and the creative setting is a big plus for me."

If the comments and enthusiasm displayed by the students give any indication of the ultimate success, "Legally Blonde" should go down in BPHS musical history as another of those very popular and highly acclaimed all-school musicals produced on the local stage.

Healthy workplace good for all

Steele Talkin'
CAROLYN WHEELER

The 25th anniversary of World Mental Health Day was Oct. 10.

The World Federation for Mental Health uses this annual event to call attention to a timely mental health issue.

During our adult lives, a large proportion of our time is spent at work. Our experience in the workplace is one of the factors determining our overall well-being.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter said a healthy workplace benefits workers and employers alike.

"I urge you to advocate in your communities on behalf of all people living with mental illnesses to ensure adequate services and freedom from stigma to get the help they need," she said. "I want people to know what I know - that today, because of research and our knowledge of the brain, mental illnesses can be diagnosed and treated effectively, and the majority of those with these illnesses can recover and lead fulfilling lives … going to school, working, raising a family, and being productive citizens in their communities."

Employers and managers who put in place workplace initiatives to promote mental health and to support employees who have mental disorders see gains not only in the health of their employees, but also in their productivity at work.

A negative working environment, on the other hand, may lead to physical and mental health problems, harmful use of substances or alcohol, absenteeism and lost productivity.

Depression and anxiety disorders are common mental disorders that have an impact on our ability to work, and to work productively. Globally, more than 300 million people suffer from depression, the leading cause of disability. More than 260 million are living with anxiety disorders. Many of these people live with both.

A recent World Health Organization-led study estimates that depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy $1 trillion (U.S.) each year in lost productivity.

Mental health in the workplace is the theme of World Mental Health Day 2017. World Mental Health Day is observed on Oct. 10 every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues and mobilizing efforts in support of better mental health.

Here are some workplace stats provided by the World Health Organization:

- 10% of the employed population has taken time off work for depression.
- An average of 36 workdays are lost per depression episode.
- Fifty percent of people with depression are untreated.

SEE **WORKPLACE, C7**

AREA SERVICES

South Central Human Relations Center, with locations in Kasson, Owatonna and Waseca, offers services for adults and children.

Call 1-800-722-0590 for outpatient intake. To access services for those experiencing a mental health crisis, residents of Dodge, Steele, Waseca, and Mower counties have a centralized call number, (844) -Crisis2 .

Also available now is TXT4Life – "Text for Life" – By Texting the word "LIFE" to 61222, callers can access this system and receive a response from a trained crisis counselor.

Crisis Response teams are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week including holidays and weekends.
The teams provide support for situations that do not need emergency services, such as at a hospital.

Just for Kix

Young dancers from around Blooming Prairie entertained football fans during halftime of the Awesome Blossoms and Mayer Lutheran football game Oct. 13 at Soldiers Field. The dancers are part of Just for Kix under the direction of Bizzy Thompson. Just for Kix classes provide young dancers a learning environment focused on team work, proven dance technique and confidence building. The group celebrates the achievements of every student, at any skill level.

Bunkie's owner wants to turn barn into event center

Ressler admits it's a pipe dream

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

With an egg company sign on the door, the barn stands as the possible home of a future event center in Blooming Prairie. Aaron Ressler, owner of Bunkie's, said he has a "pipe dream" to make the old building into a functional center.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Trying to wipe a wide grin off his face, Aaron Ressler, owner of Bunkie's Grill & Lanes in Blooming Prairie, admits to having a pipe dream.

That pipe dream revolves around a huge, older building located just south of the bowling alley.

The town has been abuzz late this past summer with talk about all of the activity taking place in what Ressler affectionately calls as "the barn." The activity has been mainly focusing on re-roofing "the barn."

Ressler said it is essential that it be re-roofed because "the barn" covers the bowling alley and if something isn't done soon, problems will begin to evolve.

He hopes to take his pipe dream further than just re-roofing an old building. Ressler is hopeful that the building can some day become an event center and be the focus of weddings, all kinds of functions, birthday parties and company team building.

"I know it is a pipe dream and I have no drawings what the inside will look like, but I keep dreaming," Ressler said.

The building was built in 1903 by Al Lysne's father, Ressler has been told. Three other buildings next to the barn were built by Frank Ressler, Aaron's great-grandfather. The Ressler brothers, George, Charlie and Pugie (Frank Jr.), operated three businesses in these three buildings.

The old barn, which measures 130 by 70 feet started as a livery stable. It then became a haven for bootlegging. Ressler points to a P.F. Coggins sign that still exists. A brother of P.F. Coggins ran the bar.

Ressler said he has been told that cars were warmed up inside "the barn" in readiness to deliver alcohol.

Following the prohibition days, the building became the home of an egg factory owned by Meyer Klempf.

It is Ressler's goal to finish the roofing project before winter. "We should have it sealed up by then," he said.

Ressler has been working on the project with his brother Mike and Mark Coughlin of Epic Construction.

His dream is to take the history of the building and promote it by showing the building as a livery stable, as a hotbed for bootlegging and as a home for an egg factory.

Tying an event center to the existing bowling alley seems to be a "no-brainer," says Ressler.

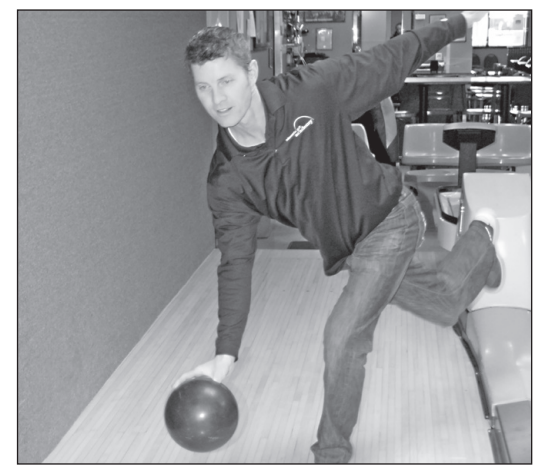
The Bunkie's restaurant part of the business, Ressler said, is going well and he also is excited about simulator golf leagues starting up and also men's and women's bowling leagues beginning. Ressler also managed the Blooming Prairie Country Club this past summer.

"It was a good year for golf with Blooming's high school boys team winning the state championship and with our many tournaments drawing great participation," Ressler said.

"We are open on weekends for birthday parties and other functions," he reminds residents of Blooming Prairie.

"I like all the history of this town and want to hang onto it," said Ressler as he continues to envision what could be the future of "the barn."

Ressler said his "big deal" is to preserve the old 1903 building.



AARON RESSLER

Motorist allegedly flees police after initially stopping

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After initially stopping for police, an Owatonna man decided to take off and lead the officer on a wild chase that ended with him driving into the ditch.

Aaron Dean Robinson-Velzke, 30, has been charged with fleeing in a motor vehicle, which is a felony. In addition, he also faces a gross misdemeanor charge of second-degree DWI refusal to take a test and misdemeanor charge of driving after suspension.

A Steele County Sheriff's deputy was running radar in the 7000 block of Crane Creek Road on Oct. 7. At about 10:18 p.m., the deputy clocked a vehicle traveling 68 mph in a 55 mph zone. A computer check also revealed the registered owner of the vehicle had a suspended license.

The truck stopped at the entrance of Crane Creek Park. The driver identified himself as Robinson-Velzke. The deputy noted his speech was thick and slurred and an odor of an alcoholic beverage was coming from his breath, according to the criminal complaint.

When the deputy asked Robinson-Velzke if he could submit to field sobriety tests, Robinson-Velzke became hesitant and asked the officer if he could give him a ride home. The driver then indicated he was just going to leave and put the truck into drive, the complaint said.

The deputy put the truck into park, but Robinson-Velzke continued to try to put it into gear. He was also revving the engine. Robinson-Velzke got the truck into reverse and the vehicle rolled back a few feet. The deputy retreated to his squad car.

Court records show Robinson-Velzke allegedly drove off on 52nd Avenue reaching speeds of 90 miles per hour. He started to turn onto 26th Street when his vehicle went into the ditch.

Robinson-Velzke got out of the truck and came up the ditch. He allegedly told the deputy that he made a mistake and should have just taken the tests, the complaint said.

While at the Owatonna hospital, the deputy requested a blood test from Robinson-Velzke, but he would not give consent.

State driving records show Robinson-Velzke has a previous refusal to test in September 2012.

He faces a maximum sentence of three years in jail and a $5,000 fine on the felony fleeing charge.

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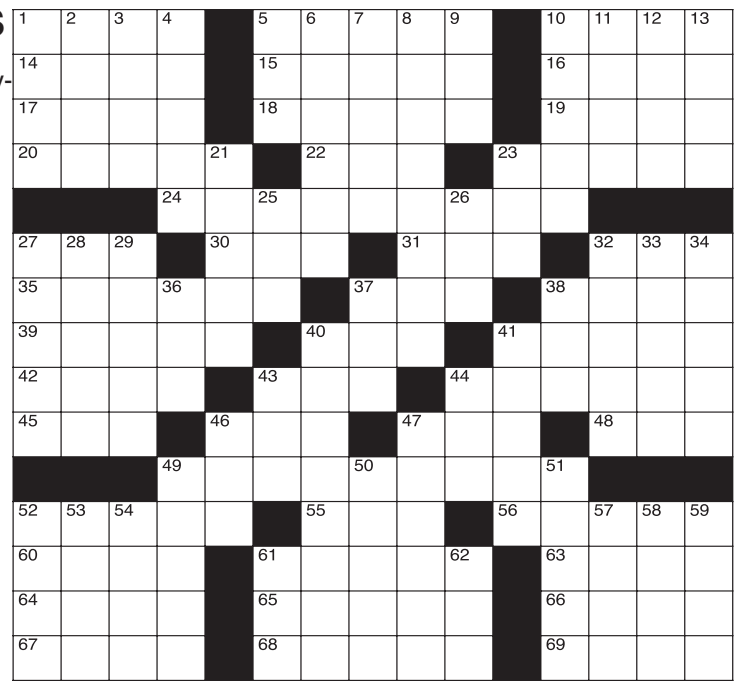

CLUES ACROSS

1. "ER" actress Leslie
5. Hebrew name for Babylon
10. Newts
14. Leaf angle
15. Dravidian language
16. Ridge on nematodes
17. Monetary unit
18. Determined the tare
19. Unfreeze
20. Merits
22. World's oldest broadcasting organization
23. Vacation spot
24. December 25
27. Ottoman military command
30. Resin-like substance secreted by insects
31. A.C. Comics female supervillain
32. Insect linked to honey
35. Opinion
37. In the middle of
38. Basketballer Yao
39. Remove lid
40. Pressure wound therapy
41. Fabric
42. Witnessed
43. Defunct European economic organization
44. "Hotel California" rockers
45. When you expect to arrive
46. "Sleepless in Seattle" actress Ryan
47. Danish airline
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Type of seal
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Cavalry sword
60. Ottoman title
61. Gurus
63. Cold wind
64. Predatory reptile (abbr.)
65. New Jersey is one
66. Divulge a secret
67. Finely chopped mixture
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

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

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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Oct. 25
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

Oct. 26
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library

Oct. 28
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Village Affair, BP High School

Oct. 30
Semi-Annual Book Sale, BP Library

Oct. 31
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Semi-Annual Book Sale, BP Library

Nov. 2
6:30 p.m. Holiday Dazzle Wine & Beer Tasting, Servicemen's Club

Nov. 7
Operating Levy Vote

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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Oct. 25
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Drive, Buffalo Wild Wings
5:30 p.m. – 50+ Fit and Flex Workshop, Sollid Yoga

Oct. 26
Noon – 1 p.m. – OACCT Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Library
1 – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Drive, Trinity Lutheran Church Owatonna
2 p.m. & 7 p.m. – Movie at the Library, Owatonna Library
3 – 7 p.m. – Medford Farmers Market, Christ the King Church parking lot
3 – 7 p.m. – ReMax Open House, 118 N. Cedar Ave.
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library
7:30 p.m. – Shrek the Musical, Little Theatre of Owatonna

Oct. 27
5 – 8 p.m. – Trunk-or-Treating, Associated Church Owatonna
6:30 – 8 p.m. – A Haunting We Will Go, The Village of Yesteryear
7:30 p.m. – Shrek the Musical, Little Theatre of Owatonna
Halloween Hook-In, Baymont Inn & Suites

Oct. 28
7 a.m. – Noon – Owatonna Farmers Market, Central Park
7 – 10 a.m. – Swap-A-Tank Event, AmeriGas
2 – 4 p.m. – Trick or Treat Trail, Manthey Park
6:30 – 11 p.m. – Chicago Farmer, Steele County History Center
7:30 p.m. – Shrek the Musical, Little Theatre of Owatonna
Halloween Hook-In, Baymont Inn & Suites
Big Buck Days, Cabelas

Oct. 29
2 p.m. – Shrek the Musical, Little Theatre of Owatonna
5 – 7 p.m. – Harvest Dinner, Associated Church Owatonna
Halloween Hook-In, Baymont Inn & Suites

Oct. 31
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. – Trick or Treating, Downtown Businesses in Owatonna

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Oct. 25
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Smile Preventative Dental Clinic, New Richland Room D139
3:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Kickball) Class, Ellendale Elementary Gym North
6 – 9 p.m. – NRHEG After Prom Meeting, Ellendale Media Center

Oct. 26
4 – 7 p.m. – Com Ed (Beginner Piano Lessons) Class, NR Choir Room
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Turbo Kick Exercise, Ellendale Elementary School Smart Room

Oct. 27
6:30 – 7:45 p.m. – Com Ed (Pumpkin Palooza) Class, NR Preschool Room

Oct. 30
6 – 8 p.m. – Com Ed (Acrylic Painting), NRHEG HS Art Room

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR BRIEFS

Red Cross blood drives coming to the area

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood to support cancer patients and others. Donors of all blood types are needed to help ensure a sufficient supply for patients this fall.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area include:

Alden – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 31, Alden Conger High School, 215 N. Broadway.

Austin – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 27, Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1600 W. Oakland Ave.

Owatonna – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 25, Buffalo Wild Wings, 1100 Frontage Road

Owatonna – 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 26, Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 S. Lincoln Ave.

Family research event at Mower County Historical Society

The Mower County Historical Society will be presenting "Family Research and DNA testing" for its final installment of this season's popular Lunchbox History Series on Thursday, Oct. 26 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Pioneer Building by the fairgrounds at 1303 6th Ave. SW in Austin.

This month's speaker is Sue Doocy, Research & Archives Manager for the MCHS. Come out and hear how you can conduct your own family research. Bring your lunch to this free event.

Trunk-or-Treating at Associated Church, Owatonna

The Associated Church in Owatonna will host its third-annual Trunk-or-Treat even on Friday, Oct. 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the church parking lot. Kids are invited to come in costume for trick-or-treating around the parking lot. If you would like to decorate your trunk and hand out candy, you are encouraged to come set up at 4:30 p.m.

In addition to trunk-or-treat, there will be B.Y.O.P. (bring your own pumpkin) Pumpkin Carving from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Hot dog roasting around the campfire will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. The church is located at 800 Havana Road, Owatonna. All events will be outside the church, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, events will be indoors at the church.

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. Take a ride on the kiddie train ride, find spooky treasures in the scavenger hunt, and visit the cute animals at the petting zoo. New at this year's event will be free pony rides. Owatonna Park and rec will also have bounce houses, free hot chocolate and food trucks. The event is free, but if you'd like to donate to the community, food shelf donations will be accepted.

Harvest dinner coming to Owatonna

The Associated Church in Owatonna invites the public to its annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 29 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The menu includes pork loin sandwiches, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw pies, cobblers and beverages. The dinner will be held in the church Fellowship Hall at 800 Havana Road. A portion of the proceeds from this event go to support the various mission ministries of Associated Church.

Tickets cost $10 for adults and $5 for children age 10 and under and are available at the door, Sunday mornings after worship or at the church office during the week.

Steele County Republicans hosting gubernatorial forum

The Steele County Republicans invite the public to a Minnesota Republican Gubernatorial Forum on Thursday, Nov. 2 at the Owatonna Country Club.

The event starts with a social hour and meet and greet at 6 p.m. Then, the debate will kick off at 7 p.m. featuring Republican Gubernatorial Candidates Matt Dean, Keith Downey, Jeff Johnson, Dave Osmek and Phil Parrish.

State Representative Greg Davids is moderating the debate, and honorary hosts are Sen. John Jasinski, Rep. John Petersburg and Rep. Brian Daniels.

Tickets cost $20 in advance and $25 at the door if they are still available. You can register online at www.steelecountyrepublicans.com.

Annual meeting of the Steele County Agricultural Society

The Steele County Agricultural Society will have its annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center on the fairgrounds in Owatonna.

The agenda for the meeting includes electing directors, reorganizing, presentation of annual reports, long range plans and other business of the society.

Holiday Bazaar coming back to Owatonna Hospital

Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its 55th annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Owatonna Hospital.

The event will feature various sales and activities including bake sale, Santa's Stocking Stuffer Room, collective goods sale, new & nearly-new sale, sewing sale, Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe. Lunch is available both days from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

On Friday and Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., there will be two style shows featuring clothing and accessories from the Pink Pantry Coffee & Gift Shoppe.

This year, a new feature is the Holiday Bazaar passport where you can receive stamps to be eligible for gift drawings.

Proceeds help support Owatonna Hospital's patient care mission and provide scholarships for students in nursing and health-related fields.

Exchange Club hosting Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The Exchange Club of Owatonna will host the Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 16. The buffet breakfast will be held at the Owatonna Country Club starting at 7:30 a.m. This year's speaker is former Area Director for Young Life, Chuck Jamison.

Tickets cost $15 and are on sale at Kottke's, Insty Prints Owatonna and Owatonna City Administration Offices. Deadline to purchase tickets is Thursday, Nov. 9.

55+ Driver Improvement Program coming to BP and Owatonna

The Minnesota Highway Safety Center is offering a 55+ Driver Improvement Course in the area.

The class is open to the public and a pre-registration is required. By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws and vehicle technology. The cost of the class is $22.00

People age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. First time participants must complete the initial eight hours of training and a four hour refresher class every three years to maintain the discount.

The four-hour refresher class will be in Blooming Prairie on Nov. 6 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Community Education Room at the High School and in Owatonna on Nov. 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Community Education Room at Roosevelt School.

For more information or to register, visit our website at www.mnsafetycenter.org or call 1(888) 234-1294.

Steele County Times

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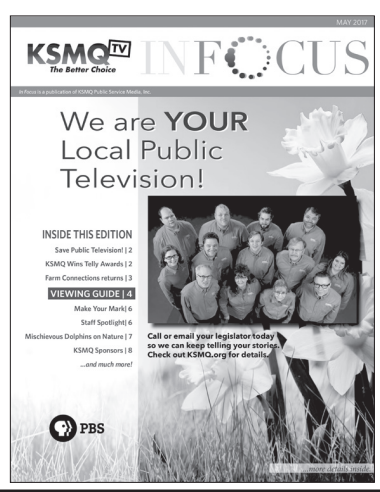

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Fall field day offers follow-up on cover crops

RSVP needed by Oct. 27 for Mower SWCD's Oct. 31 free bus tour

Local producers will reopen their Mower County farms in late October to show their cover crops after harvest and discuss other soil-health practices.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District will host a free Fall Field Day on Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. – with a boxed lunch provided – as a follow-up to a similar tour it offered in May on cover crops and soil health. The spring tour drew about 90 people and showcased cover crop fields at three Mower County farms – Tom Cotter, Tom Finnegan and Terry & Cindy Hamilton.

Those interested in reserving a bus seat should RSVP by Oct. 27 with Mower SWCD by emaling tim.ruzek@mower-swcd.org or calling 507-434-2603. Space will be limited with two buses planned for the tour.

Cotter and Finnegan have done extensive outreach this year on cover crops and soil health under a Cover Crop Champion grant awarded to Mower SWCD by the National Wildlife Federation. The grant funded the spring field day covering harvesting and grazing cover crops; no-till and strip-till planting into terminated cover crops; and herbicide options for conventional corn and soybeans.

On Oct. 31, Mower SWCD's Fall Field Day again will start and end at Riverland Community College's east campus parking lot in Austin along 14th St. N.W., with two buses bringing people to the host sites. A $500 grant from Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Service's Operation Round-Up is enabling the free busing.

"We are excited to offer another field day for people of all backgrounds – farmers, ag professionals, students and the general public," said Steve Lawler, Mower SWCD's resource specialist and soil scientist. "There continues to be a growing interest in cover crops and soil health, and our office is planning more work on this in the coming years."

Mower SWCD recently announced that Lawler will be leading a three-year research project on potentially 45 plots on Mower County farms to provide farmers with better soil-health data to support their operations and practices that benefit the environment. The project is supported by a $98,000 grant Mower SWCD requested from The Hormel Foundation for the research.

Cover cropping involves planting a second, unharvested crop in coordination with regular cash crops, such as corn and soybeans. Interest is growing in cover crops throughout Minnesota, and Mower County is helping to highlight their benefits when incorporated into agricultural practices.

Lawler helped form Mower SWCD's new soil health initiative and has worked closely with local producers the past two years through a Mower Soil Health Team. Members of the team have working knowledge of cover cropping and reduced tillage systems and are committed to providing one-on-one outreach to other area producers seeking to learn more about those and other management practices.

Mower SWCD's Fall Field Day also will touch on the state's Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, also known as Ag Certainty. The voluntary program is a partnership between federal and state governments and private industry that works with farmers and local SWCDs to identify and fix risks to water quality on a field-by-field, whole-farm basis. Producers treating all water-quality risks on their operation are certified and deemed in compliance with new water-quality rules and laws for 10 years.

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program says cover crops offer economic and ecological benefits: reducing fertilizer costs; improving crop yields by enhancing soil health; reducing the need for herbicides and pesticides; preventing soil erosion; conserving soil moisture; protecting water quality; and helping to safeguard personal health.

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District

Since 1953, Mower SWCD has provided land and conservation services to Mower County landowners to help manage lands in a way that promotes a sound economy as well as sustains and enhances natural resources that are key to the state's environmental health. Mower SWCD is one of Minnesota's 91 SWCDs each are governed by an elected board.

Submitted photo

Austin Township farmer Tom Cotter talks about a trench dug into one of his cover crop fields in late May during a Field Day organized by Mower SWCD under a Cover Crop Champion grant.

Upcoming opportunities for beginning farmers

ON THE FARM

Claire LaCanne

New opportunities for beginning farmers in Minnesota will be coming in 2018.

Two new programs are geared toward assisting beginning farmers and farm asset owners who want to help them. These programs are the Beginning Farmer Incentive Credit for existing farm asset owners who rent or sell assets to beginning farmers, and the Beginning Farmer Management Credit for beginning farmers enrolled in an approved farm business management course. The programs were created by the Minnesota Legislature during the 2017 Special Session to reduce an individual farmer or asset owner's Minnesota income tax. The current legislation funds these tax credits through 2023, according to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Beginning Farmer Incentive Credit is a tax credit for owners of agricultural assets. These assets may be land, livestock, facilities, or machinery located in Minnesota. The assets must be sold or leased to a beginning farmer who is not a family member of the asset owner. An asset owner may be an individual, trust, or a qualified pass-through entity. Seven requirements for beginning farmer eligibility are outlined by MDA.

According to the MDA, a beginning farmer is defined as:

•A Minnesota resident who is seeking entry, or has entered into farming within the last 10 years

•A farmer who will provide the majority of the labor and management of the farm that is located in Minnesota

•A person who has adequate experience and knowledge of the type of farming for which they seek assistance from the Rural Finance Authority

•A person who can provide positive projected earnings statements

•A person not directly related to the owner of the agricultural asset. (This includes parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, spouses, children, and grandchildren). Legal adoption shall be considered in full effect.

•A person whose net worth does not exceed the limit provided under section 41B.03, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), clause (2). This limit is currently $800,000.

Additionally, the beginning farmer must participate in an approved financial management program. Costs of financial management programs up to a maximum of $1,500 per year (up to 3 years) may also be eligible for a tax credit.

The Beginning Farmer Management Credit is equal to 100% of the cost (up to $1,500 per year) of participating in a financial management program approved by the Minnesota Rural Finance Authority (RFA). This credit directly reduces Minnesota income tax due for a beginning farmer.

RFA will administer the tax credits by: 1) certifying beginning farmers, 2) assisting beginning farmers with locating eligible financial management program options in their area, and 3) certifying owners of agricultural assets are eligible for the tax credit. Applications and instructions on becoming a certified participant will be posted on RFA's website. This is a first come, first served initiative.

These two new efforts to assist beginning farmers will complement existing programs including the Beginning Farmer Aggie Bond Loan Program and the Beginning Farmer Loan Program which are targeted at helping beginning farmers succeed. This information is available at www.mda.state.mn.us.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears in this newspaper regularly.

2018 Minnesota Organic Conference

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA's) Minnesota Organic Conference (MOC) will take place on Thursday and Friday, January 11 and 12, 2018. The farmer-oriented educational event will be held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud and is expected to attract 600 attendees.

Trade Show Coordinator Cassie Dahl encourages any organizations with products or services of interest to organic farmers to reserve space, including suppliers of inputs like seed and fertilizer, brokers, buyers, consultants, organic certification agencies, public agencies, and educational and nonprofit organizations.

Application materials for trade show, sponsorships, and advertising are all available online at www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic/conference. For additional information regarding the Minnesota Organic Conference, contact Cassie Dahl at 651-201-6012 or cassie.dahl@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers harvested over one-third of the **soybean** acreage during the week ending October 22, 2017, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Saturated fields remained a challenge in some areas despite the warm and sunny days. **Harvest progress** remained behind the 5-year average for all crops even though there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Field activities for the week included harvesting, fall fertilizer applications, and fall tilling.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 17 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies rated 2 percent very short, 5 percent short, 79 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus.

Nearly all of the **corn** for grain crop had reached maturity. At 14 percent complete, corn for grain harvest was nearly 2 weeks behind 2016 and 22 days behind average. Corn moisture content of grain at harvest averaged 22 percent. Corn condition rated 81 percent good to excellent. Corn for silage harvest was finishing up at 95 percent harvested. Eighty-three percent of the **soybean** acreage had been harvested, a week behind average.

Advancing 30 percentage points from the previous week, 51 percent of the **sunflower** acreage was harvested. Sunflower condition was 83 percent good to excellent. **Potato** harvest was 94 percent complete. **Sugarbeets** were 85 percent lifted, 1 day behind last year. **Pasture** condition rated 53 percent good to excellent.

LOOK UP!

FOR HAZARDS DURING HARVEST

Before farm begins, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines.

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your power company

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire.

It's important to take time for safety!

Stay alert and don't forget to* LOOK UP *this harvest season!

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***Look up** and **look out** for power lines.*

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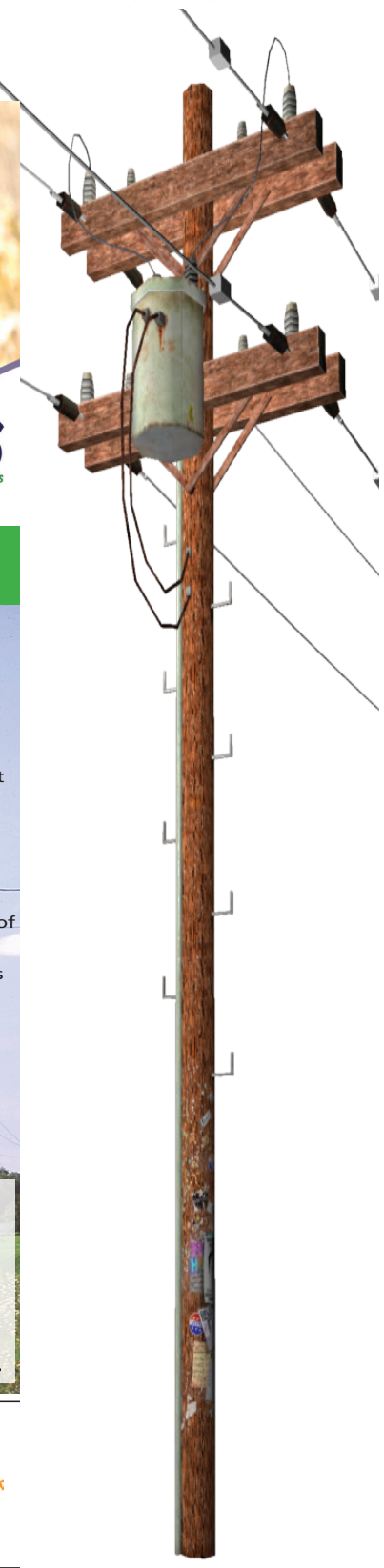

FARMERS!

LOOK UP, AND LOOK OUT FOR POWER LINES

Recommendations:

- LOOK UP! before moving or transporting equipment especially around buildings, grain bins or entrance/ exiting fields and farms.
- Power lines should be at least 18 feet above the highest point of grain bin where portable augers or other portable filling equipment is used.
- Considering burying electric lines to reduce the risk of accidental contact.
- Remember some equipment during transportation is actually taller than when in use.
- Another thing you need to be careful of is bumping into the guy wires on electrical poles. This will cause sagging in the overhead lines and will make entanglement more likely.
- Always stay alert and never take unnecessary risks.

If your equipment becomes entangled in power lines, stay in the tractor or truck unless the tractor or truck starts on fire. Jump as far from the tractor as possible but land on both feet. Then hop with feet together to get to safety! If on fire, contact 911... if you are staying in the vehicle, contact FMCS Operations at 800-734-6421.

811 Know what's **below.** **Call** before you dig.

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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

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

17-107494

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 10, 2013
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $105,738.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Danielle Kay Strommer and Stephan Charles Strommer, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100603713070078628
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 12, 2013, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000392396
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lots 15,16 and South 14 feet of Lot 14, all being in Block 29 in Johnson and Company's Addition to Medford (said Block 29, being located in North part of SW 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 9-108-20)
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 211 1st Ave NE, Medford, MN 55049
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 16-101-2915
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $103,204.26
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 19, 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 19, 2018, or the next business day if April 19, 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 25, 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

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for October 19, 2017, at 10:00 A.M., has been postponed to November 21, 2017, at 10:00 A.M., and will be held at sheriffs main address Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Unless the mortgage is reinstated under Minnesota Statute 580.30 or the property is redeemed under Minnesota Statute 580.23 the property must be vacated by May 21, 2018. If this date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the date to vacate will be the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Dated: October 16, 2017.

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

_____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060
17-107494
Attorney for Assignee of Mortgagee

10/24

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Skyview Townhouse Association Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (hereafter "Declaration"), dated April 26, 1988, and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Steele County, Minnesota, on the 16th day of June, 1988, in Book 34 of Titles, page 259, which said Declaration covers the following described property situated in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, to-wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION - Lot 7, Block 1, Skyview Townhouses, Steele County, Minnesota

STREET ADDRESS - 177 22nd Street NW, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota 55060

PID # - 17.411.0107

Torrens Property - Certificate of Title Number 18156

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice by Laxman Sundae, unit owner, to Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc., the principle amount of Eight Thousand Sixty-Eight and No/100 Dollars ($8,068.00) for condominium assessments and late fees through October 1, 2017, and no action being now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt of any part thereof, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, and the statute in such case made and provided, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc.,

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale created by statute, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at the Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, on December 5, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said condominium assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorney fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owners, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

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 unit owners must vacate the property if the lien is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2018. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate the property is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

Dated: October 11, 2017

SKYVIEW TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
HVISTENDAHL, MOERSCH, DORSEY & HAHN, P.A.

BY: /s/ Mary L. Hahn
Mary L. Hahn (#309370)
311 South Water Street
Northfield, MN 55057
Phone: (507) 645-9358
Attorneys for Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc.

11/24, 10/31, 11/7
11/14, 11/21, 11/28

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Skyview Townhouse Association Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (hereafter "Declaration"), dated April 26, 1988, and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Steele County, Minnesota, on the 16th day of June, 1988, in Book 34 of Titles, page 259, which said Declaration covers the following described property situated in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, to-wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION - Lot 14, Block 1, Skyview Townhouses, Steele County, Minnesota

STREET ADDRESS - 149 22nd Street NW, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota 55060

PID # - 17.411.0114

Torrens Property - Certificate of Title Number 18136

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice by Laxman Sundae as unit owner to Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc., the principle amount of Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty and No/100 Dollars ($7,730.00) for condominium assessments and late fees through October 1, 2017, and no action being now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt of any part thereof, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, and the statute in such case made and provided, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc.,

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale created by statute, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at the Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, on December 5, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said condominium assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorney fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owners, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

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 unit owners must vacate the property if the lien is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2018. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate the property is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

Dated: October 11, 2017

SKYVIEW TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
HVISTENDAHL, MOERSCH, DORSEY & HAHN, P.A.

BY: /s/ Mary L. Hahn
Mary L. Hahn (#309370)
311 South Water Street
Northfield, MN 55057
Phone: (507) 645-9358
Attorneys for Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc.

11/24, 10/31, 11/7
11/14, 11/21, 11/28

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

10/24

STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That on Monday, November 6th, 2017 starting at 7:00 pm., the Steele County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Commissioner's Room at the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN, to consider a conditional use permit application from Steve Charles on behalf of Crystal Resorts Inc. to expand and realign campsites at their campground located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 20, Owatonna Township.

The property address is 2554 SW 28th St. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on this matter.

Dale Oolman
Steele County Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave. P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

10/24

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

10/17, 10/24

WORKPLACE: *Mental health*

FROM PAGE C1

- Cognitive symptoms of depression, such as difficulties in concentrating, making decisions and remembering, are present up to 94 percent of the time during an episode of depression, causing significant impairment in work function and productivity
- Forty-three percent of managers want better policies. People find it difficult to disclose that they have mental health difficulties in the workplace, yet nobody is immune from mental health difficulties.

Depression in the Workplace

The impact of depression in the workplace is evident in reduced productivity, yet successful treatment benefits both the worker and the company.

It is important for employers to be trained appropriately to identify the signs of depression and encourage workers to seek help.

Work-related risk factors for health

There are many risk factors for mental health that may be present in the working environment. Most risks relate to interactions between type of work, the organizational and managerial environment, the skills and competencies of employees, and the support available for employees to carry out their work.

For example, a person may have the skills to complete tasks, but they may have too few resources to do what is required, or there may be unsupportive managerial or organizational practices.

Access to evidence-based treatments has been shown to be beneficial for depression and other mental disorders. Because of the stigma associated with mental disorders, employers need to ensure that individuals feel supported and able to ask for support in continuing with or returning to work and are provided with the necessary resources to do their job.

Risks to mental health include:

- inadequate health and safety policies;
- poor communication and management practices;
- limited participation in decision-making or low control over one's area of work;
- low levels of support for employees;
- inflexible working hours; and
- unclear tasks or organizational objectives.

For World Health Day 2017, organizations are being asked to make a "Mentally Healthy Workplace Pledge" https://fs3.formsite.com/jpaleo/WMHD17/index.html to support the mental health of their workforce by promoting the following:

- Appreciation of employees and workers
- Creating of a supportive environment
- Identification of early signs of burnout
- Creating an organizational culture which reflects value systems and beliefs
- Stress management
- Building awareness and reducing stigma
- Mental health wellness and providing support for employees who need it.

A healthy workplace is one where workers and managers actively contribute to the working environment by promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all employees.

Carolyn Wheeler is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director at South Central Human Relations Center.

Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 756
(BLOOMING PRAIRE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota, on November 7, 2017, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 1
REVOKING EXISTING REFERENDUM AUTHORIZATION; APPROVING NEW AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota has proposed to revoke the School District's existing voter approved referendum revenue authorization of $436 per pupil and to approve a new authorization of $436 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2018 for taxes payable in 2019 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

○ YES ○ NO Shall the existing voter approved referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota be approved?

PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 2
APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL REFERENDUM AUTHORIZATION TECHNOLOGY

If Question 1 above is approved, the Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota has proposed to increase its referendum revenue authorization by an additional $100 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2018 for taxes payable in 2019 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

○ YES ○ NO Shall the additional increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota be approved?

PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION 3
APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL REFERENDUM AUTHORIZATION CLASS SIZES AND AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

If Question 1 above is approved, the Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota has proposed to increase its referendum revenue authorization by an additional $60 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2018 for taxes payable in 2019 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

○ YES ○ NO Shall the additional increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 756 (Blooming Prairie), Minnesota be approved?

PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES.

For the ballot questions, the property tax portion of the revenue authorized will require an estimated referendum tax rate of 0.0615259% for Ballot Question 1, 0.0813817% for Ballot Question 2, and 0.0932951% for Ballot Question 3, of the referendum market value of all classes of taxable property in the School District, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.01, Subdivision 3, which excludes certain agricultural property, seasonal property and post-secondary student housing.

The projected annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the School District are as shown in the table below.

For agricultural property (both homestead and non-homestead), the taxes for the proposed referendum will be based on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land. There will be no referendum taxes paid on the value of agricultural land and buildings. For seasonal recreational residential property (e.g., cabins), there will be no taxes paid for the proposed referendum.

The figures in the table below are based on taxes for the voter approved referendum levy only, and do not include taxes for other purposes:

Market Value	Dollar Increase Due to Ballot Question 1	Dollar Increase Due to Ballot Question 2	Dollar Increase Due to Ballot Question 3	Total Dollar Increase
$ 50,000	$0.00	$ 9.93	$ 5.96	$ 15.88
75,000	0.00	14.89	8.94	23.83
100,000	0.00	19.86	11.91	31.77
125,000	0.00	24.82	14.89	39.71
150,000	0.00	29.78	17.87	47.65
175,000	0.00	34.75	20.85	55.60
200,000	0.00	39.71	23.83	63.54
225,000	0.00	44.68	26.81	71.48
250,000	0.00	49.64	29.78	79.42
275,000	0.00	54.60	32.76	87.37
300,000	0.00	59.57	35.74	95.31
325,000	0.00	64.53	38.72	103.25
350,000	0.00	69.50	41.70	111.19
375,000	0.00	74.46	44.68	119.13
400,000	0.00	79.42	47.65	127.08
425,000	0.00	84.39	50.63	135.02
450,000	0.00	89.35	53.61	142.96
475,000	0.00	94.32	56.59	150.90
500,000	0.00	99.28	59.57	158.85

The polling place and the precincts served by the polling place for the special election will be as follows:

Combined Polling Place:
Blooming Prairie Elementary School
123 Second Street NW
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Precincts Served:
City of Blooming Prairie, Aurora, Blooming Prairie, Somerset and Summit Townships
Lansing, Waltham and Udolpho Townships
Newry, Moscow and Geneva Townships
Westfield and Ripley Townships

All qualified electors residing in said School District may cast their ballots at the polling places for the precincts in which they reside during the polling hours specified above. A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at their polling places on Election Day.

Dated: October 9, 2017

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Pam Hameister, Clerk

10/17, 10/24

Door knocking provides scare for Westfield resident

A homeowner in Westfield Township has been experiencing suspicious activity during the early morning hours recently.

On two occasions over the past couple weeks, an unknown party has come up to the front door and banged on the door at about 2 a.m.

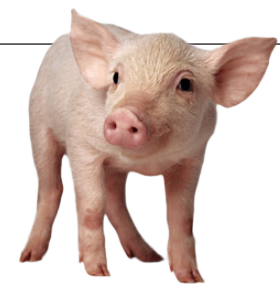
During one of the incidents, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office responded to the farm place on the south end of the county, but did not locate anyone. No other incidents have been reported.

Capt. Ryer Anderson said it is unusual for this type of behavior to happen in the rural areas. "It's the first one I've heard of for quite a while," he said. "We don't know why they're knocking," he added.

Asked about the seriousness of the door knocking, Anderson said, "That one is legitimately concerning."

Anderson encourages homeowners to look out the window, if possible, to see if it's someone they may recognize. If not, he said homeowners should immediately call 911 to report the incident.

Pork Growth



Hog production on the rise across southern Minnesota

STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The hog industry is most dear to these three Dodge County farmers, Roger Toquam, son Isaiah Toquam and Jim Masching. October is Pork month and a time for these three farmers to reflect on their industry.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The hog production industry is alive and well in Minnesota, and especially in the Blooming Prairie area encompassing the four counties of Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower.

October is Pork Month, a time to pay tribute to the efficiency of pork production in Minnesota and on the national level.

The Times most recently visited with three Blooming Prairie area hog producers who raise their hogs in Dodge County.

"I've enjoyed every moment of raising hogs," says hog producer Jim Masching. "It has been trying at times but it is encouraging to seeing more young people getting into the business."

Masching said he and other hog producers have been caretakers to their farming operations. "You won't be a billionaire but you do it because you enjoy it," remarked Masching, who is totally into hog production after crop farming for 26 years.

Masching's daughter Jessica, 27, will be taking over the hog farm operation next year. She has been involved since age 12, he said. "It's nice to see the young people coming back to this area to farm," Masching said.

Sitting in a farm shop, Masching and this writer were joined by a father and son in the hog business, Roger Toquam and son Isaiah. The Toquams are part of the Toquam Family Farm located just northeast of Blooming Prairie.

Masching and the Toquams said they are proud of statistics that show hog production second among Minnesota's agricultural sectors, following corn. It's also Minnesota's largest livestock sector contributing 35 percent of the state's total cash receipts.

Toquam said Minnesota marketed 16 million hogs in 2016. The industry channels $2.2 billion back to rural communities, Roger Toquam said. The economic impact to rural communities from the hog industry approaches $6 billion, Toquam pointed out.

In addition to the value of the hogs, the industry produces 44,000 jobs including power washers, feed mill operators, truck drivers, repairmen, electricians, plumbers and computers.

Today's pork is produced, using 41 percent less water per pound of pork than 40 years ago and the pork industry uses 78 percent less land.

Toquam says today's pork has a 35 percent less carbon footprint because of modern day buildings and management. Heaters and insulation account for higher efficiency in production, the Toquams and Masching agreed.

Twenty-eight percent of the pork produced in Minnesota is exported and most of it goes to Mexico and Japan, Roger stated.

"Pork Month is a time to salute our industry," Masching said.

Hog production is on the rise in Minnesota and it is ironic that currently there is a shortage of bacon. The average hog has 18 pounds of bacon. The hogs generate $36 per hundred weight with the average hog weighing 280 pounds.

"Everybody loves bacon," Roger believes.

Even with depressed prices, the younger Toquam says farmers are generally optimistic. "Prices will come back," predicts Roger.

Pork Month causes hog producers to reflect on how big the industry really is, Roger said. Isaiah said he is in farming because of the hog industry. The younger farmers are stepping forward, he said.

Organic type production has become popular in the hog industry. "Anything new in agriculture is welcomed and there are different ways to market our products," Masching said. In the livestock business, one has to look forward and find new markets, Masching continued.

With the Blooming Prairie area farmers pushing Minnesota hog producers to the third spot in total production, Iowa remains No. 1. Minnesota is No. 1 in turkey production.

Safety in the barns is of top importance, the farmers said. "We watch for no sharp edges on gating or on the equipment used in the farming operation," said Roger. Loading of livestock is also very important and training for this procedure is important, the hog producers report.

Roger is quite proud of how hog producers care for their animals. "We give them plenty of space and lots of water and feed close by," he said.

The Toquams are into contract growing, a three-phase system: 1) mother pig gives birth; 2) piglets are two weeks old when taken to a nursery to spend two months and 3) finishing.

Masching said turkey producers learned a lot from pork producers after they encountered problems with the bird flu. "Nobody likes to see livestock die," Masching said. If there are more than three hog deaths in a week, the veterinarian must be told. Drugs may then be prescribed.Hog farming forces farmers to be "Jacks of all trades" by closely monitoring the operation and also by doing repairs on equipment when needed.

The Toquams send 10,000 hogs to market each year. Each pig consumes 10 bushels of corn and each pig consumes 2 1/2 bushels of soybeans.

Farming operations have changed greatly over the years. For example, the Maschings generate electricity with a solar farm, generating $800 worth of electricity each month.

The size of hog farms in Minnesota has increased, from 146 head of hogs to 1,600-plus head of hogs, says the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

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