



STEELE COUNTY Times

VILLAGE AFFAIR:

MORE THAN 80 VENDORS SHOWED THEIR CRAFTS AT THE POPULAR SHOW.



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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

Bloomington, Minnesota

The Great Pumpkin

Ellendale man grows whoppers of pumpkins

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Kevin Walsh didn't need to search very far or long for the great pumpkin this Halloween. He found it right in his rural Ellendale back yard.

In fact, he stumbled across three giants of pumpkins weighing 1,480, 1,440 and 1,300 pounds each. The largest one brought him ninth place and a \$300 cash prize in the giant pumpkin weigh-off during Stillwater Harvest Fest a couple weeks ago.

Walsh said the Stillwater weigh-off is one of the biggest pumpkin contests in the world. "I was hoping to get in

the top 10 and I did," he said.

The Stillwater contest was held on the same day as another huge pumpkin weigh-in at the Circleville Pumpkin Show in Ohio where the top pumpkin was 1,701 pounds. The record at the Ohio show is 1,964 pounds in 2014.

Walsh doesn't only know how to grow pumpkins big, but also ugly. He placed in the top three for the ugliest pumpkin at a contest in Iowa earlier this fall.

Growing pumpkins has become a hobby for Walsh over the past four years.

SEE PUMPKIN, A3



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Kevin Walsh of rural Ellendale grew three giant pumpkins this year with the top two weighing in at 1,480 and 1,440 pounds. He earned honors at two contests in Iowa and Stillwater this fall. He is sitting on the pumpkin that was chosen as the ugliest pumpkin in one of the contests.

The race to finish harvest



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Because of wet weather conditions, the corn harvest timeline has been pushed back. Here, crews of Ingvalson Farms harvest a field just north of Bloomington in Steele County. A light snowfall on Thursday night kept the farmers out of the corn fields on Friday, further delaying an already prolonged harvest season.

With soybeans completed, snow interrupts corn harvest

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Southern Minnesota farmers had a good reason to be grumpy after a light dusting of snow struck overnight last Thursday.

The snow forced Bloomington area farmers to stay out of the corn fields on Friday because of wet conditions. "The snow causes the combines to get plugged up," said Jerry Ingvalson of Ingvalson Farms Inc., Bloomington.

"We just started with the corn harvest and we're about a month behind on the corn," said Patrick O'Connor of O'Connor Family Farms, Bloomington.

"We are struggling in farm country and it is challenging to say the least," O'Connor said. "When we get back in the field, we will have to push that much harder because we have a shorter window," O'Connor added.

Most area farmers have completed the soybean harvest, which was also late because of a cool, wet August. The harvest "was average," said O'Connor. August is when the soybean crop is made, O'Connor explained. "Our August weather was not ideal for growing conditions," he added.

Some farmers reported cases of white mold striking their soybean crops and cutting down on the yields. Ingvalson said the bean harvest

was off about 15 percent from last year, which saw the best soybean crop ever.

The corn fields actually dried out with some warm and windy weather in mid-October, area farmers reported. Two weeks earlier, the corn fields were still very wet.

Ingvalson said his work crews were busy on corn harvesting early last week with yields similar to last year when harvest yields were mentioned in the 200-plus bushels to the acre.

The corn is standing well, area farmers said. Nearly all of the corn for grain crop has reached maturity.

Corn moisture has been reported from 22 percent to 26 percent.

Ryan Miller, University of Minnesota Extension educator for the southern Minnesota area, said the corn harvest has just begun on most acreages and wet weather has pushed back progress. He said soybeans were almost completely harvested.

SEE HARVEST, A6

Local volunteers accepted for Super Bowl Area mayors among crew to promote state

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Minnesota's best ambassadors, including several from Steele County, have been chosen to volunteer for the upcoming Super Bowl in Minneapolis.

Among the 10,000 volunteers accepted to Crew 52 are Owatonna mayor Tom Kuntz, Medford mayor Lois Nelson, Bloomington Prairie chamber director Becky Noble, Diane Olson of Bloomington Prairie and Sharon Gaulrapp and Julie Kriesel of Owatonna. Crew 52 is the official volunteer force of Super Bowl LII.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," said Mayor Kuntz. "The Super Bowl doesn't come to

Minnesota every day and this is one opportunity to be involved."

Mayor Nelson also shared in the excitement. "It's something different and it will be a fun experience," she said.

Noble, who regularly promotes Bloomington Prairie, is excited about having the chance to promote the entire state. "It's easy to talk about Minnesota because it's a great state to live in," she said. "I love to go out and meet people."

The volunteers won't find out until an all-volunteer orientation in St. Paul on Nov. 12 what exactly they will be doing during the 10-day festival.

SEE VOLUNTEERS, A3

BP voters face school referendum Nov. 7

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"We need people to get out and vote for the betterment of education," says Barry Olson, superintendent of Bloomington School District 756.

The polls will be open from 12 noon to 8 p.m. at the Bloomington Prairie Elementary School on Tuesday, Nov. 7 with three referendum items on the ballot.

Four school board posts will also be filled. Seeking re-election are Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister and Kelly Braaten. Dean Meshke is seeking his first term. Current board member Michelle Vigeland did not file for re-election.

The first question proposes 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. If renewed, the levy will bring in \$790,000.

The current operating levy runs out in year 2020 for funds to be used in the 2020-21 budget year. If this levy is passed, the board will be able to plan on the funds continuing for 10 years beginning with the 2019 tax year, used for the 2019-20 school year. This referendum if passed has no tax impact on district residents.

The second question asks for approval of an additional

\$100 per pupil for technology purposes.

Question 3 asks for approval of an additional \$60 per pupil for reducing class size.

In order for Questions 2 and 3 to be approved, Question 1 must be approved.

Olson said that Questions 2 and 3 would amount to a tax increase of \$47.65 on a \$150,000 house, \$29.78 on Question 2 and \$17.87 on Question 3.

Operating referendums provide monies for the general fund and are taxed on only the value of the house and surrounding one acre of land, or the value of commercial property. This is taxed, using the same rate for all.

If the operating levy is renewed, it will bring in \$800,000 to the district. If question 2 is approved, it will bring in \$74,000. A "yes" vote on question 3 will raise \$35,000.

Olson told members of the Bloomington Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce recently that the BP schools are running as smoothly as he has ever seen.

If all levies are approved, it will mean \$160 more per pupil unit. Bloomington Prairie's per pupil unit of \$860 is well below the state average of \$1,139, Olson says.

More information on the school levies may be obtained from a flyer that was sent to all school district residents, or by contacting Superintendent Olson at 507-583-4426.

Help spread the kindness

United Way urges kind acts during special week

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

In the first of its kind effort, United Way of Steele County is pushing for people to be just a bit kinder and gentler to others.

The local United Way, along with other organizations throughout Minnesota, is organizing a Live United T-Shirt Day on Friday, Nov. 10. In addition, United Way Executive Director Kim Schaufenbuel is calling for the entire week of Nov. 6-10 be used to promote United Acts of Kindness.

"Can't we all just be encouraged to be kinder to each other?" Schaufenbuel asked as she announced plans for the initiative. "Think about others and how to consciously think about making someone else's day better."

T-shirts for \$5 can be ordered by contacting the United Way office. Schaufenbuel encourages people to order early as supplies are limited. Citizens are urged to show their community spirit by wearing their shirts on Nov. 10.

"We are asking that you don't just wear the t-shirt but live it by doing an act of kindness for at least one other person," Schaufenbuel said.

SEE NICE, A3

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AREA DEATHS

Theresa M. Zipse, 97

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OUR VIEW

Kill ‘em with kindness

Special week focuses on kind acts to others

Negativity in the world is rampant. The world is full of a lot of fear and even more negativity, skepticism and cynicism. You’re bound to encounter people who disagree with you or people who seem out to bring you down. To help turn the world into a better place, start from turning yourself into a better person. And one prominent organization has come up with a way to do just that. This year United Way organizations across Minnesota are throwing the biggest ever kindness celebration just ahead of World Kindness Day, which is marked on Nov. 13. From Nov. 6-10, United Way is encouraging people to promote random acts of kindness. In Steele County, the local United Way is selling t-shirts as a way for people to show community spirit and promote their acts of kindness. United Way is urging everyone to wear t-shirts on Nov. 10.

We think every day should be Kindness Day, but let’s pull together and mark your calendars for the week of Nov. 6 to do at least one random act of kindness during the week. Kindness can be contagious. It all starts with one simple act—one smile, one coffee for a stranger or one favor for a friend. It’s an opportunity for participants to leave the world better than they found it and inspire others to do the same.

We all need a refresher in spreading kindness throughout schools, communities and homes. We believe in the power of kindness to change the way people see and experience the world.

It’s imperative that we all learn how to teach kindness. Social emotional learning skills like caring, compassion, self-care, helpfulness, responsibility and respect not only need to be taught, but demonstrated in every move we make.

Skepticism and finger pointing are not conducive to creating better communities or workplaces. We all need to find ways to be kinder and gentler to each other and pull together in helping to spread the kindness. Kindness starts with one. Won’t you be the one that promotes positivity instead of fueling more negativity into the lives of others? Being kind not only benefits the receiver. It also impacts the giver. Doing something good for somebody else will make you feel better about yourself, and, in turn, create a more tolerable world to live in. Perhaps it’s time for you to kill others with kindness.

Share your kind acts

The Times will be sharing a special page highlighting random acts of kindness in next week’s edition. Please share with us ways that people have expressed kind acts to you by sending us details at bptimes@frontiernet.net or dropping off at our office at 411 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie.

YOUR VIEW

Governor candidates coming to Owatonna

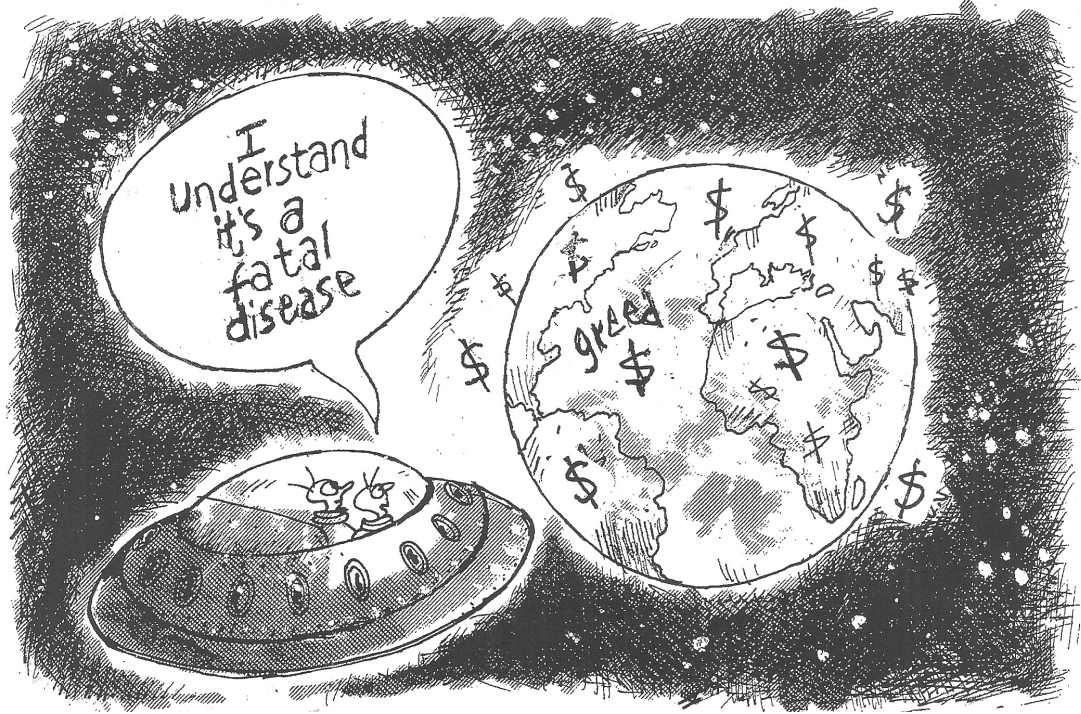
To-the-Editor:

The five leading Republicans running for Governor of Minnesota will be in town at a forum at the Owatonna Country Club on Nov. 2 starting at 6 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet these candidates face to face. It will be both an informative as well as enjoyable night. We believe one of these five men will be our next Governor and it is a great opportunity to meet them personally without having to drive out of town. Serious questions regarding important issues will be asked as well as some other “speed round” questions by Emcee State Representative Greg Davids. We invite you to buy your tickets online at steelecountyrepublicans.com before we are sold out as there is limited seating.

Pam Seaser
Owatonna

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.



Finding the positive after a troubling year

This week marks my eighth anniversary of owning the Steele County Times. I vowed to myself that I wouldn’t write about another anniversary like I have at some points in the past, but here I am once again.

I think the reason I wanted to highlight this anniversary is because of the kind of year I have experienced.

Without a doubt, this past year has been the most challenging time for me at the newspaper. An employee embezzlement, which is still pending in the court system, and a failed bookkeeping system, also hung up in the courts, seemed to set us back in so many ways. Some state and national awards along the way helped ease the pain, but sadly, they won’t ever erase the bad memories of this past year.

I could go on, but I’m going to put a cap on focusing on the negative aspects.

As I mark another year with this newspaper, I want to dwell on a positive trend I have noticed over the past few years. It’s reader involvement and engagement in the community newspaper, which I believe is at an all-time high for our paper. I’ve often written about the overall growth of the newspaper, but have failed to signal out the growth related to the involvement of our readers.

We consistently receive phone calls, emails, letters and even in person visits from readers sharing ideas for stories they would like to see in the newspaper. People are always letting us know tips about life in our corner of southeastern Minnesota. While it’s difficult for us to follow through on every lead provided to us, we make every attempt to do as much as we can given the staff and resources we have.

I remember back to when I first came in 2009 and there was not a lot of community engagement with the newspaper. Through our countywide expansion



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

advertisers for supporting the newspaper. Without the advertising support, we would not have been able to accomplish many of the things that we have over the past several years. Advertising and subscriptions are the single sources of what allows a newspaper to function and thrive.

My goal is to keep readers informed of what’s going on in their communities. It’s invigorating and exciting each week to build a newspaper from scratch. What’s even more stimulating is see the final product roll off the presses and into the hands of our readers.

It’s my hope that readers are happy with the end result we come up with every week. There is nothing more satisfying for me than to have a strong newspaper that serves the county and all the communities around the area. I made a commitment eight years ago that I would produce a quality hometown news source.

As I head into another year, I’m in hot pursuit of making sure that commitment doesn’t change and remains as strong as ever.

GUEST COLUMN

Check your property tax refund status

Minnesotans owning homestead property should have had Oct. 16 marked on the calendar as the date that the second half of 2017 property taxes were due. Since the usual due date of Oct. 15 fell on a Sunday, taxpayers had until the following business day to pay taxes owed.

Whether you sent a check by that date or had already paid, all Minnesotans should take this time to review their eligibility for a state-paid property tax refund. Eligibility status can change from year to year so even if you haven’t qualified in the past, it’s worth double-checking this year.

In general, homeowners who owned and lived in their home on Jan. 2, 2016, and Jan. 2, 2017, and have a household income of less than \$108,660 may qualify for a maximum refund of \$2,660. There also is Special Homestead Credit Refund that is not subject to income limits. To qualify, the net property tax on a homestead must have increased by more than 12 percent from 2016 to 2017 and more than \$100, and the increase cannot be the result of home improvements. The maximum Special Refund is \$1,000.

It’s important to note that household income is different than taxable income reported on state income tax returns. Household income takes into account various other forms of income to ensure the limited property tax refund revenue is directed toward those most in need. The refund form will guide you toward calculating your total household income.

Renters also should consider applying for a property tax refund. Although renters do not directly pay property taxes, the cost of this expense is built into rents charged by landlords. In general, a renter’s household income for 2016 must be less than \$58,880, and the maximum refund is \$2,060.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has improved efforts to keep taxpayers informed of their refund’s status in recent years. The Revenue department is, unfortunately, a big target for cyber-criminals because of the type of information it

collects, but the agency also has one of the most robust systems for protecting taxpayer information. Part of that system includes individual monitoring of any irregular information or activity. It’s a necessary step that sometimes causes lags between when information is received and when refunds are paid out.

If you are concerned about the status of your refund, you may visit http://www.revenue.state.mn.us and click on “Where’s My Refund.” This will guide you through a few steps to determine whether your application is under review or complete. This website also provides all forms and information needed to apply for a property tax refund.

Some agricultural land owners have been asking about the School Building Bond Agricultural Tax Credit approved by the legislature last session. Through this \$35 million investment, agricultural land owners will see an automatic, state-paid credit on 2018 property tax statements that will be mailed next spring. The credit is equal to 40 percent of property taxes attributable to local school bond referenda, including previously passed levies as well as new ones that may be approved this fall. A bipartisan group of lawmakers from rural Minnesota pushed for this credit to take some pressure off local farmers while providing rural schools a better path to improve facilities the way metro-area schools are able.

If you have any questions about these or any other property tax issues, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I also encourage you to keep an eye out for proposed 2018 property tax statements that will be sent in November, and to attend Truth in Taxation meetings that will be held before the end of the year. It’s the best place to provide feedback to your local elected officials.

My contact information is sen.dan.sparks@senate.mn or 651-296-9248. You also can keep track of what the legislature is doing on the website, www.senate.mn, where you can sign up to follow committees of interest or receive other notifications.

Dan Sparks is the Minnesota senator for District 27, which includes Freeborn and Mower counties as well as Blooming Prairie and southern Dodge County. He resides in Austin.

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2017 - 2 State Awards
2016 - 6 National Awards,
8 State Awards
2015 - 4 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2014 - 3 National Awards,
3 State Awards
2013 - 2 National Awards,
7 State Awards
2012 - 2 State Awards
2011 - 4 National Award

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



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER
Two vehicles and a detached garage were destroyed Wednesday morning in a fire in the alley behind the 200 block of 2nd Avenue NW across from Blooming Prairie Elementary School. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department knocked down the blaze quickly and remained on the scene for about 1 ½ hours. Fire chief Dean Naatz said the cause is undetermined.

Fire destroys detached garage in BP

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A fire destroyed a detached garage and two vehicles in Blooming Prairie Wednesday morning.

The blaze broke out just after 8 a.m. in the garage located off the alley behind the 200 block of 2nd Avenue NW. By the time Blooming Prairie firefighters arrived on the scene, the garage was engulfed in flames, according to fire chief Dean Naatz.

While the blaze was knocked down fairly quickly, firefighters had trouble with it flaring up from leaking fuel in one of the vehicles, Naatz said. It took about 45 minutes to bring the fire completely under control, he added.

Sarah Cooke, who owns the garage, was home at the time of the fire. Her children had just left a short time earlier for school, which is located across the street from their house.

Besides the entire garage burning down, Cooke also lost two vehicles—one in the garage and another one parked just outside. The car in the garage had not been driven for at least 12 hours, Naatz said.

The fire chief said it's likely the exact cause will never be known. "There was nothing left," Naatz said.

A neighboring garage suffered some minor heat damage to the siding, Naatz said. He added a house in the area lost power, but BP Utilities quickly restored power. Damage is estimated at about \$45,000.

The Krusher was crude, but caring

I know I am dating myself but do you remember watching pro rasslin' on KROC-TV and loving to hate one of the villains named Stan (Krusher) Kowalski?

After doing farm chores on our small dairy farm, seven miles southwest of Blooming Prairie, I remember cleaning up and sitting down to watch an evening of pro wrestling.

Two mean looking types, Kowalski and tag team partner Tiny Mills, were regulars on the program. Both were branded as villains in their role as Murder Inc. Kowalski died Friday, Oct. 21 at age 91.

I knew that pro wrestling was sheer entertainment but I still liked to relax and enjoy it.

Well, many years later at our residence in Forest Lake, I got to know Kowalski through the Lions International organization. I was a member of the Forest Lake Lions Club and Kowalski was a long-time member of the Spring Lake Park

Lions Club.

Our mutual interests brought us together at district meetings in the Twin Cities.

Kowalski was loud and boisterous on the wrestling mat but caring and loving outside the ring. As a Lion, he was involved in providing help to those in need.

Kowalski was also very involved with the Greater United Way in the Twin Cities and he also was very proud of his military service in the U.S. Air Force. As a veteran he became involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and even served as state commander. He was involved in many movements



Reflections
HOWARD LESTRUD

involving veterans.

I loved to hook up with Kowalski at our mid-winter conventions in Bloomington. He was a hit in all the hospitality rooms because he was a quality story teller and joke teller. A good joke teller seems to laugh harder than those listening. He was a good joke teller.

The Krusher could be a little off base sometimes in sharing his humor, which bordered on being offensive.

I remember going to a retirement party for a superintendent in Forest Lake. Kowalski, a former school board member in Blaine, showed up unannounced. He put everyone on pins and needles as he needed the retiring superintendent.

This man was a very dedicated community activist. He was recently saluted at a Minnesota Twins game and given the honor of raising the American flag. He was surrounded by his loving family and remembered by many including me.

VOLUNTEERS: Super Bowl

FROM PAGE A1

Crew 52 volunteers will serve at public gathering points such as airports, skyways, hotels and Super Bowl host committee events to ensure visitors have the best guest experience during their time in Minnesota.

Volunteers are asked to fulfill three shifts during the festival. Benefits for the volunteers include a free winter-ready uniform and the opportunity to take part in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase Minnesota on the world's largest stage.

Nelson hopes she will be a hostess at one of the venues like the Mall of America, Nicollet Mall or the airport. "I just hope it doesn't interfere with a council meeting," she said with a laugh.

A long-time Vikings fan, Nelson hopes for something else with the Super Bowl. "Wouldn't it be nice if the purple was up there," she said.

Owatonna's Kuntz is proud of the fact that the glass in the new US Bank Stadium came from a manufacturer in his city. Viracon provided all the glass for the stadium. "How can I be more proud?" he asked.

While the Super Bowl volunteer opportunity will be more of a personal endeavor

for Kuntz, he also would like to promote his city if possible. "Anytime I do anything, I try to sell Owatonna," he said.

Kuntz said the Super Bowl will bAe a great chance to sell Minnesota's four seasons to people from all over the world.

More than 30,000 people applied to volunteer and 15,000 received interviews. More than 90 percent of the volunteer applicants are from Minnesota, hailing from about 500 different cities across the state.

Blooming Prairie's Noble is thrilled about being selected as one of the volunteers. She said each applicant was given a 10-minute interview. "It was like a cheerleading session to see how excited you can get to be a part of it," she said. "It really was a rah-rah interview."

The Super Bowl committee is a private, non-profit corporation formed to plan and execute festivities around next February's Super Bowl.

"We are do fortunate to have 10,000 of Minnesota's best ambassadors ready to join Crew 52," said Maureen Bausch, CEO of the Super Bowl committee.

"Our volunteer orientation in St. Paul will be the first time we get the crew together as a team and channel our Super Bowl excitement into action."

DO KINDNESS TO OTHERS

United Way initiative

Nov. 6-10

T-Shirts for \$5 at United Way in Owatonna

507-455-1180

NICE: Spread kindness

FROM PAGE A1

"Imagine if we were all united in showing kindness to one another during the same week."

United Way wants people to live it by showing kindness at their workplaces, schools and neighborhoods and with family and friends.

At least for one week Schaufenbuel would like to set aside the on-going negativity in the world. "There is a lot of skepticism and fingerprinting that is not conducive to creating a better community," she said. She added things would be better if everyone pulled together and called out the goodness of one another.

Schaufenbuel also urges people to capture their kindness on video or pictures and share it on social media. People can access United Way on Twitter at UWSteeleCounty or United Way of Steele County on Facebook.

"Show us that the live united spirit is active in our county," she said.

United Way's mission is to change lives by mobilizing and optimizing the caring power of the community.

PUMPKIN: Growing large

He got the idea from his brother-in-law in St. Louis, who called him encouraging him to grow pumpkins. The brother-in-law had tried grow them in St. Louis, but didn't have luck because of the warm temperatures, Walsh said.

He has since found a knack for growing whoppers. "Southern Minnesota is the pumpkin belt where the climate is just right," Walsh said.

Walsh spends the winter months studying genetics on the internet. He purchases pumpkin seeds at auctions throughout the winter. He spends roughly \$100 on each seed, but they can go as high as \$500 per seed.

The seeds are usually planted around April 20 in a greenhouse. And then the real heavy lifting begins.

Once the plants are ready for the outdoors, Walsh clears away 4,000 square feet to plant four seeds. One pumpkin grows on each plant.

Over the next several months, Walsh fertilizes and waters lots. To aid in the effort to land the great pumpkin, he has installed overhead sprinklers with timers. The first year he did it with a garden hose. During the peak months of July and August, he uses 150 gallons of water per day for each plant.

He spends about six hours each day throughout the summer caring for his pumpkin patch. "It's pretty involved," Walsh says. "It's a pretty big time commitment."

Success of the pumpkin crop is dependent on the weather conditions. And last year wasn't very favorable for Walsh. "It was a bad year for the Midwest. We had too much rain and hail. It just beat the crap out of my plants," he said, noting pumpkins are susceptible to hail rot disease.

But this year was a different story. "This year we had perfect growing conditions," Walsh said. "All the storms went around us this year," he

added.

He has invested in wind fencing to protect his pumpkins from wind. He has also looked into hail netting to put over the patch, but hasn't done it yet.

During the peak growing, pumpkins swell about 50 pounds each day, Walsh said.

Asked what his secret to growing giants, Walsh said, "The more time you put in."

Walsh has disappointments as well. This year he elected to pick a pumpkin 10 days before one of the contests. He came up 19 pounds short of winning a \$1,000 prize. "That's the first time I ever picked

Kevin Walsh
Great Pumpkin Grower

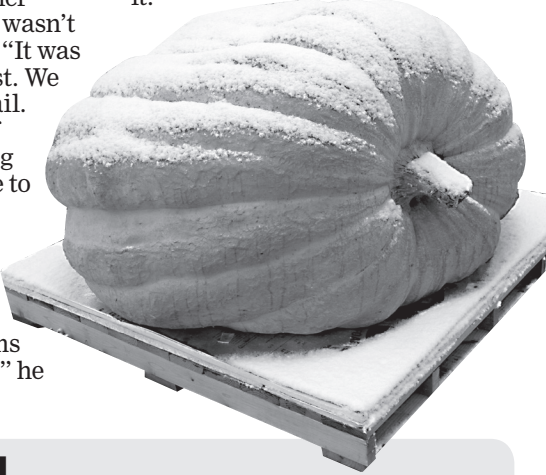
one early," he said, adding he gambled out of concern for the pumpkin rotting if he had left it.

After the contests, Walsh is donating

his whoppers of pumpkins to area farmers, who bring tractors to smash them up and bring pumpkin to feed their animals.

Walsh said the world's record pumpkin is from Europe and weighed in at 2,600 pounds. He is aiming for a pumpkin between 1,700 and 2,000 pounds next season.

"It's a very time consuming hobby," Walsh concedes. "I love it."



GUEST COLUMN

Rural futures: The road ahead

BY TIM PENNY

Every October we hold what I consider to be Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's "family reunion." The Foundation hosts its annual luncheon, and each year the SMIF Family keeps growing.

In attendance are – the grandparents of SMIF, including some founding and early Board members; cousins, such as our sister foundations and other area philanthropies; a few new kids, such as new loan and grant clients. Add to that our current Board members, staff, AmeriCorps LEAP members, City and County reps, elected officials, funders, partners, business leaders, and other regional collaborators, and you can easily see how our reunion has grown to include over 250 regional leaders.

This year marked the one-year anniversary since launching our new SMIF brand: collaborating for regional vitality. Part of the process of collaborating more broadly across our region is making sure we're reaching even our smallest communities. Communities with under 5,000 residents comprise 46 percent of our region's population. About 45 percent of SMIF's investments over the past five years have gone to these smaller communities.

Over the years, we've seen these communities innovate and come together to sustain a vibrant way of life, even in the face of a constant narrative of rural decline. Yes, our population is shifting, and our towns look different, but our rural communities have proven that they can still boast a high quality of life.

It takes work, though. New leaders need to step up. More resources need to be corralled. People need to keep giving of their time, talents and money. As Vicky Tribon, one of the founding board members for the Harmony Area Community Foundation, said in an annual report interview, "You have to strive to make your community vibrant; it just doesn't happen on its own."

SMIF announced two new programs launched in 2017 to help small town community leaders looking toward the future, and looking for some added resources to get them there. The first is our Small Town Grants program. SMIF left the parameters fairly wide on the pilot round, and ended

up granting \$61,500 to seven communities for collaborative, strategic projects. Watch next year for our second round of small town grants.

The second program is an especially exciting initiative, new to Minnesota, but not to rural America. This program is being undertaken in partnership with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. The Center's Energizing Entrepreneurs is a proven-model for economic development. SMIF is bringing this economic model to southern Minnesota by launching its Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program. Five REV communities were announced at the luncheon, all with populations 5,000 or below. The communities are Blue Earth (Faribault County), Lake City (Wabasha County), Lanesboro & Spring Valley (Fillmore County), Le Sueur (Le Sueur County), and Spring Grove (Houston County).

The keynote at the "reunion" luncheon was Christopher Ingraham, a reporter for The Washington Post. A couple years ago, after calling Red Lake County, Minnesota "the ugliest place in America" based on USDA natural amenities data, he ended up leaving behind his three hours of East Coast commuting to move to Red Lake Falls. His presentation was a huge hit with the audience and left us inspired about our work to keep our rural communities vibrant and prosperous.

"A Pew Research poll of people living in big cities indicates that 80 percent of them want to live in a small town or rural area," said Ingraham. "People don't need to be told why it's great in these small communities, they need to know that's it's possible for them to make the move."

With the Greater Minnesota way of "getting it done," I'm confident we can continue to remake our communities, while still retaining many of the things that make them great in the first place.

Here's to another exciting year ahead. We'll see you on the road. #smallbutmighty.

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

Tim Penny is the president and CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation based in Owatonna. He is also a former U.S. Congressman.



AAUW picks new board

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The American Association of University Women, Owatonna, recently picked a new board for 2017-18. The board consists of front row (left to right): Trudy Severson, Pam Schultz, Eileen Newhouse, Sandi Tobin and Char Ost; standing: Lynn Seykora, Melynda Schultz, Linda Hoffman, Dee Ann Pettyjohn, Kay Oberle and Stephanie Shea. Missing from the photo is Kris Dragich.



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Assistance Dogs Provide Help and Love

Dear Savvy Senior
What can you tell me about assistance dogs for people with disabilities? My sister, who's 58, has multiple sclerosis and I'm wondering if an assistance dog could help make her life a little easier.

Inquiring Sister

Dear Inquiring
For people with disabilities and even medical conditions, assistant dogs can be fantastic help, not to mention they provide great companionship and an invaluable sense of security. Here's what you and your sister should know.

While most people are familiar with guide dogs that help people who are blind or visually impaired, there are also a variety of assistance dogs trained to help people with physical disabilities, hearing loss and various medical conditions.

Unlike most pets, assistance dogs are highly trained canine specialists - often Golden and Labrador Retrievers, and German Shepherds - that know approximately 40 to 50 commands, are amazingly well-behaved and calm, and are permitted to go anywhere the public is allowed. Here's a breakdown of the different types of assistance dogs and what they can help with.

Service dogs: These dogs are specially trained to help people with physical disabilities due to multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, chronic arthritis and many other disabling conditions. They help by performing tasks their owner cannot do or has trouble doing, like carrying or retrieving items, picking up dropped items, opening and closing doors, turning lights on and off, assisting with dressing and undressing, helping with balance, household chores and more.

Guide dogs: For the blind and visually impaired, guide dogs help their owner get around safely by avoiding obstacles, stopping at curbs and steps, negotiating traffic and more.

Hearing dogs: For those who are deaf or hearing impaired, hearing dogs can alert their owner to specific sounds such as ringing telephones, doorbells, alarm clocks,

microwave or oven timers, smoke alarms, approaching sirens, crying babies or when someone calls out their name.

Seizure alert/response dogs: For people with epilepsy or other seizure disorders, these dogs can recognize the signs that their owner is going to have a seizure, and provide them with advance warning, so he or she can get to a safe place or take medication to prevent the seizure or lessen its severity. They are also trained to retrieve medications and use a pre-programmed phone to call for help. These dogs can also be trained to help people with diabetes, panic attacks and various other conditions.

Finding a Dog

If your sister is interested in getting a service dog, contact some assistance dog training programs. To find them, Assistance Dogs International provides a listing of around 65 U.S. programs on their website that you can access at AssistanceDogsInternational.org.

After you locate a few, you'll need to either visit their website or call them to find out the types of training dogs they offer, the areas they serve, if they have a waiting list, and what upfront costs will be involved. Some groups offer dogs for free, some ask for donations and some charge thousands of dollars.

To get an assistance dog, your sister will need to show proof of her disability, which her physician can provide, and she'll have to complete an application and go through an interview process. She will also need to go and stay at the training facility for a week or two so she can get familiar with her dog and get training on how to handle it.

It's also important to understand that assistance dogs are not for everybody. They require time, money, and care that your sister or some other friend or family member must be able and willing to provide.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago
Oct. 30, 2007
Dan Evans, Publisher

Cheri Krejci has been chosen by the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Board, as the Outstanding Citizen of the Year for 2007. She will be honored at a Banquet on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the Pizza Cellar.

Predicable as falling leaves, the Village Affair, an annual autumn event that brings families together for a day of shopping and sloppy joes, was held Oct. 27 at the Blooming Prairie High School. In its 35th year, the crowds poured in, as they always do, to the AAUW's yearly event, whose proceeds are used solely for local scholarships.

by Lynn in Owatonna approximately two years ago, and decided to expand, and here she is in Blooming Prairie ready for young and old alike to say that famous word... "cheese."

Blooming Prairie City Council accepted the resignation of City Administrator Todd Prafke Monday night at the special hearing for the trailer court closure. Prafke tendered his resignation, giving the city a 30-day notice. He accepted the city administrator position in St. Peter. Prafke was hired by the city in the summer of 1995.

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

Officer Michael Thomas Underwood, a native of Blooming Prairie, was one of 134 men who graduated from the Los Angeles Police Academy on Oct. 20, according to information submitted to the Times by Thomas Reddin, Chief of Police at Los Angeles, Calif. Michael completed 12 weeks of intensive police training at the academy.

Two trucks, owned by the Eugene "Axel" Hansen Trucking Service, together with a consignment of freight for Blooming Prairie merchants, was damaged by fire early last Friday morning, Oct. 27,

according to Fire Chief Kermit Peterson. The Blooming Prairie Fire Department was called to the blaze at 2:15 a.m.

Daniel J. Hanson, son of Mrs. Louise Hanson, Blooming Prairie, has enlisted in the regular army for three years and is now taking his eight-weeks of basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

75 Years Ago
Oct. 29, 1942
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Cols. Ole Olesen and Joe Reisch report another successful farm auction Wednesday, these two progressive, live-wire auctioneers sold the Herman Kruckeberg closing out farm sale. Milk cows brought fancy prices, the top cow bringing \$145. A team of well-matched horses sold for \$149 each. The farm machinery also brought good prices.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Johnson were the honored guests at a big silver wedding anniversary held at the community building Oct. 25 from 2 to 5 o'clock p.m. Seventy-five guests were present.

Word was received here last week by Henry A. Vollhart to the effect that Major W. Welsh had received an announcement from Washington D.C., that he had been made a Lieutenant Colonel. He is stationed at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Crossword solution table with 13 rows and 13 columns of letters.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants
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Blotter spotlight: Intoxication: On Oct. 20 at 5:20 p.m., deputies received a report regarding an intoxicated person riding a horse through town and purposefully blocking cars at 4th St. NW and 4th Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

CRIME BRIEFS

New crime fighter joins Owatonna Police

A new crime fighter will be battling crime in Owatonna. Travis Johnson began his duties as patrol officer Monday. He will be in the field training program with more experienced officers for the next several months. Johnson most recently has been on the department as a community service officer at Owatonna High School. He had been assigned to the school since 2013.

He grew up in Owatonna. He came back to the area after serving as a CSO for the Winthrop Harbor Police Department in Illinois. Crime fighting isn't Johnson's only talent. He is the two-time defending watermelon seed spitting champion at the Steele County Fair.



Hope man accused of sex assault

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A Hope man accused of sexual assault will make his first court appearance this week in Steele County District Court. Jacob Anthony Zak, 25, has been charged with two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct. The most serious charge carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$40,000 fine. On Sept. 13 at about 12:40 a.m., the Steele County Sheriff's Office investigated a sexual assault at a residence in Hope. When the deputy arrived at the house, he found a female crying with her belt halfway out of her pant loops and had cuts on her arms and cheek, court records show. The female told the deputy that Zak raped her and she thought he was her friend, according to the complaint filed against

him. The female alleged Zak pinned her down to the ground on her back and raped her. During the attack, the female reached for her pants and grabbed a pocket knife. She stabbed at him as a way to defend herself. She told authorities that after she grabbed the knife, Zak took it from her and started slashing at her. She put her arms up to protect her face, and he cut her arms and cheek, the complaint said. Zak showed up at the Owatonna hospital a short time later claiming he had been stabbed. A deputy spoke to him at which time he admitted he had been drinking with a really good friend of his and they got drunk. The deputy noticed Zak had a stab wound on the right side of his abdomen. Zak is not in custody and was issued a complaint summons by the county attorney's office to appear in court Wednesday.

heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 16 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding: **Jarod J. Fuller**, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats – cause or attempt to cause terror. Fuller was sentenced to \$381, 145 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, psychological evaluation, anger management, no contact with victim and 4 years of supervised probation. **Michael J. Hambrick**, 33, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony fleeing in motor vehicle. The defendant was sentenced to \$381, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, cognitive skill training, complete domestic abuse diagnostic assessment and 3 years of supervised probation. **Taiwan D. McCain**, 37, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI. McCain was sentenced to \$406, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 7 years of supervised probation. **Daniel J. Senjem**, 52, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to \$780, 3 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, mental health evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Jul N. Todd, 30, Northfield, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of cocaine/heroin/methamphetamine. The defendant was sentenced to \$381, 109 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA, no contact with victim, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation. *The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 16 – 20:* **BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT** **Cameron J. Brown**, 20, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181, 8 days in county jail, mental health evaluation and 6 months of supervised probation; **Garret R. Drees**, 21, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; **Brian Robinson**, 18, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$121.

GAMBLING ENFORCEMENT DIVISION **Roxanne L. Johnson**, 53, Hartland, lawful gambling fraud – claims prize by fraud, deceit or misrepresentation and lawful gambling fraud – false information, \$181, 1 day in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 70 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER **Carmen A. Arevalo Hernandez**, 19, Sioux Falls, SD, speeding, \$100; **Erik R. Bahr**, 37, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; **Logan E. Busho**, 27, Ellendale, failure to yield right of way, \$131; **David J. Daniel**, 20, Richmond, MO, speeding, stay of adjudication, \$81 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; **Peter D. Dennis**, 26, Cottage Grove, speeding, \$131; **Moises H. Elizondo**, 60, Fort Worth, TX, DWI, \$381, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; **Jamison A. Gibson**, 18, Urbandale, IA, speeding, \$141; **Juan F. Herrera**, 27, Forest Hill, TX, no license, \$181; **Jared C. Jenkins**, 39, Apple Valley, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; **Vernon A. Johnson**, 40, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; **Eljija L. Johnson-Crittenden**, 26, Fridley, revoked license, \$281; **Michelle L. Katzung**, 17, New Richland, failure to use designated lane, \$131; **Thomas J. Lindborn**, 76, Bemidji, cancelled license, \$281; **Edward G. Loisele**, 47, Shakopee, speeding, \$121; **Jill E. Madline**, 38, Stewartville, speeding, \$121; **Alissa M. McDermeit**, 30, Mora, speeding, \$121; **Sean P. Miller**, 39, Olathe, KS, seat belt, \$106; **Breyden P. Noble**, 18, Plymouth, speeding and no insurance, \$331; **William P. Andrews**, 23, Superior, WI, over legal tandem axle weight, \$181; **Kurt C. Schmidt**, 56, Orono, speeding, \$121; **Tina R. Tano**, 52, Lakeville, speeding, \$131; **K Law Wah**, 29, St. Paul, open bottle, \$181; **Dalys E. Waltz**, 64, Ellendale, speeding, \$121.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT **Cody L. Blaha**, 19, Owatonna, theft, \$106; **Andrew L. Blaisdell**, 37, Dundas, theft, \$106; **Debra J. Enger**, 64, Owatonna, theft, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; **Tyesha J. Flowers**, 30, theft, \$148.88; **Abdiaziz A. Hashim**, 26, Faribault, speeding, \$141; **Hassan N. Hassan**, 25, Owatonna, invalid license, \$131; **Agustin M. Hernandez**, 58, Rochester, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; **Santos P. Hernandez**, 34, Owatonna, DWI, \$481, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; **Solomon K. Kelly**, 18, Albert Lea, failure to yield, \$131; **Heidi L. Kraft**, 37, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; **Kimberly K. Kuiper**, 37, Owatonna, theft, \$81, 15 hours of community service and

1 year of supervised probation; **Mohamed A. Mohamed**, 20, Faribault, stop sign, \$111; **Anthony Montgomery Jr.**, 21, counterfeit currency and false name to peace officer, \$381, 20 days in county jail, obtain GED, obtain employment, cognitive skill training and 2 years of supervised probation; **Monica Roman**, 19, Owatonna, revoked license and failure to yield, \$381; **Joshua D. Smith**, 32, Owatonna, registration violation, \$181; **Dustin R. Snidow**, 29, Owatonna, failure to drive in single lane, \$131; **Spencer J. Steckelberg**, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, \$131; **Joshua D. Stoltz**, 24, Austin, failure to obey lane marker, \$131; **Dennis W. Wimer**, 70, Owatonna, DWI, \$181, 5 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms, complete drug court and 3 years of supervised probation; **Bobbie S. Wright**, 34, Iona, DWI, \$406, 2 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of supervised probation.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE **Krystal Bernal**, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; **Vicki L. Britt**, 46, New Richland, stop sign, \$131; **Angel M. Brown**, 37, Pine Island, speeding, \$121; **Makayla S. Carroll**, 22, Mankato, speeding, \$100; **Jeannie K. Cates**, 58, Geneva, speeding, \$121; **Oscar Cruz-Maldonado**, 39, Austin, suspended license, \$281; **Connie J. Devries**, 56, Medford, speeding, \$121; **Bradley L. Dunn**, 32, Waseca, DWI, \$581, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, 240 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; **Charels R. Gatewood**, 38, Elkhart, TX, no license, no insurance and speeding, \$431; **Michael J. Hambrick**, 33, Owatonna, violation of no contact order, \$381, 15 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain employment, domestic abuse evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; **Dennis J. Helton**, 25, Waseca, speeding, \$121; **Norris D. Jacobson**, 64, New Richland, speeding, \$121; **Robert L. Lankford**, 35, St. Paul, give peace officer false information, \$131 and 13 days in county jail; **Oscar O. Manriquez-Cuello**, 31, Madeira, disorderly conduct, \$381, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; **Gabriela M. Masiello**, 18, St. Paul, speeding, \$121; **Karl A. Mertins**, 34, West Concord, stop sign, \$131; **Angelica F. Montemayor**, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; **Joh D. Oakland**, 56, Menomonie, WI, speeding, \$121; **Michael O. Owuor**, 41, Austin, speeding, \$121; **Joshua J. Proechel**, 30, Bayport, speeding, \$141; **Joesie G. Soares**, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$121; **Alan E. Stiehl**, 30, Claremont, speeding, \$121; **Jacob A. Stock**, 33, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; **Jennifer M. Teichroew**, 34, Owatonna, DWI, \$456, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; **Pax Uziel**, 19, Waseca, speeding, \$281; **Angela M. Vela**, 28, Waseca, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE **Oct. 25** **Crash:** Police assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Highway Ave. S. and 2nd St. SE at 4:24 p.m. **OWATONNA POLICE** **Oct. 20** **Assault:** Police responded to an assault in the 2200 block

of 26th St. NW at 2:44 a.m. They made an arrest at the scene. **Crash:** Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:06 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers. **Burglary:** At 4:23 p.m., police began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Highland Ave. NW. **Restraining Order:** Officers responded to a restraining order violation at Bridge St. W. and State Ave. NW at 5:44 p.m. **Death:** Police began a death investigation in the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 8:17 p.m. **Juvenile:** At 10:46 p.m., officers responded to a juvenile complaint in the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S. They issued a citation. **Disturbance:** Police arrested a juvenile following a disturbance in the 300 block of State Ave. NW at 11:46 p.m.

Oct. 21 **Suspicion:** Suspicious activity was reported in the 1600 block of Wedgewood Dr. NE at 2:06 a.m. **Arrest:** Police arrested a subject in the 1900 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 7:35 a.m.

Oct. 22 **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 2000 block of Greenwood Dr. NE at 8:34 a.m.

Oct. 23 **Warrant:** Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 4:26 p.m. **Shoplifting:** At 7:27 p.m., officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W.

Oct. 24 **Forgery:** Police received a report of counterfeit money in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W. at 8:01 a.m. **Fraud:** Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Selby Ave. SW at 3:38 p.m. **Civil:** At 8:42 p.m., officer assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of School St. W. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 400 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:58 p.m.

Oct. 25 **Death:** Police began a death investigation in the 2200 block of 4th Ave. SE at 4:03 a.m. **Vandalism:** Officer received a property damage report from the 300 block of School St. E. at 9:38 a.m. **Arrest:** At 2:01 p.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop in the 400 block of State Ave. NW. **Animal:** Police responded to an animal bite at Pearl St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 3:09 p.m. **Hit and Run:** A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at Elm Ave. N. and Rose St. E. at 3:14 p.m. **Theft:** Police received information regarding a stolen vehicle from the 1700 block of Greenwood Place NE at 5:36 p.m. **Shoplifting:** A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:05 p.m.

Oct. 26 **Warrant:** Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 10:19 a.m. **Theft:** Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 12:17 p.m. **Crash:** At 12:44 p.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. They issued a citation to one of the drivers. **Drugs:** Police responded to drug activity in the 300 block of School St. E. at 1:59 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF **Oct. 20** **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. in Owatonna at 3:55 p.m. **Probation:** Deputies responded to a probation violation in the 19000 block of 168th St. SW in Summit

Township at 6:49 p.m. **Oct. 21** **Threats:** At 5:58 a.m., deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 83000 block of 95th Ave. SW in Lemond Township. **Oct. 22** **Welfare:** Deputy completed a welfare check in the 400 block of 6th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 8:51 p.m. **Probation:** At 9:29 p.m., deputies responded to a probation violation in the 19000 block of 168th St. SW in Summit Township. **Oct. 23** **Probation:** Deputy arrested a subject for a probation violation in the 19000 block of 168th St. SW in Summit Township at 8:19 p.m. **Vandalism:** Property damage was reported in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 8:29 p.m. **Warrant:** Deputy made a warrant arrest at the detention center at 9 p.m.

Oct. 24 **Threats:** At 11:42 a.m., deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 300 block of 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale. **Accident:** Deputies received information regarding a vehicle hitting a deer in the 52000 block of 24th Ave. SE in Somerset Township at 6:36 p.m. **Crash:** A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 70000 block of 38th St. SW in Meriden Township at 9:15 p.m.

Oct. 25 **Theft:** Deputy took a theft report in the 78000 block of County Road 3 in Somerset Township at 5:01 p.m.

ARREST
Steele County

STEELE ARRESTS OWATONNA POLICE **Matthew Ray Honsey**, 29, arrested at 10:27 a.m. Oct. 20, controlled substance and paraphernalia, held for court. **Julia Marie Schmitt**, 42, arrested at 10:45 a.m. Oct. 21, violation of harassment restraining order, held for court. **Renee Cashwa Parks**, 19, arrested at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 21, felony motor vehicle theft, held for court. **Rickgra Lytil Mitchell**, 18, arrested at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 21, felony receiving stolen property – motor vehicle, held for court. **Derek James West**, 36, arrested at 1:11 p.m. Oct. 24, felony violation of conditions of release, held for court. **Cassandra Sue Britt**, 25, arrested at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 26, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Steele County Sheriff Lorita Dora Placencia**, 41, arrested at 3:50 p.m. Oct. 20, warrant arrest, body only. **Martin John Klaustermeier**, 22, arrested at 10 a.m. Oct. 21, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court. **Katie Marie Johnson**, 35, arrested at 6:25 a.m. Oct. 22, warrants arrest, held for court.

Ryan Burton Lane, 31, arrested Oct. 24, felony extradition hearing from North Dakota for probation violation, no bail. **Tony Valentino Tristano**, 39, arrested at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 24, warrants arrest, held for court. **Robert Lee Dodge**, 35, arrested at 9 a.m. Oct. 27, probation violation warrant arrest, body only. **MN STATE PATROL** **Pascual Castillo Sanchez Jr.**, 18, arrested at 6:17 p.m. Oct. 22, possession of pistol without permit, held for court. **Isaiah Michael Olson**, 19, arrested at 6:17 p.m. Oct. 22, possession of pistol without permit and possession of marijuana, held for court. **Armani Esrem Leroy Rice**, 19, arrested at 6:17 p.m. Oct. 22, possession of pistol without permit, held for court.

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

1. Authoro Ortega – DWI – no bail
2. Collin Orth – order for protection violation – no bail
3. Manuel Ozornia – DWI – \$1,400 bail
4. Sandy Pack – theft – no bail
5. Guillermo Padron Jr. – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
6. Marcelo Palacio – traffic - \$300 bail
7. Jorge Pani – DWI - \$1,000 bail

8. Curtis Parker – domestic assault - \$1,000 bail
9. Victor Parraga – DWI - \$350 bail
10. Julie Patrin – theft - \$20,000 bail
11. Sheronda Payne – assault - \$500 bail
12. Patrick Pearson – no license - \$12,000 bail
13. Eduardo Pena – assault – no bail
14. Federico Perez – DWI - \$56,000 bail

15. Joann Perez – assault - \$500 bail
16. Martin Perez – DWI - \$500 bail
17. Juan Perez-Torrez – sale to minor - \$1,000 bail
18. Cornelius Phillips – open bottle - \$500 bail
19. Cory Piringer – DWI – no bail
20. Keith Pittman – DWI - \$1,000 bail

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

OBITUARIES

Theresa M. Zipse
Owatonna



Theresa M. Zipse, 97, formerly of Austin, died Oct. 29, 2017 at Traditions II in Owatonna. Funeral service is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017 at the Brick Meger Funeral Home, 1603 Austin Road in Owatonna. There will be a one hour visitation prior to the funeral service starting at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Grandview Cemetery in Austin. Theresa was born on Jan. 23, 1920 in St. Lucas, Iowa to parents John and Kathryn (Schmitt) Langreck. She grew up and graduated from St. Lucas High School. On July 8, 1946 she married James Zipse. In 1947 they moved to Austin where they made their home. Her hobbies included fishing, gardening, cooking, spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and completing jigsaw puzzles. She is preceded in death by, her husband James; parents; one son, Mark; brothers, Leo Langrick, Ray Langreck and Vic Langreck, sisters, Josephine Heying, Lena Pitzenberger and Lucy McNamara; five brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-law. Theresa is survived by her daughter, Karen (Dale) Ringhofer, Owatonna, Brian (Lisa) Zipse, Montgomery, daughter-in-law, Carolyn Zipse, Deer River; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; siblings, Jack (Joyce) Zoulek, Spillville, Iowa, Delores Bucheit, St. Lucas, Iowa, Colette Ameling, West Union, Iowa, Roger (Germaine) Langreck, St. Lucas, Iowa; sister-in-law, Betty Wilkie. Memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Book sale set
for library



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

The semi-annual Book Sale put on by the Friends of the Blooming Prairie Library will be held at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library the week of Oct. 30 during library hours. This is your chance to pick up used-a-bit books and movies for the winter ahead. You can also stockpile some to take to your cabin next summer. The sale, which will be held in the City Council room, began on Monday and continues throughout the week. The sale will then be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. We do not price the books but ask for donations for the items you choose. The proceeds from the book sale are used for summer programming for the children. The Friends group also provides funds for furniture and other extras at the library. Thanks to them for all they do to help the library. See you at the book sale!

Operation Christmas
Child coming to area

In November, several locations in the multi-county Rochester Area Team will serve as drop-off sites for the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child—joining nearly 5,000 U.S. locations collecting gift-filled shoeboxes for children in need around the world. During the project's National Collection Week, Nov. 13 – 20, residents in Steele County and other areas will transform empty shoeboxes into gifts of hope filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys. Operation Christmas Child will deliver these shoebox gifts to children affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. This year, the Rochester Area Team hopes to contribute more than 14,082 shoebox gifts toward the 2017 global goal of reaching 12 million children. "We are honored to join the nationwide effort to collect gift-filled shoeboxes for children who may have never experienced the true meaning of Christmas," said Regional Director Nicole Sheldon. "Through these simple gifts and a message of hope, children learn that God loves them and has not forgotten them." Local collection sites include: **Owatonna** - Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church 1500 18th Street SE Owatonna Nov. 13-18: 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. Nov. 19: 12-3 p.m. Nov. 20: 8-10 a.m. **Austin** - Crane Community Chapel 1111 9th Street NE Austin Nov. 13-14 & 16-17: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Nov. 15: 2-5 p.m. Nov. 18: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 19: 12-2 p.m. Nov. 20: 9-11 a.m. **Dodge Center** - Seventh Day Baptist Church 203 Main Street E Dodge Center Nov. 13-15: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 5-7 p.m. Nov. 16: 4-7 p.m. Nov. 17: 9-12 p.m. Nov. 18: 12:30-4 p.m. Nov. 19: 12-2 p.m. & 4-6 p.m. Nov. 20: 9-12 p.m. **Albert Lea** - First Baptist Church 335 W Clark Street Albert Lea Nov. 13-17: 1-4 p.m. Nov. 18: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 19: 12-2 p.m. Nov. 20: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child or to view gift suggestions, call 612-369-7023 or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ. Participants can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 146 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS	Nov. 4 Wayne Gullickson John Bruns
Oct. 31 Jean Wilke Jacob Naatz Bob Remker Kari Forystek Sharon Anderson Christopher Naatz	Nov. 5 Madison Lea Kyle Severtson Chris Mans Brett Zimmerman Tim Bass Ansley Tollefson
Nov. 1 Robyn Iversen Barb Donnelly Mayson Peterson Pat Skinner Patrick (Buck) Cochlin Phyllis Dandeleit Paul Dale	Nov. 6 Linda (Larry) Knutson David Hagen Ardis Krejci
Nov. 2 Icess Adams Beckett Lea Sheryl Mans Mason Johnson Abby Braaten	ANNIVERSARIES
Nov. 3 Todd Nelson Howard Butler Neil Horn Braxton Ramsey	Nov. 1 Matthew & Jennie Esplan Shawn & Marcy Sundine
	Nov. 3 John & Paula Abbe
	Nov. 4 Rod & Michelle Krell Carl "Jr." & Diane Swenson
	Nov. 5 Kevin & Robyn Iversen Cecil & Lois Friesner

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ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS

Tuesday - Ham	Thursday - Your Choice
Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

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SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wed., Nov. 1 Beef Stew, Seafoam Salad, Batter Bun, Baked Apple
Thurs., Nov. 2 Pork Loin Steak, Dressing, Parslied Carrots, Cinnamon Applesauce, Banana Pudding
Fri., Nov. 3 Goulash, Coleslaw, Pineapple Slices, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Crisp
Mon., Nov. 6 Spaghettie w/Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Pudding
Tues., Nov. 7 Chicken Parmesan, Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Fresh Fruit

HARVEST:
Soybeans
completed, corn
interrupted

FROM PAGE A1

The University Extension Service says that the risk of snow and greater field losses increases when the harvest is delayed. Current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration long-range weather forecasts are for normal or slightly below normal temperatures and normal to slightly greater precipitation during November. Large amounts of corn remain in storage from last year and this has forced producers to consider alternative storage options, reported the University Extension Service in a press release. The Extension Service says corn above 21 percent moisture should not be dried using natural-air (NA) or low-temperature (LT) drying to minimize corn spoilage during drying. Because the drying capacity of NA and LT is extremely poor at temperatures below 35 to 40 degrees, little drying typically is possible using a natural-air system after about Nov. 1, says the Extension Service. Fall tilling has also been dominant on many southeastern Minnesota farm fields. It is not unusual to see combine lights shining in southern Minnesota farm fields as producers try to catch up on the harvesting timeline.

RECIPE CORNER

Mexican Chicken Casserole

- 5 c. crushed tortilla chips
- 1 (10 oz) bag of frozen corn
- 4 c. cubed cooked chicken breasts
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1 (16 oz.) jars salsa
- 2 c. shredded cheese

By Amy Johns

Grease 9x13 in. pan. Add 3 cups lightly crushed chips on the bottom of the pan. Mix together chicken, salsa, corn, sour cream and 1 cup shredded cheese. Pour over layer of chips. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Take pan out, add remaining chips and cheese on top. Bake for 10 more minutes.

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Blooming Prairie
Cancer Group

Thursday, Nov. 16

7 PM • Pizza Cellar Party Room
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PASTOR'S CORNER

God provides
for all of us



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ST. COLUMBANUS, SACRED
HEART AND ST. JOHN
BAPTIST DE LA SALLE

BLOOMING PRAIRIE,
HAYFIELD AND DODGE
CENTER

“On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; He will destroy death forever (Isaiah 25:6-7).”
This scripture reading relays the truth that God provides. However, if that is not enough proof for you the Bible states, “My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).”
There are many who can be tempted to doubt God’s

generosity when they see innocent people being shot in Las Vegas, or hurricanes taking out entire island nations in the Caribbean, or witnessing local families going through the serious illness of a child. God does not simply “punish us” by these events without hope as many “come-and-go” Christians purport, rather God reveals His contrasting goodness in the face of evil.
Through the disobedience of Adam and Eve we lost our original holiness or perfection rooted in God. Nevertheless, we did not loose our connection with God. If the break with perfection caused by original sin was the end of

the human race, how tragic for all. Thanks be to God whose mercy and love endure forever.
God continues to provide salvation for His people through Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us of a king who gives a wedding feast for his son and invites people personally by sending messengers to them not once but twice. After these personal invitations were given the response of the people was that some refused to go, others ignored the invitations, still other ones mistreated and killed the messengers inviting them to the wedding feast. The response of the king was to destroy the people and burn

the city of those who did not treat his invitation seriously or respect those bearing the invitation.
The king then orders the messengers to go out and invite anybody they find, “The good and the bad alike (Matthew 22:10).”
God the Father has provided the greatest invitation to salvation through His Son Jesus Christ. The messengers who followed Jesus are the people who share the invitation of God’s love and mercy on a daily basis and who have done so for the past 20 centuries. Those who serve in the name of Jesus and let the plan of God’s love be known have not

always been received with warmth and charity. There have been many martyrs made out of the faithful messengers of the Gospel, yet the Good News of the kingdom of heaven continues to be proclaimed and God provides opportunities for men, women and children throughout the world to receive the prevailing message that His love endures forever. Receive the invitation anew today to love, pray and serve in Christ’s name.
Make the wedding feast of Our Heavenly King a priority event in your life, and be encouraged that God continues to provide for His people in good and in bad times.

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., Sergeant
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. Indehear
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. Indehear
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 PENTECOSTAL
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 Cirkse
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
Joyce Parker, 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 Richard 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
507-633-3099
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.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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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Blooming Prairie
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How shopping locally can help you and your community

Today’s consumers have more shopping options at their disposal than they did in years past. Though the Internet may put the world at one’s fingertips, more and more shoppers are discovering that buying locally makes for a superior shopping experience.

The benefits associated with shopping locally are many, and the following are just a few reasons why shoppers may want to look no further than their own communities when planning their next shopping excursions.

Keeps money in the local economy

Locally-owned businesses often put a larger share of their revenue back into their communities. Small business owners may be more inclined to employ local residents, giving more people in the community solid employment. Business owners may reach out and support other neighborhood efforts, such as fundraising initiatives for charities and schools. By shopping at local stores, you have a hand in supporting these efforts as well.

Save money

When factoring in travel time and the cost of fuel, shopping locally makes more sense than driving to a faraway mall. In addition, repeat customers who establish a rapport with a local business owner may find that such owners are more inclined to price match or work with loyal customers to find lower prices through suppliers.

Diversify your home and lifestyle

Shoppers who prefer more unique

styles may find local businesses cater to their needs better than large chain stores. Larger retailers offer the same products to customers regardless of where those customers live, so a person in California may be decorating his or her home with the same furnishings as a person in North Carolina. But local shops tend to produce more unique items that are not available nationwide.

Promote entrepreneurship

Small businesses are an essential element to the country’s economic growth. By shopping locally, consumers are showing their support for this important segment of the national economy.

Help establish local pride

Independent shops contribute to the fabric of a community and what makes it special and unique. Tourists and other visitors will be much more inclined to remember a local shop rather than a big chain in a particular neighborhood. When travelers want to get a feel for a community, they seek out small, local stores that are much more likely to stock a high percentage of locally-sourced goods.

Attract other businesses

Private and public sector businesses tend to gravitate around anchor stores. Should a local store be successful, banks, restaurants, salons, and other businesses may move in as well.

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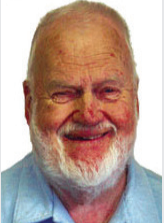
Hometown Sports

Blossoms finally win at Rushford

Fans probably got their fill of sports last week with playoff football and volleyball and section cross-country all on the schedule.

The football victory over Rushford-Peterson on the Trojan field was a most satisfying one, as it was the first win there in six attempts going all the way back to the early 2000. The win also gave the Blossoms another shot at Goodhue next Saturday at RCTC. It was a really weird game, but the Blossoms really did deserve the victory.

Despite a strong cold wind a week ago, the Awesome Blossoms had little



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

trouble pulling away from Southland. Sophomore Matthew Pryor had a breakout game, as he ran for a personal best 241 yards individually.

I thought both the offense and defense played well, despite the weather conditions. The offensive line opened nice holes for Pryor to run through, and the receivers also did a nice job blocking down field. The defense kept Southland pretty well bottled up, with Mitchell Oswald, especially, having a monster game.

One does have to give credit to the Rebels for their passing game, as they moved the ball through the air when a ground game was nonexistent for the visitors. In fact, even with the strong wind, neither quarterback suffered from it, as both Seth Peterson and Carl Mueller put up some impressive numbers through the air.

The BP volleyball team looked good last Monday in the sweep over Glenville-Emmons. They pretty much dominated the action, except for a little letdown in the second game. The play at the net was good and serving had a good percentage in this match.

The match at Grand Meadow, however, ended the season as the Blossoms lost three straight games. I know the girls were disappointed, but the team did finish above .500 and did provide fans some good stretches of play. Their determination all season, and the attitude with which they played is a tribute to the coach and the girls. A tip of the hat goes to the team.

Credit also goes to Alec Ille for earning a trip to the state cross-country meet for the third straight year. That sets a BP record that will stand for a long time. Both the boys and girls finished the season with a lot of success, and they are to be commended for their efforts and achievements. Some younger girls like Bobbie Bruns and Abby Smith also ran well and afford some optimism for the future.

Here and there
Now that almost two weeks have elapsed, the familiar odor of lutefisk has pretty much dissipated at First Lutheran Church, and normal routine and activity rules the hallways. From all indications, lutefisk lovers from here and surrounding states assuaged their desire for the beloved delicacy and went away stuffed (in some cases, over-stuffed).

Although the numbers have dwindled slightly through the years, as the ardent aficionados have slowly died away, the event is still popular around the entire area. This year approximately 1,400 hearty souls attended, and it still drew rave reviews as one of the best in this part of the state. I guess a tip of the hat is in order for the 100 or so volunteers who labored long hours to host the occasion and to all the hearty eaters who still enjoy the traditional Scandinavian treat(?).

Both Jennifer Wayne and McKenna Hein were featured on the Owatonna Live website last week with interesting interviews. Wayne talked about her tenure coaching 9th grade volleyball, and Hein discussed her experience as a three-sport athlete at BPHS. Thanks to both of the individuals for interesting information about them and the local sports scene.

Although I cover the local high school sports and manage to get to home contests, traveling out of town has become a hardship. That is why I tip my hat to the several local businesses that have been sponsoring Awesome Blossom football games on FM radio Kat Country 105. Local announcers Jason Iacovino and Brennen Toquam do a great job of describing the action, and if they come off somewhat as homers rooting for the Blossoms, that is fine with most listeners. Thanks businesses and our two announcers.

Some coming events will keep the community busy in the next two weeks, the annual wine tasting evening will be held at J & H Liquors on Thursday, Nov. 2, and just over a week later, the all-school musical will open a three-performance run on the BPHS stage. I hope everyone has made plans to attend both of those events. Enjoy this sudden change of weather, and we'll talk again.

FOOTBALL

Vigeland's interception helps Blossoms edge R-P in semis

BP advances to section finals Saturday

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Karson Vigeland intercepted only two passes all football season, but his second one undoubtedly proved the biggest of his career.

With Rushford-Peterson marching down the field in a desperate attempt to score and hang another disappointing loss on Blooming Prairie, Vigeland outfought a Trojan receiver in the end zone for a touchback and a well-earned 21-20 victory for the Blossoms.

The win on Saturday, Oct. 28, ended a string of Rushford-Peterson victories over the locals and moved the Blossoms into the Section 1A finals Saturday, against an old nemesis, Goodhue, in a 5 p.m. game. The Wildcats are the top seed in the section and sport a 10-0 record.

Goodhue defeated the Blossoms earlier in the season on its home field. BP's victory over the No. 2 seed Trojans had more weird events than a trip through a haunted house.

The most weird and by far the most frustrating happening took place with 8 seconds left in the first half when an intercepted pass from Lucas Noble turned into a R-P touchdown and a 12-7 halftime lead. Noble snatched a Trojan pass on the one-yard line, but on the second play from scrimmage, Max Romeo got caught in the end zone and fumbled the ball. Peyton Morrison fell on the ball for RP, and the disheartening turn of events stunned the Blossoms. The two-point conversion try was stuffed for the extra point, but the damage was done.

It could have broken the spirit of the Blossoms, but the team came out fired up in the third quarter to score twice and take a 21-12 lead. After the defense forced a Trojan punt, the locals mounted a 78-yard drive that culminated in a Seth Peterson to Colin Lerum pass for 16 yards and the touchdown. Staska kicked the extra point for a 14-12 edge.

A short time later Gabe Hagen outreached a R-P receiver for an interception on the home team's 30. Five plays later Peterson found Matthew Pryor in a screen pass, and he fought his way 13 yards into the end zone. Staska again sailed the extra point kick through the cross bar with plenty to spare (he has kicked 8 of his last ten point -after tries) for the 21-12 margin.

The Trojans fought back quickly on an 80-yard drive highlighted by two long pass

plays and a BP penalty that took the ball to the Blossom 30. Ethan Hermanson somehow got away from Blossom tacklers and twisted 30 yards into the end zone less than a minute into the fourth quarter. Ethan Sense ran the outside for the two-point conversion, and R-P trailed just 21-20. That set up the last minute heroics by Vigeland and the winners' defense.

BP had scored the first touchdown on its third possession, triggered by two long runs for Peterson and an 8-yard burst by Romeo. Peterson ran the last 12 yards for the score, and Staska kicked the first of his three extra points.

Hermanson got RP on the board in the second quarter on a 20-yard run, but the extra-point kick sailed wide. The score stayed that way until those tragic last 8 seconds of the half. It is not too often that a team can survive four turnovers and win, but the Blossoms had two

passes intercepted and fumbled the ball away twice; yet the defense made victory possible.

As Coach Chad Gimbel remarked, "We have to give most of the credit to the defense for this one. They shut down the R-P running game almost completely and forced several minus runs in the process. It feels awfully good finally to get a victory on the Trojan field, and we will cherish this win for at least a couple of days."

BLOOMING PRAIRIE	7	0	14	0	= 21
RUSHFORD-PETERSON	0	12	0	8	= 20
BP RUSHING 220 YARDS- PETERSON 17 FOR 115 YARDS; ROMEO 10 FOR 80					
BP PASSING 156 YARDS- WOLF 4 FOR 55 YARDS; PRYOR 2 FOR 28; LERUM 4 FOR 29.					



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Blossoms junior Colin Lerum blasts through several Southland defenders during the quarterfinal football contest Oct. 24 in Blooming Prairie. The Blossoms easily knocked off Southland 54-22 before narrowly upsetting Rushford-Peterson 21-20 to qualify for section finals Saturday in Rochester.

BP knocks off Southland, earns a rematch in semis

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After putting down the Southland Rebels in quarterfinal action, the Awesome Blossom football team looked forward to a rematch at Rushford-Peterson in a semi-final contest in Section 1A.

Blooming Prairie raced to a 40-14 halftime lead over the visitors at McFarlin Field Tuesday, Oct. 23, to move into the semi-finals of the playoffs. The winner of that game would play for the section title in Rochester.

Colin Lerum recovered a Southland fumble on the second play of the ball game, and an interference penalty on the first play from the 23 put the ball on the one. Matthew Pryor scored the first of his five touchdowns in what was a real coming out party for the sophomore running back. Pryor gashed the Southland defense for 241 yards in the game, and he had runs from 73 yards to 1 yard.

A short drive on the ensuing kickoff looked promising for the Rebels, but a penalty stopped the drive on downs. On the first play from scrimmage Pryor twisted and turned 73 yards for a second touchdown and a 14-0 lead at the six-minute mark. A fumbled punt attempt from the losers led to a short kick to their own 38.

On the second play quarterback Seth Peterson found Karson Vigeland in the corner of the end zone for 33 yards and the touchdown. Brad Staska's kick sailed wide, but BP had a 20-point first quarter.

BP stopped a Southland drive on a screen pass sniffed out by Mitchell Fiebiger, and on the first play for the Blossoms Pryor this time dashed 66 yards to the six and two plays later counted his fourth touchdown of the game. As Coach Chad Gimbel pointed out, "Pryor had a heck of a coming party tonight. He ran well, but he got great help from the offensive line and the receivers blocking downfield for him."

A strong cold wind blew throughout the game, but it didn't seem to bother the quarterback. Rebel quarterback Carl Mueller went 21 for 38, with 360 yards and 3 touchdowns, and Peterson completed 12 of 19 passes for 196 yards and two scores.

Southland finally scored in that second quarter on a pass from Mueller to Lee Wilson, and they counted another touchdown as time ran out in the first half when Mueller found Jared Landherr. In between those scores, BP counted two more touchdowns. Peterson found Payton Simon for 14 yards and a touchdown midway through the second quarter, and a screen pass to Pryor set up another score with just a minute remaining before the break.

Action slowed up in the second half. The Rebels scored as the third quarter was winding down on another pass from Mueller to Landherr, but the Blossoms counted seven points on a 23-yard pass to Gabe Hagen and a good kick for the extra point, and Pryor scored his fifth touchdown of the game in the last quarter when he ran 14 yards. Brad Staska counted his fifth extra point kick in the game, and the winners had their 54-22. victory.

"I thought their quarterback threw the ball well," concluded Coach Gimbel, "but Peterson also did a good job of moving guys around with his eyes and then coming back to find open receivers. It was a good win on a rather miserable night."

BLOOMING PRAIRIE	20	20	7	7	= 54
SOUTHLAND	0	14	8	0	= 22
BP TOTAL YARDS 483- RUSHING YARDS 287; PASSING 196, PETERSON 12 OF 19					
SOUTHLAND 312- RUSHING YARDS 12; PASSING 360					
BP RUSHING – PRYOR 241 YARDS					
BP PASSING SIMON 4 FOR 83 YARDS, HAGEN 3 FOR 20					

CROSS COUNTRY

BP's Ille back to state in cross-country

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

BPHS senior Alec Ille earned his third straight trip to the state cross-country meet, as he finished fifth individually in the Section 1A meet at Northern Hills course in Rochester on Thursday, Oct. 26.

His third trip sets a school record for most appearances at the state meet.

Ille ran one of his best races of the year in timing a 17:06 over the demanding course. The boys' team finished 13th of 23 teams entered in this meet, which is touted as one of the best sections in the state. The BP girls placed 16th in the meet.

In addition to Ille's great run, Cameron Kubista also ended in the top 15 runners with a 17:52.2 time. Isaac Ille ran under 20 minutes

at 19:39.8, and ninth grader Brian Jimenez ran an inspired race and improved his best time by over a minute, timing a 20:05.6. Of the 14 runners who competed for BPHS, 10 of them recorded personal best times.

For the girls, lead runner Bobbie Bruns competed in the meet, although still hampered a little from a sprained ankle suffered in the conference meet a week ago. Seventh grader Abby Smith finished first on the team in 23:02, with Bruns timing a 23:13 for second. Senior Jerrin Jax came in third on the team with a 23:34.7.

"This was quite an accomplishment," commented Coach John Bruns. "To have 10 of our 14 runners time personal bests says a lot about the individual runners and the success of the program. I am proud of every one of the competitors."

NRHEG runs at Blue Earth
Panther runner Daniel Nydegger ran a

personal best at the Section 2A meet at Blue Earth Area Thursday, Oct. 26, in timing an 18:40.2. Ben Lower followed Nydegger closely with an 18:55.0, and Kollin Reese timed a 20:01.4. Agro Gushwa and Gavin Anderson finished with 20:39.9 and 22:32.9. The team finished 18th of 22 teams.

Madisyn Buetel again led the Panther girls with a 22:09.56. Jade Mely timed a 23:21, and Mia Williams ran a 26:29. Both Buetel and Mely lowered their times in this meet by a minute.

As coach Mike Weber commented, "Despite the gale wind, the boys and girls both competed in top form. Nydegger ran a personal best for the boys, with Lower close behind. I couldn't be more proud of all the boys for their efforts this season. The girls finished their season on a high, with all three girls recording personal bests. We always hope for good results, and it all kind of came together in this last meet of the season."

VOLLEYBALL

NRHEG upsets Alden-Conger in playoffs

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The NRHEG volleyball team earned a mild upset in section 2A volleyball with a five-game victory over No. 3 seed Alden-Conger at Alden Thursday, Oct. 26. The teams traded wins over the first four games, but the Panthers prevailed in the deciding game 15-8.

NRHEG won the first game 25-19, with some stellar play at the net, but the Knights came back for a 25-15 win in game two. The Panthers won a closely played third game 25-20, but AC rebounded again for a 25-21 fourth game victory and a match- deciding fifth game. NRHEG pulled away early in that game.

Olivia Christopherson and Alexis Anderson both pounded down 13 kills in the match, and Betsy Schoenrock had 6 ace blocks and 5 kills to help the panther cause. Christopherson added 23 digs in the match, and Laura Worrell and Hannah Budach handed out 18 and 16 assists. NRHEG will play No. 2 seeded St. Clair tonight (Tuesday), at St. Peter.

As Coach Onika Peterson remarked, "We were hoping to be playing our best at playoff time, and I think we achieved that goal. The girls fought hard for every point, and I am really proud of the girls and their efforts."

NRHEG SWEEPS

NRHEG opened its playoff run with a three-game sweep over Springfield on the Panther court Tuesday, Oct. 22. The hosts had little trouble in the match, winning 25-8, 25-15, and 25-16.

The girls passed the ball very well tonight", commented Coach Peterson, "which allowed us to be aggressive at the net. It was a good team win for opening playoff action.."

Olivia Christopherson led the Panthers with 13 kills, and Kelly Harden and Alexis Anderson added 8 and 5. Sydney Schlinger scrambled for 26 digs in the match, and Laura Worrel and Hannah Budach set 14 and 11 assists respectively. Schlinger led the servers with 18 points, and Anderson added 15.

Sweep by GM ends Blossoms' volleyball season

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

After sweeping Glenville-Emmons earlier in the week, the Awesome Blossom volleyball had the tables turned on them and lost three straight at Grand Meadow Thursday, Oct. 26. The loss left the Blossoms with a 14-12 season record.

The Superlarks wasted no time in the match, as Jordyn Glynn ran off 11 straight serving points in a 16-1 lead in game one. The winners took the game 25-5. BP came back strong in game two and led 18-15, before Grand Meadow regrouped and counted 10 of the next 11 points in a 25-19 victory. The hosts took game three 25-16.

McKenna Hein led the Blossoms with 8 kills and 9 digs, and Aryen Ingvalson and Sam Wurst both contributed 4 kills. Heather PirkI handed out 17 assists, and Julia Worke added 2 kills and 5 digs. Although a disappointing finish to the season, Coach Ranell Kittelson was quick to give credit to the girls for their continued determination, their attitude, and their team play through the season.

Girls take 3 over G-E

The Awesome Blossom team earned an easy three-game sweep over Glenville-Emmons on the home court Monday, Oct. 22. The quarterfinal win in the Sub-Section 1A playoffs earned them a shot at No. 3 seeded Grand Meadow on Thursday.

"This was a good win in opening round play," remarked Coach Kittelson. "Our overall play was good, although we fell apart a little in the second game. We had a chance for some girls who don't usually get to see much action to get some minutes in the match, and that is always good."

Sam Wurst, McKenna Hein, and Julia Worke had 7, 5, and 4 kills, with Worke also serving 3 aces in the match. Micalyn Trihus served 7 points in game one, Heather PirkI had 5 in game two and Worke and Asha Thostenson combined for 9 points in the game three victory. Hein added 7 digs, and PirkI set up 19 assists.

Halftime Show



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Members of the Owatonna Dance Team dazzled the crowd with their dance routine during the halftime show at Saturday's semifinal football game against Austin. This is the first year in several years that the dance team has competed in Owatonna.

FOOTBALL

Huskies advance to section finals



STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna running back Jason Williamson (22) carries the ball and fights through a group of Austin Packers defenders during Saturday night's semifinal contest in Owatonna. Williamson was all over the field as he carried the ball 40 times for 288 yards and four touchdowns. His efforts helped the Huskies defeat Austin 62-41. Owatonna now plays Rochester Century in the section finals Friday night in Owatonna.

Owatonna cruises to 62-41 win over Austin

The Owatonna Huskies football team cruised to a 62-41 victory over the Austin Packers in Section 1-5A semifinals Saturday night in Owatonna.

Saturday's game proved to be much different than the meeting earlier this season between the two teams. Owatonna crushed Austin 58-0 in regular season play.

The victory improved Owatonna's season record to 8-1. Austin ended its season with a 5-5 record.

This is the fourth time in five years that Owatonna ended Austin's season.

The Huskies' big players came up huge in this latest victory. Running back Jason Williamson carried the ball 40 times for 288 yards and four touchdowns. Huskies' quarterback Abe Havelka passed for 213 yards and five touchdowns. On four of them, Havelka connected with Noah Budach.

Owatonna led 7-0 after the first quarter. The second quarter, especially the final minutes, proved to be a see-saw battle between the two squads. With less than five minutes, Austin scored 20 points compared to Owatonna's 7. Both teams scored four touchdowns each in the second quarter. The Huskies led 35-27 at halftime.

The Huskies slowly pulled away from the Packers in the second half to win by three touchdowns.

In the other semifinal game, the Rochester Century Panthers pulled off a stunning 14-12 upset over the Northfield Raiders in Northfield Saturday. The Panthers had a 3-5 record during the regular season while the Raiders had been unbeaten, including a victory over Owatonna.

The Panthers travel to Owatonna for the Section title game Friday at 7 p.m. Earlier this season, the Huskies rolled to a 46-7 victory over Rochester Century.

SCORING SUMMARY



Huskies junior Matt Segler (5) attempts to blast past a couple Austin defenders with the ball in the semifinal game Saturday. Despite a close first half, Owatonna pulled away from Austin in the second half to easily win 62-31.

OWATONNA	7	28	13	14	—	62
AUSTIN	0	27	7	7	—	41

OWATONNA STATS

RUSHING- 333; PASSING- 213; PENALTIES 11-FOR-125

FIRST QUARTER

O— NOAH BUDACH 6 PASS FROM ABE HAVELKA (JOSH NELSON KICK) 9:04

SECOND QUARTER

A— JOE SEEMAN 22 RUN (ANDREW SCHUMACHER KICK) 11:41

O— BUDACH 10 PASS FROM HAVELKA (NELSON KICK) 10:01

O— JASON WILLIAMSON 6 RUN (NELSON KICK) 7:16

O— WILLIAMSON 15 RUN (NELSON KICK) 4:34

A— GAVIN OWENS 14 PASS FROM TATE HEBRINK (SCHUMACHER KICK) 4:02

O— ALEX RAICHLE 32 PASS FROM HAVELKA (NELSON KICK) 2:59

A— LUKE HAWKSHEAD 22 PASS FROM HEBRINK (PASS FAILED) 1:39

A— HEBRINK 5 RUN (SCHUMACHER KICK) :29

THIRD QUARTER

O— BUDACH 10 PASS FROM HAVELKA (RUN FAILED) 3:51

A— OWENS 40 PASS FROM HEBRINK (SCHUMACHER KICK) 3:01

O— BUDACH 33 PASS FROM HAVELKA (NELSON KICK) 1:32

FOURTH QUARTER

O— WILLIAMSON 1 RUN (NELSON KICK) 5:26

A— OWENS 18 PASS FROM HEBRINK (SCHUMACHER KICK) 4:02

O— WILLIAMSON 42 RUN (NELSON KICK) 2:16

NRHEG comes back to win in playoff opener

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

NRHEG trailed LeSueur-Henderson 20-14 at the half, but the Panthers dominated second half action on the way to a 36-23 victory over the Giants. The home quarterfinal victory on Tuesday, Oct. 24, earned the Panthers a return contest at Maple River on Saturday.

"I was very impressed," remarked coach Dan Stork, "how the guys settled down and adjusted after being down 20-6 in the first half. Perry Peterson had a standout game, carrying the ball 44 times for 270 yards and 4 touchdowns. He simply would not be denied."

Jared Miller got the visitors on the board just under two minutes into the game with a 52-yard gallop, but NRHEG came back early in the second quarter with Peterson's first touchdown run of 14 yards. With seven minutes left in the half, Miller scored again for the Giants on an 8-yard burst, and they increased the lead to 20-6 on Miller's third touchdown run, this time on a 20-yard effort.

Just 52 seconds before the break, the Panthers narrowed the margin, when Peterson capped a drive from 7 yards out. His two-point conversion run made the score 20-14 and gave the home team new life.

The second half would be all NRHEG. Less than four minutes into the third quarter, the Panthers would take their first lead of the game, when Peterson

burst through for five yards and the score. His second two-point conversion run put the winners up 22-20. Peterson widened the lead with just 27 seconds left in the quarter on his fourth touchdown run, good for 11 yards this time.

Halfway through the final quarter Matthew Plieseis kicked 34-yard field goal, but NRHEG counted a last touchdown, when Jake stork sneaked for 2 yards with just over a minute left. A two-point conversion pass from Peterson to Cole Staloch made the final score.

In summary, Coach Stork commented, " I am very happy for the team. The guys have been through a lot this season, but they continue to play hard and leave it all on the field. We are glad to get another shot at Maple River."

Steele County Times 2017 Football Contest

Football Contest Rules

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

How to win: Pick the team you think will win each game listed in the below advertisements. Write the team's name in the blank with the corresponding number. Cut out the entry blank and enter to: Steele County Times, P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or drop off at our office at 411 E. Main St. in Blooming Prairie. You may enter in person, mail or by e-mail to bpstimes@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 Keith Stark with 2 wrong.



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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 THE 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: \$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 the 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
MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100969901641507013
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

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.
HVVISTENDAHL, 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED PROJECT AND THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE REFUNDING NOTES UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 475 AND SECTIONS 469.152 THROUGH 469.165, AS AMENDED, ON BEHALF OF STEELE COUNTY COMMUNITIES FOR A LIFETIME, INC. COUNTY OF STEELE, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Commissioners of the Steele County, Minnesota (the "County"), will meet on November 14, 2017, at 5:30 P.M., at the County Offices, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a proposal that the County issue its revenue refunding note (the "Note"), in one or more series, under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475 and Sections 469.152 through 469.165, as amended, in order to finance, on behalf of Steele County Communities for a Lifetime, Inc., its successors and assigns, a project consisting of the (i) the refinancing of the County's \$10,000,000 Nursing Facility Revenue Refunding Note (Steele County Communities for a Lifetime Koda Living Community Project), Series 2011, dated as originally issued as of September 29, 2011, issued on behalf of the Corporation, the proceeds of which were used to finance the acquisition and construction of a 79-bed replacement skilled nursing facility known as the "Koda Living Community" located on the Owatonna Healthcare Campus; and (ii) financing costs of issuance with respect to the revenue refunding notes (the "Project").

The approximate aggregate principal amount of the proposed note issue is \$9,415,000. The Note shall be a limited obligation of the County, and the Note and interest thereon shall be payable solely from the revenue pledged to the payment thereof. No holder of any such Note shall ever have the right to compel any exercise of the taxing power of the County to pay the Note or the interest thereon, nor to enforce payment against any property of the County except the property pledged to the payment thereof. Before issuing the Note, the County will enter into an agreement with the Corporation whereby the Corporation will be obligated to make payments at least sufficient at all times to pay the principal of and interest on the Note when due.

All persons interested may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above, or may file written comments with the County Auditor prior to the date of the hearing set forth above.

Dated: October 31, 2017.

/s/ Board Chair

Attest:

/s/ County Auditor

10/31

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

FORECLOSURE

12-081815

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 1, 2008 **ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:** \$127,806.00 **MORTGAGOR(S):** Brandon L. Klemmensen and Aana E. Spurgeon, both single persons **MORTGAGEE:** Advisor's Mortgage, LLC **LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE:** Advisor's Mortgage, LLC **SERVICER:** JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. **DATE AND PLACE OF FILING:**

Filed May 2, 2008, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000356965, Thereafter modified by a Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 22, 2014 as document number A000399216

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.; Dated: May 1, 2008 filed: May 2, 2008, recorded as document number A000356966

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Commencing at a point 2 rods West and 1384 feet South of the Northeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 106 North, Range 20 West , thence West 142 feet to the East line of the Right of Way of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway; thence Southwest along said Right of Way line 130 feet, thence East approximately 162 feet to the West line of Highway, being a point 1512 feet directly South of the North line of said Northwest Quarter, thence North along the West line of Highway to the point of commencement. Subject to easements of record. Except: The North 66 feet thereof **PROPERTY ADDRESS:** 9184 37th Ave SW, Hope, MN 56046 **PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** 05-030-4202 **COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED:** Steele **THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE:** \$124,729.82

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: December 21, 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 June 21, 2018, or the next business day if June 21, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: October 24, 2017

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

10/31, 11/7, 11/14 11/21, 11/28, 12/5

POSTPONEMENT

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:** November 22, 2010

MORTGAGOR: Ronald G Dagit and Shirley A Pichner as trustees of the Pichner/Dagit Family Trust Dated 10-17-2005. **MORTGAGEE:** Bank of America, N.A..

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded December 7, 2010 Steele County Recorder, Document No. A000375225.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: NONE **TRANSACTION AGENT:** NONE **TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE:** NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Bank of America, N.A. **RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER:** Bank of America, N.A.

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 315 Academy Street, Owatonna, MN 55060 **TAX PARCEL I.D. #:** 17-010-3217

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The East Four (4) rods of Sub-Lot Ten (10) in the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 on Section 10, Township 107, Range 20 West **COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED:** Steele **ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:** \$48,000.00 **AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE:** \$45,812.20

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:** September 15, 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 March 15, 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: July 12, 2017

Bank of America, N.A. 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 18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until October 20, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: September 20, 2017.

Bank of America, N.A. 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 18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until December 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM at the Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: October 23, 2017.

Bank of America, N.A. 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 18 - 17-004264 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

10/31

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 10/12/2017 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- The Board conducted individual interviews with Scott Golberg and Jennifer Bromeland, candidates for County Administrator.
- The Board reconvened at 11:02 a.m.
- Gnemi/Krueger to offer the position of County Administrator to Scott Golberg and to authorize Commissioner Krueger and Interim Administrator Jan Fransen to negotiate a contract. Three Commissioners voting in favor thereof, Commissioner Abbe voting against and Commissioner Glynn absent and not voting.
- Krueger/Abbe to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 11:19 a.m. Ayes all.

10/31

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 10/10/17 Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

- Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- Krueger/Gnemi to approve the agenda.
 - Approve the September 26, 2017 Special Board Minutes.
 - Approve the Bills with changes.
 - Approve Personnel Report.
 - Accept Internal Central Services Minutes.
 - Glynn/Krueger to approve the FY 2018 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Steele County in the amount of \$54,900.64. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Abbe to approve Streamline Communication's estimate #367 for additional network cabling and existing cable testing and certifying at the Courthouse. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Gnemi to approve Streamline Communication's estimate #368 to purchase a 48" Lockable Network Cabinet and ladder rack for wiring at the Courthouse. Ayes all.
 - Krueger/Gnemi to approve Sound System change orders from AV Systems Inc for the integration of the live audio feed in Courtrooms A, B and C with the condition that the State of Minnesota agrees to pay \$1,450.35 towards Courtroom B. Upon the vote being taken four Commissioner voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Abbe voting against.
 - Gnemi/Glynn to approve the bill for a right of way permit at the tax forfeited property located at 408 Chestnut Ave., Owatonna. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Krueger to appoint Kellyanna J. Moore as the County Coroner through January 7, 2019 and to set the monthly stipend at \$3,000 per month effective January 1, 2018. Ayes all.
 - Krueger/Abbe approve replacing the Legal Administrative Assistant in the County Attorney's office due to a retirement. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Gnemi offered a Resolution relating to the project and the issuance of revenue refunding notes under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475 and Sections 469.152 through 469.165, as amended, on behalf of Steele County Communities for a Lifetime, Inc.: calling a public hearing thereon for November 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
 - Gnemi/Glynn to approve the Power 7 (AS400) Operating System Upgrade by CPS Technology Solutions in the amount of \$4,995. Ayes all.
 - Krueger/Gnemi to approve the following ditch levies of 2018: JD #1-2%; JD #2-4.5%; JD #6-.50%; JD #10-18%; JD #11-3%; JD #23-5%; JD #24-7%; CD #1-1%; CD#1, CH BR-20%; CD #2-1%; CD #4-.50%; CD #5-.90%; CD #20-3%; CD #21-.25%; CD #22-2%; CD #24-6%; CD #27-10%; PTD #7-.50%; PTD #8-20%; PTD #11-12%' PTD #17-12%. Ayes all.
 - Glynn/Gnemi to approve eliminating the mail courier's 7:45 a.m. stop at the Administration building on Tuesdays-Fridays. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS 10/10/2017

Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	8,434.49
Allstream	2,818.53
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	6,203.81
Central Farm Services	2,001.94
City of Medford	5,000.00
City of Owatonna	2,412.08
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,455.00
Country Acoustics LLC	8,200.00
Crane Creek Asphalt	6,841.67
CRK Properties LLC	5,254.00
Custom Communications Inc	2,801.15
Faribo Plumbing & Heating Inc	4,400.00
Four Seasons Centre	4,250.00
Fransen HR Consulting LLC	9,650.00
Hansen Excavation Inc	7,166.30
Innovative Office Solutions LLC	2,147.53
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	8,536.05
Kwik Trip Inc	4,361.02
MEI Total Elevator Solutions	5,979.75
Owatonna Public Utilities	28,609.73
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	3,427.74
Southern MN Construction Co Inc	2,773.90
Summit Food Service Management	11,861.29
Temple Electric Motor Service Inc	3,763.00
Univ of Mn Regents	13,116.00
153 Warrants under \$2,000	57,943.86
Total:	\$ 222,408.84

Motion by Commissioner Gnemi, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 5:44 p.m. Ayes all.

10/31

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

OWNER - ISD #756 Blooming Prairie School District 202 4th Avenue NW Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

PROJECT - The work shall consist of an LED lighting upgrade for Blooming Prairie High School (202 4th Avenue NW) and Blooming Prairie Elementary School (123 2nd Street NW).

TIME - Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. local time, on Wednesday November 15, 2017 in the District Office (202 4th Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917).

MANDATORY PRE-BID WALK-THROUGH - Thursday, November 9th, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at ISD #756 Blooming Prairie Schools District Office.

TIME OF COMPLETION

Project Start Date: January 15, 2018

Final Completion: March 31, 2018

BID SUBMITTAL - All bids shall be addressed to ISD #756 Blooming Prairie School District, Attn: Superintendent Barry Olson. Bids shall be sealed and shall have the name and address of the bidder and the contract for which the bid is being submitted on the outside of the envelope. "LED Project Bid" should also be written on the outside of the envelope. All bidders shall bid in accordance with and upon the Bid Forms included in the contract documents.

PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS - Copies of the contract documents will be distributed at the required pre-bid walk-through.

BID SECURITY - No bid shall be received unless accompanied by a performance bond and payment bond equal to the amount of the bid. If the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the contract, performance and payment bonds, and insurance certification, as required by the contract documents, within ten (10) days after the Notice of Award.

BID REJECTION - The OWNER reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding or to accept the bid or bids which best serves the interests of the Blooming Prairie School District.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS - No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 45-days after the scheduled opening without the consent of the OWNER.

BID DOCUMENTS - Bid documents are available through Barry Olson at the District Office, 202 4th Avenue NW Blooming Prairie, MN 55917, and at bolson@blossoms.k12.mn.us.

Published by the authority of ISD #756 Blooming Prairie School District

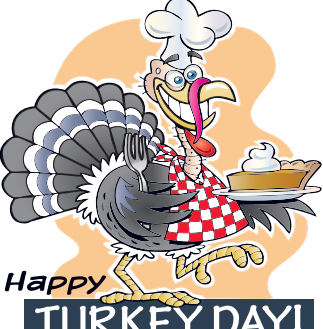
Barry Olson Superintendent ISD #756 Blooming Prairie Schools 10/31, 11/7

It's Gobble time...
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As a way to show their appreciation to customers, several Blooming Prairie businesses are giving away turkeys just in time for your Thanksgiving dinner!

Happy Thanksgiving from your friendly Blooming Prairie merchants!



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Contest rules:

- Clip registration coupon from newspaper and enter at each of the businesses listed. Only coupons from newspaper will be accepted.
- Entries will be accepted until 12 Noon on Thursday, Nov. 16.
- Drawings will be held and turkey winners contacted by Friday, Nov. 17.
- Winners will be awarded 15-pound turkey from Vandal's Family Market in Blooming Prairie.
- Happy Turkey Day!



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

HENEFIELD & IACOVINO
Attorneys at Law

Frank Heneffeld, Attorney
Frank.bplaw@gmail.com

Jason Iacovino, Attorney
Jason.bplaw@gmail.com

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DDS, MBS

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Hometown Living

BP Village Affair attracts one of biggest crowds in 45 years



Susan Heard of Austin displays her handmade baby sweaters at the Village Affair craft show in Blooming Prairie Saturday, Oct. 28. She has been crocheting and sweaters for the past 35 years. ON THE FRONT: Jozie Klimmek, 9, of Hartland, found a winter stocking hat to her liking at the 45th Annual Village Affair bazaar in Blooming Prairie last Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"The people just kept on coming, kept on coming and coming," said a delighted Pam Folkens when assessing the success of the 2017 Village Affair last Saturday at the Blooming Prairie High School.

Hundreds of shoppers of all ages visited the show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Folkens said Village Affair attendance spiked from about 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. "People use this event as a meeting place to connect; it's a real gathering," Folkens continued.

Folkens, representing the AAUW, said 80 exhibitors participated in the show and 137 spaces were rented. "This year's crowd was one of the biggest in the history of the Village Affair," she related. Mandy Doocy, representing the Women of Today, was co-chair of the event with Folkens.

The 45th annual Village Affair featured many hand-crafted items. Many items were unique and one of a kind.

Some of the items included: jewelry of all kinds; kids toys, night lights and lamps; soaps, candles, wax melts, goat milk soaps, lip balm, deodorant; home decor, florals, centerpieces; purses, sweatshirts, caps and

wind chimes; holiday decor for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; Rosemaling, Norwegian theme pottery; unique clothing and accessories for women and youth.

Wood items included a large assortment of hand-made wooden toys, barns, rocking horses, trucks, cutting boards, coat racks, stools, serving trays, small wood crafts, snowmen, signs, repurposed barn wood, decorated windows, bird houses and feeders, doll beds, seasonal wood decor, wreaths, swags, wood fire hand-painted signs and planters, signs and small furniture.

Some of the wood items were displayed outdoors by the main entrance to the school. A kettle corn stand manned by Jeff Otte and Don Finken of Sauk Centre was also a popular seller. All ages were drawn to this munch snack.

The local AAUW (American Association of University Women) and the Women of Today sponsored the show.

Folkens and Doocy said vendors were very happy with sales at the Village Affair. "We sold out on concessions and served more lunches than ever before," Folkens said.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group was selling homemade baked goods and had a thriving business. Amy Trotman,

Joann Nielsen and Sue Nelson were minding the booth. Lefse was a popular offering from the BP Cancer Group.

A raffle featured a Minnesota basket of goodies as the main prize. Kari Bottin won the basket, which included all Minnesota items from wild rice to home-made table runners. Other items included honey, maple syrup, Costa's Candies, subscription to the Steele County Times, Caribou Coffee certificate, music cassettes by Minnesota musicians, Minnesota cookbooks, jellies, jams and items from the Timberwolves, Twins and Minnesota Wild.

Folkens and Doocy both praised the 20-25 volunteer workers from both the AAUW and Women of Today. Funds from the event are directed to scholarships next spring. Students are encouraged to apply in April. The awards go to traditional and non-traditional students.

The 2017 event had no more than closed its doors than vendors were asking to sign up for next year. Folkens said signups will begin closer to the date of the 2018 show.

If anyone is interested in returning as a vendor in 2018, contact the Village Affair Facebook page, or call Pam Folkens at 507-391-4336.

BP School Board ratifies teacher contract

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Two affirmative votes led to the ratification of a two-year teachers contract for Blooming Prairie School District 756.

After several months of negotiations with representatives of the Blooming Prairie School District Board of education, teachers voted on Sept. 28 by a 40-7 margin to approve a contract proposal agreed upon by teams from the teaching and administrative sides.

The teacher negotiators included Kurt Foster, Jennifer Thomas, Angie Carlson and Amy Ostrander. Foster was the chair of the teachers' negotiating team.

The BP School Board followed suit on Oct. 16, ratifying the contract by a 5-0 vote. Board members Jon Sunde, Jenny Thurnau and Kelly Braaten were on the negotiations team and cast "yes" votes as did Steve Ille and Pam Hameister.

Board members Rodney Krell and Michelle Vigeland abstained on the vote due to having family members on the BP teaching staff.

Superintendent Barry Olson led the school board team. He was a lead negotiator for Owatonna teachers for six years before coming to Blooming Prairie, and thus has served on both sides of the negotiations spectrum. He has been involved in 10 negotiation settlements in Blooming Prairie.

The 2018-19 contract approved in Blooming Prairie represents a 6.44 percent increase for two years. This includes the full package of taxes and benefits. For teaching salary only, the increases were 2.1 percent the first year and 2.25 percent the second year.

The contract covers 59.8 teaching positions.

The contract settlement recognizes a small increase in insurance and a \$300 increase on the base pay for coaches.

Personal day language was also tweaked in this contact and other contract language was cleaned up, Olson said.

"It comes down to money and I think the settlement was very good and very fair for both sides," said Superintendent

Olson. Chairman Foster agreed with that assessment, saying the BP district compares very favorably with other school districts of its size.

Foster said negotiations went well and the teachers were "pretty pleased with the outcome.

"We compare well with other districts in southeastern Minnesota and are near the top," Foster commented. Foster, in his 11th year of teaching in Blooming Prairie, says a common goal of both sides is to provide the best education possible for district students.

Olson said this year's staff is the largest in the past 10 years, and mainly because of the elementary enrollment going up. Elementary Principal Chris Staloch lists the elementary enrollment at 419 and high school Principal John Worke reports enrollment at 308. Total enrollment is listed at 727.

The two-year settlement features a change in the 403-B match retirement plan, increasing it to \$2,016 for a senior level teacher.

The contract is already in effect for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Olson says finding teachers will be challenging in upcoming years. Starting salary for a beginning teacher in Blooming Prairie is \$37,278.

"For education to improve, compensation has to improve," Olson believes. "Until we get funded, there will be a shortage of teachers," he pointed out.

"We need to provide quality education and in order to do that, we must pay them," Olson reasoned.

Comparing outstate school districts with the Twin Cities, Olson said the Twin Cities teachers earn about 10 percent more. "There's a difference in cost of living, too," he added.

The total compensation package for teachers with a BA plus 40 and nine years of experience is \$80,670.

More negotiations will begin in late winter or early spring with para professionals, custodians and administration staff, said Olson.

School secretaries and paras are not part of a union. Custodians (4) and administrators (3) have their own unions.

Historical Society seeks entertainment for holiday show

The Steele County Historical Society is currently seeking entertainment for Christmas in the Village, a historic holiday spectacular held the first weekend in December.

The event offers a wide range of musical talent – everything from solos to choirs, horns to strings—in the History Center, the Dunnell House and the Saco Church.

In addition to the musical entertainment, there will be a soup supper, crafts for the kids, holiday characters, face painting, horse and wagon rides and more.

Christmas in the Village will be held Friday, Dec. 1, 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Village of Yesteryear and the History Center.

If you are interested in performing during Christmas in the Village please contact Gloria Coulter at 507-676-6537 or 507-451-4274.

Happy New Year, 4-H style



Steele Talkin'
MELISSA KOCH

Happy New Year! 4-H New Year, that is. As the fall weather starts to appear so does the new 4-H year with 4-H youth members starting to enroll for the 2017-2018 4-H year. A plan for programming around the county is being penciled in for the oncoming year such as after school clubs, project trainings, leadership activities to name a few. Keep an eye on

our University of Minnesota Extension Steele County website for updates and plan to join us at an event <http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/steele>.

Because today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, 4-H is Minnesota's largest youth-serving program providing young people with access to positive youth development and leadership programs in all 87 counties.

In 4-H, youth design and participate in their own education and activities, from raising dairy cows to building rockets or writing musical plays. This unique, learn-by-doing model teaches kids essential skills needed to succeed in life, such as problem-solving, decision-making, coping, communicating and responding to the needs of others.

Research shows that youth programs are not just nice, but they are necessary for the learning and development of young people today. Youth engaged in quality learning opportunities get better grades, attend school more, score higher on achievement tests, and grow socially and emotionally. Consistent participation in high quality afterschool programs can increase math achievement scores more than reducing class size. A 2009 Tufts University national study on positive youth development found that 4-H youth are:

- More likely to be civically active and contribute to their communities.
 - 47 percent less likely to have risky or problem behaviors.
 - Have better grades and are more emotionally engaged in school.
 - More likely to see themselves go to college.
 - More likely to have features of positive youth development including: competence, connection, character and caring.
- 4-H is delivered throughout Minnesota in urban, suburban and rural communities. With 130,000 annual youth participants, 4-H reaches nearly 13 percent of all Minnesota youth between the ages of 5-19. And, each year 12,000 adult volunteers contribute more than 1.1 million hours of service to support the positive development of Minnesota's youth.
- If you want to know more about project, events, or activities, ask your local 4-H leaders or call the Extension office 507-444-7685. For enrollment information check out this link <http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/4honline/>.

Melissa Koch is the 4-H program coordinator for Steele County. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

County approves contract for new administrator

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After serving as the county's environmental services director for many years, Scott Golberg began a new venture Monday. He's now the county administrator responsible for running the entire county.

The Steele County Board unanimously approved Golberg's contract Oct. 24. He will be paid \$107,182 per year. He was previously making \$84,588 in his old position.

In addition to salary, Golberg will also receive paid time off and holidays according to the non-union employee structure. He will also be given the same group hospital, medical, dental, life and disability benefits provided to all other non-union employees.

Under the terms of the contract, Golberg will be given a six-month and annual performance reviews. If he receives a satisfactory review, Golberg will be awarded a one-step increase after six months and another one-step increase next October.

Golberg's new contract also calls for professional development in which the county shall budget for and pay the travel expenses for professional travel. "Golberg shall use good judgment in their outside activities so they will not neglect their primary duties to the (county)," the contract states.

Some of the meetings Golberg expects to attend include meetings of the Minnesota Association of County Administrators, International City Council Management Association and the Minnesota City County Management Association.

The county shall also budget for and pay the travel and subsistence expenses of Golberg for short courses or seminars, which the county deems appropriate for his professional growth.

Both sides also agreed on a termination package if he were to ever be terminated by the county. As part of the agreement, Golberg would receive a lump sum cash payment equal to three months salary and health benefits for the same period.

Golberg would be required to give 30 days advance notice if he voluntarily resigns from the position. He would not receive termination benefits if he quits on his own except for accrued paid time off.

His predecessor, Laura Elvebak, had been making \$119,616 prior to a step increase in March. Elvebak left the county in April under a cloud of controversy with the county board.

Mother's Rest to get much-needed repairs

Anonymous gift helps one of oldest Steele fair buildings

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A leaky roof on one of the oldest buildings on the Steele County Fairgrounds will be getting some attention by someone who doesn't want any attention.

An anonymous donation has been given to the Steele County Fair to put a new roof on the Mother's Rest Building located on the west side of the fairgrounds. The donation is valued at about \$6,000, according to fair manager Jim Gleason.

"It's a nice donation," he said. "An anonymous vendor is going to provide the labor and materials to do a new roof," he added.

Gleason estimates the roof on the 1921 building hasn't been replaced for at least 25 years. He said there has been some recent leakage in the front part of the building.

The fair board, Gleason said, had been talking about putting on a new roof when the surprise donation came up.

Mother's Rest is used for fair-related meetings, including monthly board meetings as well as superintendent meetings in preparation for the fair.

The United Commercial Travelers of America, Owatonna Council 85, dedicated the building in 1921. The organization erected the building for \$5,000.

In its early years, Mothers Rest was known as the most popular and attractive place on the grounds, especially for young mothers. Babies were checked in free of charge, in care of competent nurses, for one hour at a time. The building was equipped with rolling rubber tired cribs for the youngsters, as well as couches and easy chairs for the mothers.

"The best thing at the fair," said one woman during the building's opening in 1921.

In 2001, a plaque was put on the building commemorating its 80th anniversary. In the past few years, Mother's Rest has been updated with pavers, new windows and a fresh coat of paint.

According to a copy of the original rules for using Mother's Rest, the mother with the young baby comes first followed by the old ladies who need a place to rest. "The young matrons without children, young unmarried women and girls in making use of the building will be expected to assist the committee in seeing that the mothers with babies and the old ladies have the preference over every one else," the rules stated.

Gleason said the building was used for mothers up until the 1950s when it became a meeting place for the fair board.

The new roof is expected to be finished yet this fall.

The oldest building on the fairgrounds is the Auto Museum, which was constructed in 1918.

The fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary of being on the current fairgrounds next year.



Mother's Rest on the Steele County Fairgrounds in Owatonna will be getting a new roof this fall after the fair board received an anonymous donation. The donation is valued at \$6,000. Mother's Rest, which was built in 1921, is one of the oldest buildings on the fairgrounds. It has not had a new roof for at least 25 years, according to fair officials.

Candidates offer insight into local education in BP school district

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Voters in the Blooming Prairie School District will not only head to the polls next week to vote on several referendum questions, but they will also vote on school board members.

The Times sent a questionnaire to the four candidates vying for four school board positions. All four, including three incumbents, responded.

The school board election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 7 with the polling place at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School being open from 12 to 8 p.m.

Incumbents who filed for re-election are Rodney Krell, Pam Hameister and Kelly Braaten. Krell, who is the current board chair, is seeking a fourth term. Hameister and Braaten filed for a second term.

Former Blooming Prairie teacher/coach Dean Meshke filed for one of the open posts on the board. He currently is a volunteer coach for the varsity girls' basketball team.

Here's the questions posed to the four school board candidates:

1) Why are you seeking re-election or election?

2) What are your goals as a school board member?

3) How would you describe the BP School District? Strengths? Weaknesses?

4) Is the district financially sound? If yes, why?

5) What are the advantages of a small school district? Disadvantages?

6) How would you rate the teaching staff? Administration?

7) How do BP students stack up with other school districts of similar size?

Strengths: providing quality education, ability to provide technology to students including robotics and the Lego programs, retention of quality teachers and maintaining smaller classroom sizes for more individual student attention.

Weaknesses: I think District 756 is a sound organization and cannot think of any weaknesses.

4) Is the district financially sound? If yes, why? Yes, we continue to have sound annual audits and an administrative team who maintain strong financial responsibilities.

5) What are the advantages of a small school district? Disadvantages? Advantages: smaller classroom sizes, retention of quality instructors and administrators and ability of students to participate in extra curricular activities.

Disadvantages: Possibility of not having some classes offered to students, i.e. Additional languages, possible sports activities available to larger schools, i.e. Soccer, lacrosse.

6) How would you rate the teaching staff? Administration? I rate both the staff and administration of District 756 as excellent.

7) How do BP students stack up with other school districts of similar size? I believe we are equal to other school districts of similar size. Our students continue to excel with a large majority becoming quality community members wherever they may go. Statistically we are above average in test scores.

A passion for Habitat for Humanity



Medford Mayor's Lines
LOIS M. NELSON

This week I'm stepping out of the role of Medford Mayor to share one of my other special passions in volunteering and that is working with Minnesota State Habitat for Humanity Affiliates and Habitat International.

Last week's edition of the Times (Oct. 24), included coverage of the home under construction for Calvin and Dessa Chambers and their four children in Owatonna with the Steele-Waseca Habitat Affiliate (<http://www.habitatswa.org/>). Each of the mayors

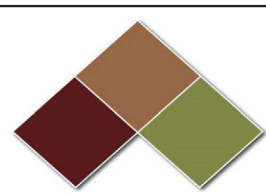
serving Steele County has their own organization, church and groups that they support when away from City Hall-Habitat is one of mine.

My Habitat connection started following the bombing in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. That summer during our biennial national convention for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), we were introduced to a new collaboration between us and Habitat International with the announcement that we women would be building a house annually-the first in Oklahoma City. Back then, 'blitz builds' were scheduled with 50-70 women on hand, some spouses too, for a week coming in from all over the country with the best of intentions, minimal skills and a willingness to work and dedicate a new home that Sunday to a deserving family.

SEE HABITAT, C3



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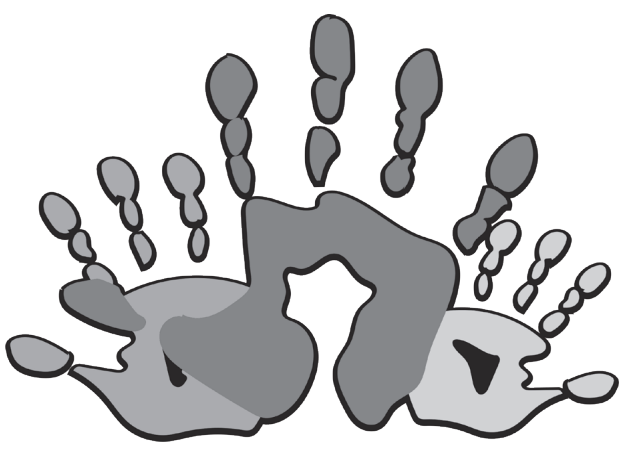
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HABITAT: Mayor Nelson

FROM PAGE C2

In Minnesota, the first ‘blitz’ build was done in Dilworth (up by Moorhead) in October of 2001, at a cost of \$53,000 that CDA funded. This was done days after the World Trade Towers, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania terrorist destruction. The selected family were Iraqi refugees—parents and six children where the Dad served as a U.S. military interpreter in that country. We made regional news as a group of Catholic women building a home for a Muslim family with an active local Lutheran parish delegation working on the house. In Minnesota, most homes have basements and building codes that include garages. This was a new experience for the more seasoned CDA volunteers. We worked feverishly. The only hold up was when a state electrical inspector stopped the day of inspection, didn’t introduce himself, leaving and reporting there was no way that group were going to have the house ready for his sign off. It took help from the local State Senator to get him back on site so we could proceed. (CDA members are persistent.) On Sunday, the Catholic Bishop, the Lutheran affiliate Chaplain and the family’s Inman were all on hand to dedicate the house and join in the celebration.

This is the second home in Owatonna where CDA has been involved. The earlier one on Mosher Avenue included a \$25,000 contribution from the National and State CDA organization with a matching Challenge Grant in the same amount from Habitat International.

Each October, all of our 29 courts across the state dedicate a weekend to Gummi Bears, collecting donations for the next court and affiliate build. The Chambers home is the sixteenth in Minnesota where a \$10,000 grant is awarded towards the cost of the home and where officers and members assist with the build, serve meals and in attendance at the time of both ground breaking and the home dedication generally with additional gifts for the family. We no longer do blitz builds as it drives the site construction manager and all those involved in permitting and inspection crazy.

On the 20th, CDA members from the Courts in Waseca, Medford, Slayton, Morehead, and Fergus Falls were working under the supervision of John Heydon and the Steele-Waseca local affiliate’s regular volunteers and Calvin. Four of the state officers were in attendance. We are all veterans of builds, this was my 11th.

I’m thankful that my husband taught me how to handle sheet rock and a nail gun sometime ago. I also paint and stain—but not out for hire and enjoy the volunteering opportunity with Habitat for Humanity and working with my sister CDA members since I first joined back in 1978—a time when I needed the support of women with a strong spiritual sense. They continue to provide me with many opportunities!

Lois Nelson has been the mayor of Medford for the past five years. She writes a column in this newspaper regularly.

A scary winter scene



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

It really was a snowy scarecrow day on Friday morning as Blooming Prairie residents awakened to the season’s first snowfall, just a dusting this time.

MnDOT surveying manufacturers, freight carriers, major industries

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is interviewing manufacturers and other freight haulers in Southeast Minnesota this fall to inform and guide its efforts for the state’s transportation system in the region.

More than 100 interviews are scheduled through November in MnDOT District 6, which is an 11-county region in Southeast Minnesota. The effort is called Manufacturers’ Perspectives on Minnesota’s Transportation System, and the goals are to:

- Better understand business perspectives and priorities for transportation
 - Better align the transportation system with shippers’ needs with low-cost, high-value solutions
 - Support continuous improvement at MnDOT with on-going input from this customer segment.
- Manufacturers, freight-related businesses, and other employers in MnDOT District 6 are being invited to participate in 1-hour on-site interviews. The final report will be finished in 2018.
- MnDOT has conducted four other Manufacturers’ Perspectives projects and has another project starting in its Metro District. The Southeast Minnesota survey is expected to produce the largest number of interviews of any of the projects to date. Manufacturers and other businesses were selected

based on a variety of criteria to ensure that the southeast region is represented. MnDOT is partnering in this effort with local economic development organizations in Southeast Minnesota, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Management and Budget, and the University of Minnesota.

“We’re very interested in learning from the people who use our transportation system and rely on it daily,” said Jeff Vlaminck, District 6 engineer, MnDOT’s leader in Southeast Minnesota. “We want to know what works and where we can improve.”

Vlaminck also likes the fact that MnDOT District 6 employees across many departments are involved in the interview process, which is likely to lead to better connections with manufacturers and better communication beyond the project.

The final report for Southeast Minnesota is expected in 2018. To read final reports from other MnDOT districts, go to: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/mps.html>

For more information about the Manufacturers’ Perspectives project, please contact: Donna Koren, market research director, 651-366-4840, donna.koren@state.mn.us.

CANDIDATES: BP school district

FROM PAGE C2

Minnesota continues to be above average in most areas. We maintain healthy academic and athletic programs where Dist 756 is considered strong throughout SE Minnesota.

Rodney Krell- Incumbent

1) Why are you seeking re-election? I enjoy serving my community and am proud of our school district and the work we’ve done ensuring a quality education for all of our students.

2) What are your goals as a school board member? My goals are always to make decisions that are best for students. As a district we want to provide as many quality opportunities for our students as possible through strong academic programs and co-ed and extra curricular offerings while being fiscally responsible.

3) How would you describe the BP School District? Strengths? Weaknesses? One of our biggest strengths is our dedicated staff and administration. They truly care about students and build quality relationships while providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities. Our district does an excellent job preparing students for a four year college experience. We want to continue to explore opportunities to enhance our career and technical education offerings to ensure all student are life, college and career ready.

4) Is the district financially sound? If yes, why? The district is financially sound because the administration has been fiscally responsible. Unfortunately, state funding falls short for most school districts in the state. Therefore, continued support through an Operating Referendum is necessary to sustain the quality education Blooming Prairie is known for.

5) What are the advantages of a small school district? Disadvantages? There are several advantages of a small school district. We are able to provide a well-rounded education where student may participate in a multitude of academic, co-ed and extra-curricular activities. A smaller district creates a warm and welcoming environment where students feel valued and appreciated for their strengths and abilities. Family and community engagement in our schools is high and creates a tight knit community that supports all students.

6) How would you rate the teaching staff? Administration? I believe our staff and administration

are second to none. Our administration has hired and retained quality staff in all areas of our district. I believe our staff builds quality relationships with students and families, which enhances the success of their educational career as Blooming Prairie Blossoms.

7) How do BP students stack up with other school districts of similar size? I believe school districts should be judged on a multitude of areas that focus on providing for the needs of all. Blooming Prairie does an excellent job of providing a well rounded education which I believe puts us at the top of districts our size.

Dean Meshke- Newcomer

1) Why are you seeking re-election? I believe a school board should be comprised of

diverse members representing the district. As a retired teacher, I think I can give a different perspective on the education process. After all, I worked in the middle of the education process for 35 years.

2) What are your goals as a school board member? Main goal would be to maintain and create quality education for current and future students.

3) How would you describe the BP School District? Strengths? Weaknesses? I think the district has done a great job with technology education for students. Course offerings with many college courses are excellent for a school this size. Strengths include great leadership in the district and outstanding extracurricular activities. Looking at weaknesses, we need an auditorium and extra

gym space. Build it and they will come! I think better extracurricular facilities would make our school district more attractive and would increase enrollment.

4) Is the district financially sound? If yes, why? I believe the district is financially sound.

5) What are the advantages of a small school district? Disadvantages? Opportunity for greater participation in extracurricular activities which can help students improve academic success

and as a member of a team or activity, teach valuable life skills. Small schools are safer and kids feel they belong.

6) How would you rate the teaching staff? Administration? I think our teaching staff has done a great job of implementing technology in the classroom and always keeping up with more educational strategies and techniques. They always have the welfare of the student as their top priority. The administration has been effective in giving the staff

the resources necessary to provide a solid education for each student. They have also kept the district financially sound.

7) How do BP students stack up with other school districts of similar size? Blooming Prairie students can match up with any other district. Over the years, BP has had many successful graduates. Right in our community, many successful people are Blooming Prairie graduates.

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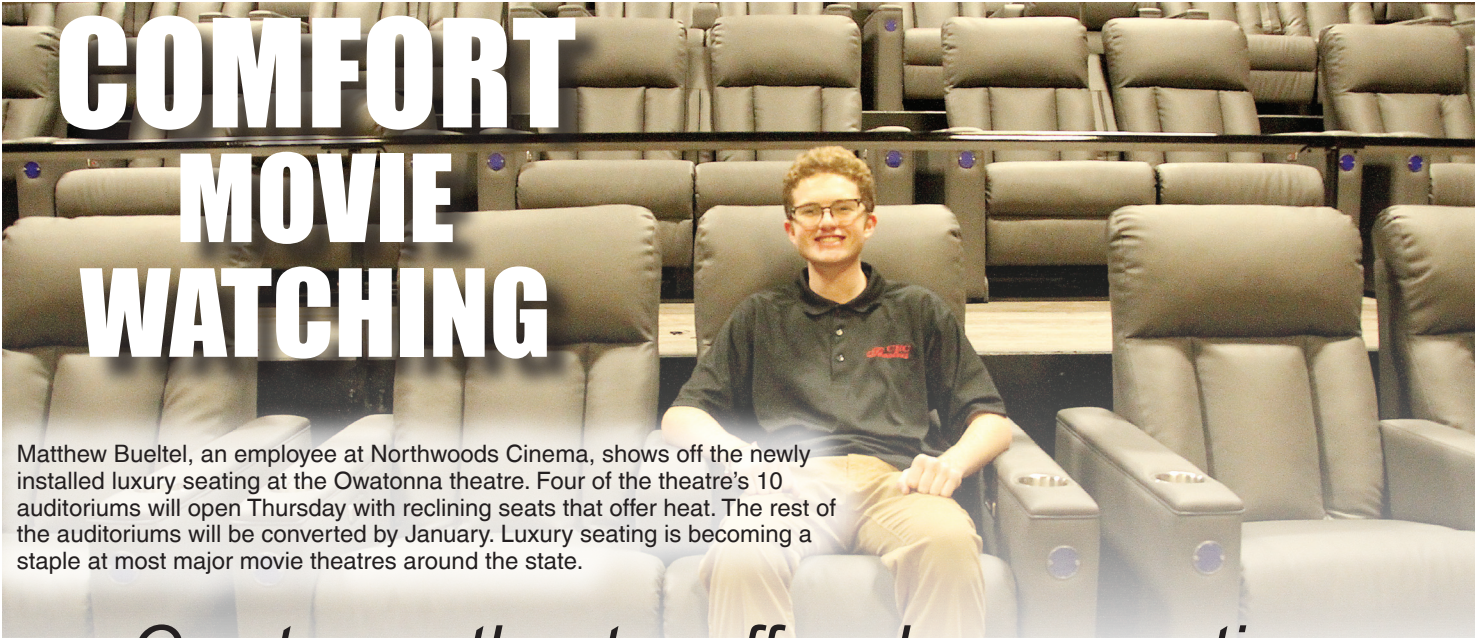


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Matthew Bueltel, an employee at Northwoods Cinema, shows off the newly installed luxury seating at the Owatonna theatre. Four of the theatre's 10 auditoriums will open Thursday with reclining seats that offer heat. The rest of the auditoriums will be converted by January. Luxury seating is becoming a staple at most major movie theatres around the state.

Owatonna theatre offers luxury seating

BY RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

converting to the (recliner) seats," he said, noting the seats provide significant comfort with arm rests that provide lots of elbow room. "We're taking it one step further with heated seats." One downfall with switching to luxury seating is that the number of seats will decrease throughout the theatre. The largest auditorium will now have 126 seats with the smallest theatre featuring 51. "It's considerably smaller than we used to have," Carter said. "We lose a lot of seats, but we now have reserved seating." Movie goers will be able to pick their seats by ordering ahead on-line if they wish. However, customers will still be able to come in and purchase tickets at the door. Asked about what's behind the change, Carter said, "Keeping up with the competition is the motivating factor to make sure you're getting customers what they want." Carter said it hasn't been uncommon for people to drive into the Twin Cities and take in movies at the Lakeville and Burnsville theatres, which both offer luxury seating. Lakeville just recently began offering alcohol as part of the movie experience. "Luxury seating is big now," Carter says. "If you want to keep up with the industry, you have to make the investment." And there's another reason for the change. "We want to make sure we are keeping our people happy," Carter said. Northwoods, which operates 20 theatres across Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin, converted its theatre in Mason City about two years ago. "We have done very well with it," Carter said. "We're keeping our customers and they come more often because they're comfortable," he said, adding he expected business to increase at the Owatonna theatre with the luxury enhancements. Outside of the conversion to digital projection, the luxury conversion is the first significant undertaking for Northwoods, which has operated the Owatonna location for eight years. There may be another major change coming to the Owatonna theatre. Carter said Northwoods is considering offering alcohol sales within the next year. "We want to get through this conversion first and then look at other things (like alcohol) to make it even more enticing," he said.

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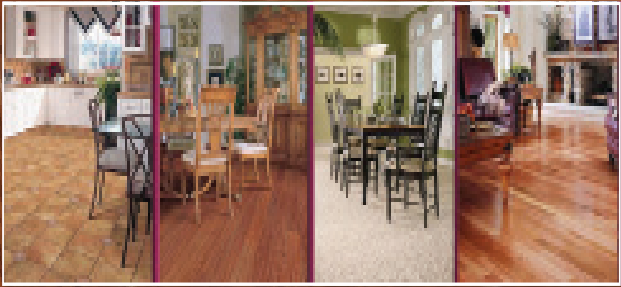
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Business Briefs

Fast Flaps product gains award for Minimizer

Minimizer Fast Flaps continue to build their reputation as an innovative problem-solver by earning the product's second industry award. Equipment Today magazine has named Fast Flaps one of its 2017 Contractors' Top 50 New Products, the construction industry's only award program based on consumer feedback. "We are honored, because this award comes from the people that use this product everyday," Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg said. "You can't get better feedback than that." More than a year removed from their launch, Minimizer Fast Flaps continue to sell like hotcakes, with no drop off in sight. Fast Flaps secure mud flaps without creating any holes in the flap or sacrificing strength. It takes more than 500 pounds of pressure to detach a mud flap from the Fast Flaps stainless steel bar, and the result doesn't damage the flap. See the product in-action here: www.minimizer.com/product/fast-flap.

flap. "When we came out with Fast Flaps last year, we knew we had a winner," Kruckeberg said. "The past 18 months have only confirmed what we already knew – this product is an outstanding cost-saving addition for fleets!" The 2017 Contractors' Top 50 New Products are compiled based on reader inquiries from Equipment Today magazine as well as user engagement on ForConstructionPros.com. The first Fast Flaps video on Minimizer's Facebook page has over a million impressions, and it's one of the most popular products across their social media. "Whenever I go to a (heavy duty trucking) show, I get people coming up and asking about Fast Flaps," Kruckeberg said. "It's something that people keep hearing about and they want in on it."

BP company releases new truck floor mats

Minimizer of Blooming Prairie has long received comments from professional truck drivers and fleets, asking the company to expand its existing

Floor Mats selection for International trucks.

Consider their wish granted. Minimizer has released new Custom Molded Floor Mat kits designed to fit eight different International trucks, including the 5900i, 9200i, 9400i, and 9900i models. "We've had Floor Mats for the ProStars and LoneStars for a while, and lots of the vocational models too, but it's exciting to know that we now have Floor Mats for some of International's most popular models," Minimizer CEO and Chief Visionary Craig Kruckeberg said. "Our Custom Molded Floor Mats are designed to be a perfect fit, which can be tough logistically, but I'm proud to say our R&D team has pulled it off." This particular release proved challenging. Numerous factors influenced the need for 12 different Floor Mat molds to cover the eight International models. "The differences between cabs can be so small, such as transmission type and gearshift location," Kruckeberg said. "We have to take every little thing into account. Otherwise, the result would not meet our standards." To see the new Floor Mat kits, visit www.minimizer.com.

com. "We want every truck on the road to be outfitted with Minimizer Floor Mats," Kruckeberg said. "That may be a pipe dream, but if we didn't dream at least a little, we wouldn't be where we are today."

Service tech joins John Deere team in Owatonna



Holevoet

Brandon Holevoet has joined the Owatonna team of Kibble Equipment, formerly known as Ag Power. Holevoet began working in Owatonna in early September as a service technician after transferring from the Kibble store in Huron, S.D. He has been with Kibble for three years. He grew up in Geneseo, Ill., and attended North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, N.D., where he graduated with Associates in applied science and John Deere technician. Holevoet and his wife, Emily, are currently staying in Owatonna until their home is ready in Blooming Prairie.



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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Czaplewski Funeral Home coming to Kasson

Facility to open in spring, 2018

RICHARD JOHNSON
Managing Editor

Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, with locations in Dodge Center and Hayfield, will add another facility in Kasson.

The 8,000 square-foot site will be located near Kwik Trip, south of Highway 14.

The goal is to open in early April, director Paul Czaplewski said.

“I’ve been looking in Kasson for the last five years, and this came up with Matt Leth, who owns the property there and is developing it,” he said. “And it just was a good location for us to look at. And it’s going to serve the local area with a nice location.

“Kasson’s a growing community,” Czaplewski said, “and we just felt it was



Paul Czaplewski

time, and we want to offer our services to the community. I know they won’t be disappointed. It’s going to be a very nice facility.”

He said the new funeral home will have space for about 200 visitors, and will include a luncheon facility, plus Dodge County’s first onsite funeral home crematory.

Caskets, vaults and urns will be available for sale.

Czaplewski has seven licensed morticians, four secretaries, and about 10 part-time employees.

His son, Ben, is studying mortuary science and plans to serve the Kasson, Dodge Center and Hayfield facilities.



Paul Czaplewski also owns Ranfranz & Vine Funeral Homes in Rochester.

His facility in Brownsdale was sold this past summer.

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Business Briefs

City to Collect community input at Comprehensive Plan Meeting

The City of Kasson is updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will help set the stage for the City’s future development, growth and public infrastructure investment.

Residents, business owners and other community members can provide their thoughts, opinions, and ideas about the plan at a community workshop to be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1 in the commons at Kasson-Mantorville High School.

The meeting will include a short presentation about the plans progress followed by interactive and fun small group exercises.

The City’s Comprehensive Plan is a long-range document that will identify the community’s long-term vision, goals, policies, strategies and opportunities. The ideas and thoughts of community members will help establish and identify future directions the City will take in areas such as land use, economic development, and parks and trails.

The community meeting is part of the second phase of the planning process, and thus provides an opportunity for participants to learn about what the

process has discovered about the community to this point, and to share opinions about the city’s strengths, opportunities, and challenges for the future.

See <http://www.cityofkasson.com> and click on the Kasson Upward 2040 logo for more information about the comprehensive plan update.

CEDA Marketing in the Morning

You’re invited to join us for our Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) installment of Marketing in the Morning on Wednesday, November 15 at 7 a.m.

You will discover the importance of press releases as a marketing tool for your community, business or organization. Furthermore, you’ll learn the basics of constructing and submitting an effective press release from our knowledgeable speaker, Heather Holmes, Vice President of Marketing for Rochester Area Economic Development, Inc. (RAEDI) and Project Director for Journey to Growth (J2G).

Heather spent over a decade in television news and has won numerous awards including two Emmy nominations for video promotion production and journalism/storytelling.

As always, the event is free to attend and breakfast will be provided.

Will be held at the Kasson Public Library on Nov. 15 at 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

SSC’s New Executive Director to Start January 1

The Southeast Service Cooperative, a Rochester based, public not-for-profit agency that coordinates collaborations among its membership of schools and local government, announced that Steve Sallee will become its next Executive Director on January 1.

Steve comes to the Southeast Service Cooperative with thirteen years of administrative experience, the most recent ten years as a superintendent of schools. He spent six years as the Superintendent at the LeRoy-Ostrander and Southland School Districts, and the last four years as Superintendent at St. Louis County Schools in Northeast Minnesota. Prior to that, he spent three years in the LeRoy-Ostrander School District as a Principal, and before that, he taught middle school for eight years in Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

During his career, Steve has proven his strength in the areas of developing relationships, building trust, and being fiscally responsible. As the new

Executive Director of the Southeast Service Cooperative, Steve stated that his goals are to “to help shape and influence state and federal education agendas, establish relationships with local government members and identify ways to enhance service provision, and empower leaders through high quality professional development, services and support.”

Steve is 48 years young, has been married to his wife, Shelly, for 23 years, and is Dad to their 12-year-old daughter, Riley. When he is not working, he loves to spend time outdoors golfing, hiking, boating, hunting, fishing, and enjoying his lake home with his family and their three dogs.

Southeast Service Cooperative has operated since 1976. It is a public, non-profit cooperative of over 100 member schools, local governments, and non-profits impacting over 82,000 students and almost 18,000 employees in eleven counties to mobilize resources and add value through collaboration. To learn more about the Southeast Service Cooperative, visit www.ssc.coop.



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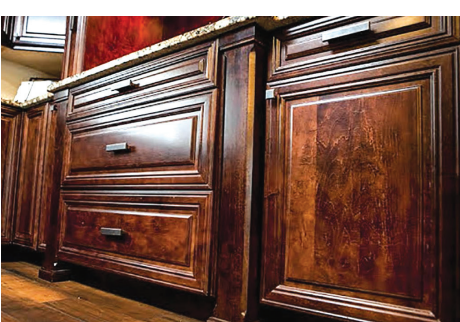
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BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Nov. 1
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

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

Nov. 6
6 – 10 p.m. – 55+ Driver Improvement Program, Community Education Room at High School

Nov. 7
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Noon – 8 p.m. - BP School District Operating Levy Vote, BP Elementary School Gym

Nov. 14
1 – 7 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, BP High School



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Nov. 1
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna
5:30 p.m. – 50+ Fit and Flex Workshop, Sollid Yoga

Nov. 2
9 a.m. – Jr. History Detectives, Steele County History Center
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna
5 – 7 p.m. – Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Show, Owatonna Arts Center
6 p.m. – Minnesota Republican Gubernatorial Forum, Owatonna Country Club
6:30 p.m. – History Detectives, Steele County History Center
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Steele County Agricultural Society Annual Meeting, Community Center on Fairgrounds

Nov. 3
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Holiday Bazaar, Owatonna Hospital
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. – Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Show, Owatonna Arts Center
Noon – 6 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, St. Joseph's Church in Owatonna
The Hunt is On Crafts Shows

& Store Specials for Deer Hunting Opening Weekend

Nov. 4
7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Creative Crafts, Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna
8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Elks Annual Craft Sale, Owatonna Elks Lodge
8 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Holiday Bazaar, Owatonna Hospital
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Annual Charity Bazaar, Steele County Community Center on Fairgrounds
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Fall Craft Show, Owatonna Eagles Club
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Pastimes Art & Fine Craft Show, Owatonna Arts Center

Nov. 6
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Lowe's, Owatonna
6 – 8 p.m. – Owatonna Firefighters Relief Association Meeting, Fire Station
7 p.m. – AAUW Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge in Owatonna

Nov. 7
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Steele County Historical Society Fall Tour of State Capitol and Como Conservatory, Meet at History Center
9:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library



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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Nov. 1
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Kickball) Class, Ellendale Elementary Gym North

Nov. 2
4 p.m. – Com Ed (Beginner Piano Lessons) Class, NR Choir Room
6:30 p.m. – Turbo Kick Exercise, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room

Nov. 6
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Scaredy Pot) Class, Ellendale Cafeteria
6 p.m. – Band Boosters Meeting
6 p.m. – Com Ed (Acrylic Painting) Class, NRHEG HS

Art Room

Nov. 7
1 – 7 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, United Methodist Church in Ellendale
6 p.m. – Com Ed (Shutterfly) Class, NRHEG HS Computer Lab
6:15 p.m. – Com Ed (PIYO Live) Class, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North

Nov. 12
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Turkey Dinner, First Lutheran Church of Ellendale

COMMUNITY CALENDAR BRIEFS

Red Cross calls for blood donors before the holiday season
With the busy holiday season approaching, the American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood now to help ensure a sufficient supply for patients this winter.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, many regular donors delay giving due to holiday activities and travel. This often decreases the amount of donated blood available for patients. More donations are needed in the weeks leading up to the holidays to help stock the shelves for patients.

Give patients in need another reason to be thankful – make an appointment to give blood. Download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

There are several upcoming blood donation opportunities around the area in early November:

Albert Lea – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 3, National Guard Armory
Albert Lea – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 6, Hy-Vee
Austin – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 1, Mayo Clinic Health System
Austin – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 7, Family Video
Blooming Prairie – 1 to 7 p.m. Nov. 14, BP High School
Ellendale – 1 to 7 p.m. Nov. 7, United Methodist Church
Hayfield – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 3, Hayfield High School
Kasson – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 3, Anytime Fitness
Owatonna – 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 1, 2, 3, St. Joseph's Church
Owatonna – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 6, Lowe's

Holiday Dazzle wine/beer tasting is Thursday
The Holiday Dazzle Wine & Beer Tasting will take place next Thursday, Nov. 2 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. This event is the kickoff to the holiday season.

Stop at the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce office or J&H Liquors to get tickets in advance.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

This popular event is a fundraiser for the Chamber to help pay for the upcoming Holiday Dazzle and to keep the Chamber doors open for the rest of the year.

“Come out and have a wonderful evening tasting wines, beers, liquors and delicious appetizers,” says event chair Nancy Farr.

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 Osmeck 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.

Area churches hosting Charity Bazaar
Area churches and Rachel's Light are hosting their annual Charity Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Steele County Community Center on the fairgrounds in Owatonna.

The lunch menu includes homemade chili, Sloppy Joes, pie and desserts. Complimentary coffee and hot cider will also be available.

Good Shepherd Quilting Group, First Lutheran Church of Hope, Pontoppidan Lutheran Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden and Rachel's Light are hosting the event.

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.

Crisis response to be featured at AAUW meeting
AAUW Owatonna members invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge in Owatonna.

The program for the evening will be Crisis Response for Southeast Minnesota presented by Mary Harders and Liz Keck. Our speakers will be able to tell you how Crisis Response can help those in need. They will also talk about signs of suicide and other mental health issues. After listening you will be able to lead a loved one to help and attention.

Billy Dankert Band coming to Owatonna
The Concert Club in Owatonna 2017-2018 concert series continues at Jefts Hall at Pillsbury Friday, Nov. 10.

The amazing night of music includes Billy Dankert, drummer and sometime songwriter for Austin Minnesota legends, Gear Daddies. In addition to contributing several well-known staples to the Gear Daddies albums and live shows, Dankert has released several solo albums, including his newest release Sleep Late, which was released in 2016.

Dankert has been Minneapolis based for many years, but still has family and many friends in his hometown of Austin and rural Mower and Steele counties. He is very excited about finally bringing his solo music up 218 to Owatonna.

Trapper Schoepp is an American rock band from Milwaukee. Trapper Schoepp – who's already crisscrossed the country sharing stages with fellow travelers like The Wallflowers, The Jayhawks and The Old 97's – will be back on the road throughout 2017 in support of their brand new release, Bay Beach Amusement Park. It's a rock n roll concept album about the 125-year-old Bay Beach Amusement Park in Green Bay - home to Elvis' favorite ride The Zippin Pippin.

The Owatonna stop is part of a limited engagement Midwest tour of small venues for the Trapper Schoepp Duo. The full Trapper Schoepp band has played much larger stages including opening for Tom Petty at Summerfest in Milwaukee. Just three days after their Owatonna concert, they will headline a halftime concert at The Milwaukee Bucks 50th Anniversary celebration.

Tickets \$14 in advance. Table of six, including snacks, is \$75 while limited supply of table seating lasts. All tickets purchased in advance will have first access to the reserved front padded seats. Advance tickets available for sale at ERA Gillespie Real Estate. There will be general admission tickets for sale at the door for \$15. Beer, wine and food will be available in Jefts Hall throughout the night.

Doors for all Jefts Hall at Pillsbury Concerts open at 6:30 p.m. with music starting at 7:30 p.m. To reserve table seating text or call 507-390-4079.

Ellendale church serving Turkey Dinner
First Lutheran Church in Ellendale invites the public to a Turkey Dinner and Pie/Dessert Auction on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – or until turkey is gone.

The menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, corn and beverage. A free-will offering will be accepted. Take-out containers are also available for the meal.

Potato Pancake Supper coming to Claremont
St. John's Lutheran Church is hosting its 57th Annual Potato Pancake Supper on Sunday, Nov. 12.

From 3 to 7 p.m., all-you-can-eat potato and buttermilk pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, milk, coffee and water will be served.

Luverne Wanous will provide music from 4 to 6 p.m. A free-will donation will be accepted at the door with proceeds going to St. John's

cemetery restoration and the Steele and Dodge County Food Shelves.

The church is located in Havana Township at 4532 SE 84th Ave. Claremont.

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.

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 cost of the refresher class is \$22.00 and the eight-hour class is \$26.

The four-hour refresher class will be offered in the area on several upcoming dates. They include: Blooming Prairie on Nov. 6 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Community Education Room at the High School; Owatonna on Nov. 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Community Education Room at Roosevelt School; and Albert Lea on Nov. 20 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Intego Insurance Services, 1206 W. Front St.

The eight-hour first time course will be in Albert Lea several dates in November. They include: Nov. 18 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Intego Insurance Services, 1206 W. Front St. Albert Lea; Nov. 27 and 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Albert Lea Senior Center, 1739 W. Main St.

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

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- **HOLIDAY DAZZLE WINE & BEER TASTING:** Thur., Nov. 2, 6:30-9 p.m.

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FBS

Red Cross calls for blood donors before the holiday season

With the busy holiday season approaching, the American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood now to help ensure a sufficient supply for patients this winter.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, many regular donors delay giving due to holiday activities and travel. This often decreases the amount of donated blood available for patients. More donations are needed in the weeks leading up to the holidays to help stock the shelves for patients like Emily Bratton. After the birth of her first child, she received several units of blood.

"I know that my life was saved because someone, somewhere, was willing to donate their blood," said Bratton. "There aren't words to describe how incredibly thankful I am that people are willing to donate blood to help a stranger."

Give patients in need another reason to be thankful – make an appointment to give blood. Download the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call

- 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- There are several upcoming blood donation opportunities around the area in early November:
- Nov. 1- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Mayo Clinic Health System, Austin
 - Nov. 1 & 2- 12 p.m.-6 p.m.: St. Joseph's Church, Owatonna
 - Nov. 3: St. Joseph's Church, Owatonna
 - Nov. 3- 8 a.m.-2 p.m.: Hayfield High School
 - Nov. 3- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Anytime Fitness, Kasson
 - Nov. 3- 9 a.m.-3 p.m.: National Guard Armory, Albert Lea
 - Nov. 6- 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.: Hy-Vee Foods, Albert Lea
 - Nov. 6- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Lowe's, Owatonna
 - Nov. 7- 1 p.m.-7 p.m.: United Methodist Church, Ellendale
 - Nov. 7- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Family Video, Austin
 - Nov. 14- 1-7 p.m.: Blooming Prairie High School

Boo... Happy Halloween!



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Today is a scary day with many little goblins on the loose for trick or treating. This home at 330 SE 3rd St. in Blooming Prairie was decorated in Halloween splendor. A reminder to be careful driving through the neighborhoods on Halloween as many youngsters will be attempting to load up on candy or if they're lucky, possibly some money.

Rollover sends one to hospital

A one-vehicle rollover in Steele County sent one man to the hospital Monday morning.

The crash happened on U.S. Highway 218 by the Steele County Landfill at about 6:10 a.m. Joseph Ray Wigham, 29, of Lyle was driving a 1999 Nissan Pathfinder when it slid across the southbound lane into the west ditch and rolled, according to the State Patrol.

Gold Cross Ambulance transported Wigham to Owatonna hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The State Patrol said Wigham was not wearing his seat belt. No alcohol was involved. The road conditions were wet at the time.

Assisting the patrol at the crash were Blooming Prairie Fire Department and Steele County Sheriff's Office.

Governor's forum set for Thursday in Owatonna

As we see the colors change outside, it is time to start looking at the 2018 Campaign Season.

The battle for the Governor's race has started to heat up on both sides of the aisle. Southern Minnesota is in a unique position next Thursday to learn a little more from some of the candidates vying for the Governor's slot.

Steele County Republican Party is hosting a Governor's Forum to learn more from these candidates. This program is open to all; it will provide an up close chance to meet five leading Republican candidates.

The five leading Republicans running for Governor of Minnesota will be participating in a forum at the Owatonna Country Club on Thursday starting at 6 p.m. for a social hour and the forum begins at 7 p.m. The honorary hosts for the evening are Senator John Jasinski, Representatives John Petersburg and Brian Daniels.

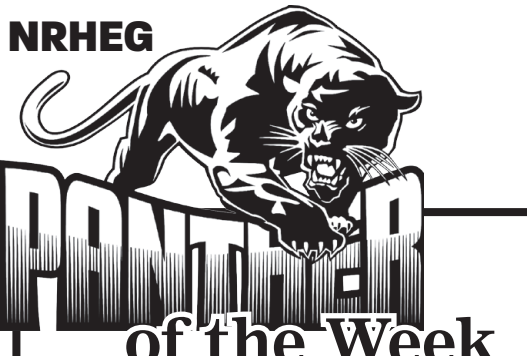
Candidates that have confirmed their

attendance include Keith Downey, Phillip Parrish, Dave Osmek, Jeff Johnson, and Matt Dean.

"As a local party – we want to give this district the chance to meet the candidates face to face; the social hour at 6 p.m. and the forum at 7 p.m. are designed to do just that," said Pam Seaser, Co-Chair of the Party. State Representative Greg Davids will be the emcee.

To help cover the cost, this is a ticketed event. Advance sale tickets are available online at steelecountyrepublicans.com for \$20 or you can get a ticket at the door for \$25 if they are still available.

"Educated voters are critical to the success of this region and the state of Minnesota. We want to do our part to help keep the community informed about the candidates that are running so that they can make good decisions about which one is the right one for the state," said Alex Trunnell, Co-Chair for the Party.





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NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Dylan Schrot. Dylan resides in Ellendale with his parents, Casey Boyd and Ryan Schrot. He is in Mr. Beynon's second grade class.

Dylan shows Panther Pride in a variety of ways, but what stands out most with Dylan is his positivity, curiosity, and love of learning. Dylan is always a top participant in class and very eager to learn and share his own experiences. He always has a smile on his face, and he's very caring towards his peers.

Dylan loves being at school, building things, and helping his dad. His favorite book is Cat in the Hat, his favorite movie is Suicide Squad, and his favorite food is shrimp.

Habitat for Humanity searches for holiday donations

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area is searching for donations of gently used or new strings of holiday lights as well as non-breakable ball ornaments.

The strings of lights and ornaments will be used for a youth event decorating pallet trees.

Donations can be dropped off at the office 108 West Vine St. in Owatonna before Wednesday, Nov. 8. Decorated pallet trees will be displayed in the Holiday Lighted parade on Nov. 30.

Rep. Petersburg urges farmers to attend MnDOT ditch mowing meeting

State Representative John Petersburg (R-Waseca) is encouraging constituents to attend an upcoming meeting near Mankato hosted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to discuss state ditch-mowing policies.

The event will take place on Nov. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at South Central College, 1920 Lee Boulevard in North Mankato.

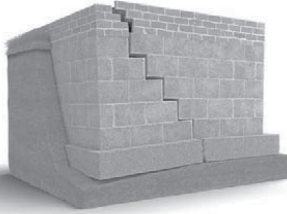
Last year, MnDOT indicated it planned to change its statewide permitting standards for mowing and baling in ditches along Minnesota's state roadways. Myriad concerns arose over the proposed changes and the Republican-led legislature successfully authored a bill placing a moratorium on new mowing rules along state highways - excluding county and township roads - until May of 2018. This moratorium helped to ensure the public and key stakeholders had ample opportunity to provide input regarding the changes to permitting standards prior to their enforcement. Republicans pushed for an outright ban on new ditch mowing regulations, legislation that was strongly opposed by the Dayton administration.

"Farmers were justifiably angry when MnDOT came out with these standards, and now they have the chance to lend their voice to this debate. I'm hopeful many will travel to Mankato on Nov. 14 and do just that," Petersburg said.

The full schedule of meetings can be found on the MnDOT website at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/publicinvolvement/hearings.html>. Constituents can also submit written comments by email by filling out a MnDOT comment form: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/mowing/comments.html>.

Rep. Petersburg encouraged anyone with questions to contact his office for more information at 651-296-5368 or rep.john.petersburg@house.mn.

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Annual FFA Fruit Sales



The Annual FFA Fruit Sales

October 27 – November 10

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BUTTER BRAIDS, MEAT AND CHEESE STICKS, HERRING, CHEESE CURDS, GOURMET POPCORN, BEEF AND TURKEY JERKY, CHEESES, SUMMER SAUSAGE, CHOCOLATES, AND NUTS.



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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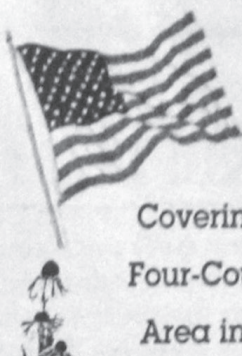
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Blooming Prairie Times



D Section

www.steeledodgenews.com

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Mega Storm Strikes

Amazingly, no deaths or injuries were reported as a result of what's being called the worst storm to visit the Blooming Prairie area in twenty years.

While no loss of life was reported, residents lost electric power, hundreds of trees, telephone service, heat and the ability to move about for nearly 48 hours. Freeborn and Mower counties were declared disaster areas by Governor Arnie Carlson and electric and telephone crews from Wisconsin, South Dakota and Iowa were all in the area to help local utility staff on 24 hour duty. Steele County wasn't any better off with 12 of the county's 14 electric substations affected by the storm.

At the date of this printing (Monday night) there remains a handful of local in-town residents and hundreds of rural route residents without electric power. Parts of Austin and Albert Lea do not have power restored and smaller villages like Sargeant, Waltham and Ellendale could be without electrical service for several more days.

"It will be weeks before all of the electric lines are fully restored," said Rick Kittelson, manager of the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities department. Don Larson, manager of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric said it's the worst power outage in 40 years of electric cooperative power service and added it may take up to a year to fully recover.

The disaster stems from a heavy rain/ice storm that began on Halloween night (Thursday) and intensified Friday morning. By Friday afternoon a 2-inch coating of clear ice was on every tree limb, power line, power pole, and structure in the region. The weight of the ice weighed power lines to the ground and cracked large and small trees off, many of them falling on power and telephone lines.

Kittelson says there are still nearly 100 lines on the ground in town (some of them hot with

power) and urges people to stay clear of them and report any lines that are sparking or otherwise looking dangerous. He also is asking local residents only, to call if they are out of power. In some cases power must be restored by an electrician if there is damage to the electric service where it meets the house.

In the rural area surrounding town there were 100 to 200 poles snapped off or down just in Steele County, said Larson.

Needless to say, the storm dramatically altered the lives of many:

- Jerry and Linda Butler, hog farmers in Newry Township, struggled to get water (taken by pail from a neighbor's spring) to their hogs. "What else can you do?" said Linda. Countless other farmers struggled with generators trying to milk cows, hoping the milk truck would make it to their barns, and trying to keep livestock operations surviving until electricity would be restored.

"You feel so stranded," said

Butler. "You just don't realize how much we rely on electricity."

- Dan Ditlevson waited a long time to find the girl of his dreams and he wasn't about to let nature interfere with wedding plans for Saturday. The wedding party's Friday grooms dinner had to be relocated at last minute to the Pizza Cellar (the out-of-town restaurant was out of the question by Friday night). But the rehearsal and wedding, and dance at the servicemen's club all came off without a hitch.

- The funeral for Lawrence Christianson was post-poned from Friday to Saturday in hopes that more family could get through the storm. It was moved from Red Oak Grove church, where power was not in service, to First Lutheran Church. By Sunday afternoon, the Red Oak Grove church had electricity restored.

- Volunteer firemen became volunteer linemen, assisting the local utilities workers through Friday night and most of Saturday and Sunday day and night.

- Local utility workers were busy trying to get power to help Austin when that city's backup generator was unable to be operated. Power was generated on Blooming Prairie's back up generator for local residents from about 12:30 a.m. Friday to 5:30 p.m.

- About 220 in-town homes were without telephone service during the weekend. There were probably many more homes that did not report the down telephone service, said GTE officials. GTE crews started Friday night restoring telephone service and shipped in crews from Mound, Milaca and New Hampton Iowa. Most of the telephone problems were in-town where telephone lines are not all buried. Rural route residents experienced very few telephone problems, but that probably didn't matter since they couldn't turn on lights or their furnaces.

- The local school system only lost power for a few hours on Friday night and buses were able to

***Storm**
continued on page 8



News Photo By Everett Holmes

This is an area where not only iced trees fell, but also a number of power lines in the area. Several locals are still out of electricity in the rural area, but hopefully will be re-connected this week.



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Tuesday, June 22, 2010 bloomingtononline.com

TORNADOES DEVASTATE AREA

BP woman seriously injured; 44 homes destroyed



Times Photo by Per Kvalsten

A tornado warning was issued by the weather service around 6:30 p.m. after the radar showed a massive system moving into the area. But it wasn't until about two hours later

Top left: Gov. Tim Pawlenty saw an aerial and firsthand view of local flooding late in the afternoon; top, many people worked on pumping out water in the high school basement; middle left, the most significant damage occurred at the schools; and at left, kids find fun in the rain at Centennial Park as school was called off for the day.

Top left: Gov. Tim Pawlenty saw an aerial and firsthand view of local flooding late in the afternoon; top, many people worked on pumping out water in the high school basement; middle left, the most significant damage occurred at the schools; and at left, kids find fun in the rain at Centennial Park as school was called off for the day.

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Realistic soil-health strategy could reduce storm flows by 30% in Dobbins

“This shows that a combination of conservation and water-retention projects along with cover crops and reduced tillage is the recipe for success in our watershed,” Hanson said. “That’s not only going to be ef-

would include water-and-sediment-control basins; grassed waterways; and vegetative

Dobbins has a terrain that, along with current land-manage-



CRWD staff check flooding in September 2016 of the 250th Street bridge over the North Branch of Dobbins Creek in Red Rock Township, south of Brownsdale. The creek's watershed is prone to flash flooding.

Dobbins Creek Watershed

CRWD is highly focused on

Dobbins, especially through its nearly \$8.4 million, five-year Capital Improvement Project initiative launched in 2016 to improve water quality by constructing 25 water-retention

Last month, CRWD-Mower Soil & Water Conservation District also announced a three-year research project involving several dozen plots on Mower County farms – about half in the Cedar River Watershed – to provide better soil-health data to support ag operations and practices benefiting the environment. Funded by a \$98,000 grant from The Hormel

In 2014, CRWD also launched

Informational meetings set across region about farm rental rates



Topics covered at the meetings will include local historic and projected farmland rental rate trends, current farm land

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Minnesota Crop Report



Wintry conditions arrived in Minnesota during the week ending October 29, 2017, but despite the weather, farmers were able to harvest nearly one-quarter of the corn for grain acreage according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers took advantage of the **4.8 days** suitable for fieldwork almost finishing harvest of potatoes, soybeans and sugarbeets. Other field activities for the week included ditch and fence maintenance, fertilizer and manure application, and fall tillage.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 6 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 81 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus.

Corn for grain harvest was in full swing at 38 percent complete, 15 days behind the 5-year average and 12 days behind last year. Corn moisture content of grain at harvest averaged 20 percent. Corn condition rated 82 percent good to excellent. Ninety-five percent of the **soybean** acreage had been harvested.

Advancing 28 percentage points from the previous week, 79 percent of the **sunflower** acreage was harvested. **Potato** harvest was 97 percent complete. **Sugarbeets** were 98 percent lifted surpassing last year's and the average pace. **Pasture** condition rated 47percent good to excellent.



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Early childhood grants available from SMIF

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is seeking applications for its Early Childhood Grants.

Grants up to \$20,000 are available to independent 501(c)(3) organizations, units of government or public agencies in SMIF's 20-county region.

Applications must demonstrate how the grant funds will support asset-based collaborative approaches to meeting the needs of children birth to age 5 and their families. The following areas are eligible for grant funding:

- Social and Emotional Development: Build social emotional skills in children through education and prevention or by training and educating parents, caregivers, and teachers.
- Pre-K to Grade 3 Alignment: Community-wide approaches to coordination among standards, curricula, instructional practices, student assessment, and teacher professional development between the preschool and the early elementary school years.
- School Readiness: Give all children access to opportunities that promote school readiness including closing the achievement gap for at-risk children.

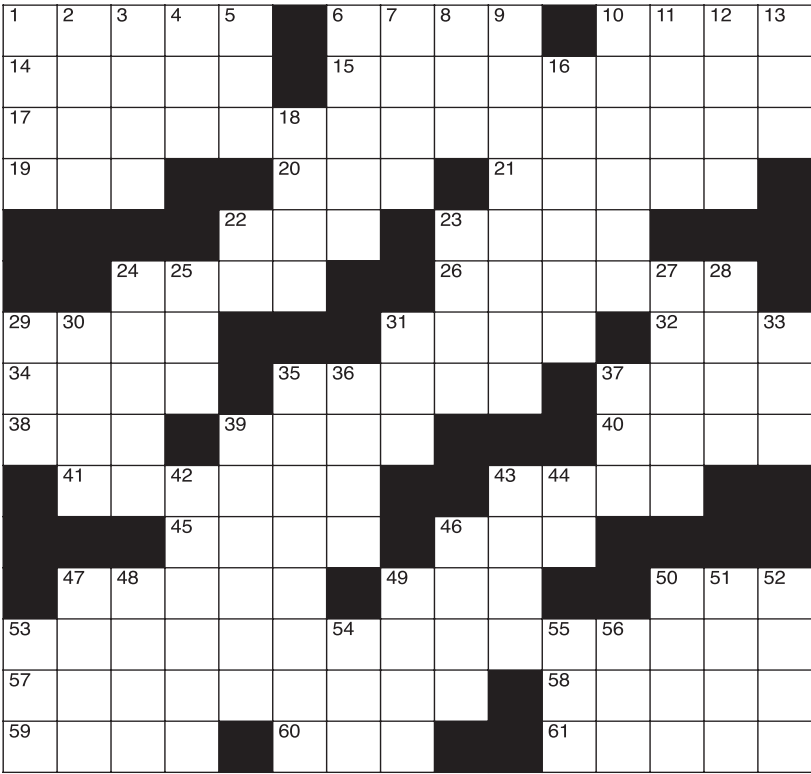
Applications are due Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. Visit www.smifoundation.org/ecgrants for full guidelines and application.

For questions on what SMIF might fund please contact Teri Steckelberg, Early Childhood Director, at teris@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7015.

For questions about the application process or required documentation please contact Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD - ANSWERS ON PG. A4

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Elephant's name
6. Support
10. Mures River city
14. Bastard wing
15. One was named Desire
17. PGA Tournament prize
19. A way to leave unchanged
20. Unchangeable computer memory
21. Harangues
22. 6th Hebrew letter
23. Well informed
24. Turfs
26. In a way, obeyed
29. Lawyers group
31. Increases motor speed
32. Political action committee
34. Light pokes
35. Struck down
37. Central Philippine Island
38. Japanese sash
39. Afresh
40. Bluish green
41. Inspire with love
43. Without (French)
45. Counterbalance container to obtain net weight
46. Express pleasure
47. Cheap wine (Br.)
49. Signing
50. ___ compilation, compiling computer language
53. Have surgery
57. Being trompe-l'oeil
58. Extremely mad
59. Day
60. Small coin (French)
61. Snatched
- CLUES DOWN
1. Cry
2. Wings
3. Baseball play
4. Flower petals
5. Drive against
6. Velikaya River city
7. A single unit in a collection
8. Stray
9. Bring back
10. Repented
11. Receipt (abbr.)
12. Expresses pleasure
13. Not wet
16. In a way, takes off
18. Macaws genus
22. "Fast Five" star's initials
23. Sharpen a knife
24. Oral polio vaccine developer
25. Former CIA
27. Fencing swords



28. Aba ___ Honeymoon
29. Bustle
30. Minor
31. Propel a boat
33. Passage with access only at one end
35. Underwater airways
36. Small, slight
37. Box (abbr.)
39. ___ Blake, actress
42. Repents
43. Merchandising
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. With fireplace residue
47. A small lake
48. Bait
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. K ___: watercraft (alt. sp.)
51. Norse variant of "often"
52. Adolescent
53. Visual metaphor (Computers)
54. River in Spanish
55. Cowboy Carson
56. Powerful gun lobby

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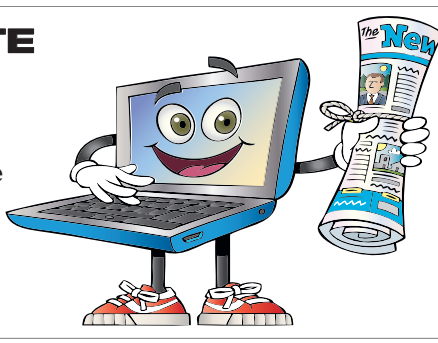
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MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 46p

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Full job description and application can be obtained at Municipal Liquor Store

BIRTHS
Steele County

April 2017

Artemis Jack Riffe, Parents: Katy and Nicholas, April 1.
Dominyk Zander Rosendahl, Parents: Harleigh and Keith, April 1.
Elsie LuAnn Kampa, Parents: Megan and Kyle, April 5.
Annalyn Renata Emmans, Parents: Bethany Butler and Matthew Emmans, April 6.
Victoria Grace Callahan, Parents: Nicole and Alan, April 7.
Makenna Brooklynn Schultz, Parents: Amanda and Jere-myas, April 7.
June Marie Anne Schlichter, Parents: Sheana and Corey, April 8.
Jonas Scott Hensley, Parents: Miranda and Kellie, April 11.
Lennon James Guse, Parents: Paulina and Brandon, April 11.
Ellie Marie Malmquist, Parents: Anne and Justin, April 11.
Veronica Cruz, Parents: Jessica and Victor, April 12.
Gabriel Paul Schmidt, Parents: Traci and Matthew, April 16.
Reagan Alma Neseth, Parents: Elizabeth and Brandon, April 16.
Rose Arlene Roddy, Parents: Laura and Matthew, April 17.

Oliver Matthew Eiler, Parents: Fawn and Kevin, April 18.
Lina Jean Berry, Parents: Sarah and Paul, April 18.
Waylon Todd Jenö, Parents: Jennifer and Brandon, April 18.
Treyven Lawrence Bailey, Parent: Stacy, April 18.
Josiah Xavian Colunga, Parents: Ada Luna and Jesus Gomez, April 25.
Charlotte Renae Bishop, Parents: Joan and Dennis, April 29.
Augustine Michael Malecha, Parents: Megan and Kevin, April 30.

DEATHS
Steele County

April 2017

Sharron Lynne Smith, 79, Owatonna, April 1.
Myron Eugene Miller, 85, Owatonna, April 2.
Ronald Lee Klein, 70, Faribault, April 3.
Arlene Elizabeth Gronseth, 101, Winnebago, April 4.
Richard Paul Neitzel, 76, Mankato, April 6.
Jeffrey Scott Steinbronn, 54, Owatonna, April 6.
John Percy Trandem, 96, Blooming Prairie, April 6.
Lori Kaye Bakken, 64, Owatonna, April 7.
Craig Alan Berg, 51, Owatonna, April 8.
Charlene Marie Wetzel, 57, Owatonna, April 10.
James Craig Jorgenson, 74, Owatonna, April 11.
Judith Arlene Rickard, 76, Owatonna, April 11.
Dudley Eugene Otto, 76, Owatonna, April 12.
Barbara Jean Hougas, 88, Owatonna, April 17.
Cheryl Dorothea Brown-Rhymer, 68, Owatonna, April 19.
Lynn Louise Swenson, 79, New Richland, April 21.
Arnold Frederick Wiese, 91, Blooming Prairie, April 22.
Jennifer Anne Dustin, 53, Owatonna, April 22.
Virginia Vivian Paulson, 92, Owatonna, April 22.
John W. Glynn, 73, Ellendale, April 25.
Mary Helen Bolduan, 77, April 26.
Norma C. Rosenau, 89, Fairmont, April 29.
Ruth Marie Thomas, 79, Owatonna, April 30.

MARRIAGES
Steele County

April 2017

Joshua David Killen and Aimee Lynn Meliza, April 5.
Cliff Richard Lancaster and Cassandra Ann Atkinson, April 8.
Kaylee Clare Hansen and Jayson Andrew Chavez, April 8.
Bryan Steven Valencia and Aracely Elizabeth Esquivel Arriaga, April 8.
Joe Luiz Garza and Monica Lynn Hasher, April 15.
Luis Jose Alvarez and Nayrobi Yinet Soto, April 21.
Brandee Leigh Mork and Christopher Roy McNutt, April 22.
Benjamin Scott Hager and Kristen Ann Schiller, April 29.
Shannon Kay Hahn and Zachary James Koster, April 29.
Brandon Michael Neseth and Bobbi-Jo Karsten, April 29.

DIVORCES
Steele County

April 2017

Chaitanya Namana and Sravya Vuggina.
Amber Lynn Wubben and Chad Leroy Wubben.
Angela Jean Ringhofer-Halverson and Matthew Dennis Halverson.
Amanda Ray Maeyaert and Charles Edward Maeyaert.
Jose Guadalupe Rangel Hernandez and Erica Michelle Garcia.

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