



STEELE COUNTY Times

VETERANS DAY:
STORIES OF OUR
LOCAL VETERANS **A6**



Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Steele County killers sent off to prison

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Two men will be spending considerable time behind bars for their involvement in the 2016 drug-related homicide in Steele County.

On Monday, Judge Joseph Bueltel sentenced Cyrus Trevino to more than 32 years in prison and Gerald Blevins to 12 years for killing Richard Jurgensen of Medford in a remote area of Steele County in June 2016. Trevino



Blevins

will receive credit for 499 days already served while Blevins gets credit for 500 days. Both were scheduled to go on trial in September, but entered surprise guilty pleas to reduced charges just as the trial got underway for Trevino.

Prosecutors said the two killed Jurgensen because they thought he had tipped off police that Trevino's brother was in possession of methamphetamine. However, police denied that Jurgensen was an



Trevino

McIntosh said his assistant prosecutor read some of the victim statements because they were too traumatized to do so themselves.

informant in the case. Authorities called this the first meth-related homicide in the county's history.

In court Monday, several of Jurgensen's family members appeared before the court with impact statements detailing how the tragedy has devastated their lives. County attorney Daniel McIntosh said his assistant prosecutor read some of the victim statements because they were too traumatized to do so themselves.

"For the family, it is a real sense of relief that the court process is done," McIntosh said.

On June 25, 2016, Blevins and Trevino took Jurgensen to a rural area northeast of Owatonna where Trevino bound the victim with rope and shot him in the chest. Blevins said he heard Trevino say, "Snitches end up in ditches."

Trevino and Blevins will be sent to St. Cloud Prison for processing and it will be determined from there where they will serve out their sentences in the state prison system, McIntosh said.



QUILTS OF VALOR

16 more quilts
given to veterans
in BP area

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It would be a safe bet to say that not too many small communities recognize their veterans like Blooming Prairie does.

For the fourth consecutive year, a group of Blooming Prairie women quilters made quilts as part of Quilts of Valor Foundation program. Sixteen quilts were given to 14 men and two women at a special Veterans Day Dinner Saturday.

The recognition program came after nearly 300 guests were fed at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Of this total, 71 were veterans.

With the distribution of the 16 quilts, Chris Butler, organizer of the local Quilts of Valor program, said 124 quilts have now been given to area veterans since 2014.

Margot Meyerhofer White and Holli Naatz became the first women to receive the honors in Blooming Prairie. "I was so surprised and touched by the honor," said White.

Naatz singled out her mother-in-law for giving her support when she served nine years in the U.S. Army. "She was the only one who wrote to me when I was away," Naatz said.

As a quilter, Bulter read about the Quilts of Valor program in a quilting magazine and decided to join the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

SEE QUILTS, A6

"Overall, it will enhance the public's safety."

Captain Jeff Mundale
Owatonna Police



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Owatonna police detective Joel Hunt demonstrates the newest technology available to local law enforcement as well as other city departments. The city has purchased a drone, which will be activated by the beginning of the year for emergency situations like search and rescues, chemical spills, armed suspects and missing persons.

EYE ON SAFETY

New emerging technology comes to Steele County to enhance public safety

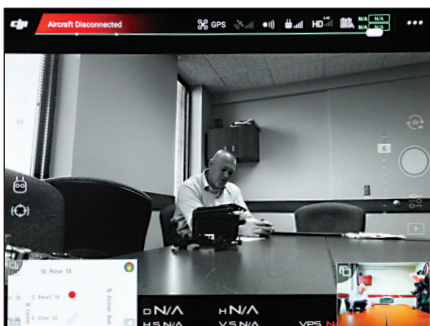
BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Emergency personnel in Steele County will soon have an extra eye to aide in protecting the safety of area residents.

The Owatonna Police Department is in the process of launching a drone to assist officers and firefighters with search and rescue missions, as well as other emergency situations in which time is crucial.

"We'll be able to launch the drone instead of using personnel," said

Captain Jeff Mundale of Owatonna Police. "It will allow us to search faster, cover more terrain and use less



resources," he said.

Situations that could warrant the use of a drone, Mundale said, are searches for missing persons or suicidal people, storm assessments, chemical spills and crash scenes.

Mundale pointed to a recent search effort in Byron where Rochester Police utilized a drone to successfully find a missing hunter partially submerged in a slough. The drone was launched right away because weather conditions prevented a helicopter to take to the skies.

SEE DRONE, A3

BP school referendums pass by sizable margins

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie School District 756 voters convincingly pushed three operating levy referendum questions to victory on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Voters also returned three board members to the school board and added a new board member. Re-elected were Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister and Rodney Krell. All were unopposed and won four-year terms as did former educator Dean Meshke, who also was unopposed.

Results of the votes on the three questions were: Question 1 -- 393 yes, 206 no; Question 2 -- 364 yes, 234 no and Question 3 -- 363 yes, 234 no. Polling judges reported 601 votes cast.

"Obviously, we are very pleased with the results," said

Superintendent Barry Olson. "The results show that the community supports the education system of Blooming Prairie," he added.

The first question proposed to revoke the school district's existing voter approved referendum revenue authorization of \$436 per pupil and to approve a new authorization of \$436 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The operating 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. The board will now 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 has no tax impact on district residents.

The second question asked for approval of an additional \$100 per pupil for technology purposes.

SEE SCHOOL, A3



STAFF PHOTO: RICK BUSSLER

Long-time Steele County environmental services director Scott Golberg has taken over as the new administrator for the county. He will be responsible for 253 full-time employees and a \$58 million budget.

Changing of the guard at county offices

Long-time environmental director takes over as administrator

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

After 36 years of working in one area of county government, Scott Golberg is ready for a new challenge. He will now take on the top role at the county responsible for all departments.

Golberg joined the county in 1981 and has served as environmental services director for most of those years. He began as county administrator on Oct. 30.

"This offered me an opportunity to grow professionally and be a part of an organization," Golberg said of his new job. "I want to be part of something good."

One of Golberg's top priorities will be restoring public trust that has been shaken in recent years with on-going turmoil within the county offices. There have been numerous changes in administrator and county board members over the past seven years.

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Serving
Blooming Prairie
and Steele County
since 1893

OUR VIEW

Proud to be an American

For a small community, Blooming Prairie rates near the top in how it salutes its veterans.

Veterans are treated special during many events that are held during the year.

Just last Saturday, Veterans Day, the local veterans organizations paid tribute to its many veterans in the area by again handing out Quilts of Valor. The program began in Blooming Prairie four years ago in 2014 and has continued with 124 quilts given out during that time.

It has the support of American Legion Post 52, VFW Post 878 and their auxiliaries and the Sons of the American Legion.

The warmth and pride created in the hearts of the recipients of the Quilts of Valor is immeasurable.

Veterans are No. 1 on the minds of many veterans' families and they were able to celebrate their service by the special Quilts of Valor ceremonies.

Chris Butler started the program locally several years ago after reading about the national Quilts of Valor program in a veterans magazine. She is a quilter and started the ball rolling.

Seven quilts were presented to veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2014. Since that time, the local group has given out Quilts of Valor at Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.

The time spent on these artistic creations is awesome. It is estimated that the quilts take more than 20 hours to make and the value of the quilts is listed at \$200.

These quilts are presented to honor a veteran's service.

The first two women given Quilts of Valor last Saturday in Blooming Prairie were Margot White and Holli Naatz.

Anyone can be nominated for a Quilt of Valor. The first Quilt of Valor was given to a Minnesotan hospitalized at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

The love shown to Blooming Prairie veterans by family and friends is captured by the quilts and many other recognition events.

Blooming Prairie is not the only small community that supports its veterans, but it is above average in how it cares for its veterans.

A young Blooming Prairie Elementary School fourth grader gave an unsolicited thank you when attending a Veterans Day program at the school the day before Veterans Day.

It's because of these veterans that we have many of the freedoms we enjoy today.

It is particularly gratifying to see a community like Blooming Prairie going to the nth degree to honor its veterans.

The Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club is the ultimate center of attraction for veteran-related events.

Patriotism is rampant in Blooming Prairie. When some BP fourth graders were recently asked if they knew someone who served in the military, most hands went up.

It's become more commonplace in recent years for aged veterans to talk about their service. Younger people love to hear the tales of military veterans. Years ago, service men and women chose not to talk about their military experiences.

Make it a regular habit to thank military people for their service. Don't just do it on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Do it every day. Veterans are all around us.



Country needs tighter gun control

My heart pours out to the folks at the tiny little church in Sutherland Springs, Texas where a gunman went on a shooting rampage and killed 26 people a couple weekends ago.

It leaves me with a sickening feeling to know that one person could cause so much devastation and destruction of human lives. The gunman reportedly fired at least 450 rounds at helpless worshippers.

The dead ranged from 18 months to 77 years old and included multiple members of some families. One of them was an 8-year-old boy hiding in a pew.

It proved to be the worst mass shooting ever in Texas.

Based on early reports, it appears this shooting stems from a domestic situation and was not racially or religiously motivated.

A mass shooting at a church like Sutherland's First Baptist rips at the inner core of society. We should be able to feel safe when worshipping at a religious institution of our choice. I can't fathom having a sacred time like worshipping at a church service interrupted by a crazed person with assault weapons hell bent on slaughtering innocent lives.

This cowardly act illustrates that violence shows no boundaries. It can happen anywhere. Sutherland Springs has a population of only 400. That's just slightly smaller than Ellendale or Claremont.

What's scary is that this is the second significant massacre in less than six weeks. On Oct. 1, a sniper killed 58 people at a concert in Las Vegas.

I don't think any of us can understand or comprehend the enormity of such mass casualties.

It seems like this country has an obsession with firearms. Gun-buying has exploded in recent years

as some consider firearms the ultimate expression of personal liberty.

Perhaps it's time for this country to outlaw all assault rifles from homes, and make it illegal to own one, unless, of course, you were in formal security forces like the police.

I came across something interesting while following news reports of this latest shooting. While our death tolls horrify other nations, as they should, Japan is among those countries with the most severe restrictions of gun control.

In Japan, handguns are banned outright and rifles are allowed only after extensive training and background checks. The restrictions may seem extreme, but it is hard to argue with the results: In 2014, the U.S. recorded more than 35,000 gun deaths while Japan with a population of 127 million, had six.

It appears tougher gun control may be in order and our ticket to keeping these

gruesome scenes from dotting our countryside. American needs to do something drastic before more crazy nonsense keeps recurring.

We all want our freedom, but are we really enjoying our freedom if we're constantly dodging bullets?

It's time we go in hot pursuit of pushing for stricter gun control.



Hot Pursuit

RICK BUSSLER

GUEST COLUMN



BY PEGGY BENNETT

In July, the state agency that oversees Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) rolled out an update to the statewide computer system called the Minnesota Licensing and Registration System, or MNLARS.

This computer system was supposed to improve and simplify driver and vehicle services for our state. Unfortunately, since MNLARS took effect in July, it's been plagued by a variety of issues and has caused headaches and frustrations for many citizens and license center workers.

I have heard many stories from frustrated local residents over the last three months, including one gentleman who recently had to drive into town from Geneva three separate times over a week's time before he finally was able to get his license tabs. I met recently with equally frustrated area license center personnel to learn more about how this issue is impacting our center and local citizens. I found that, after three months of continued glitches in the system, they continue to face critical issues: multiple-hour shutdowns, charging customers twice, and simply turning people

away because there is no way to process their requests

Put simply, we're disappointed DVS installed this system before it was ready for primetime. The good news is the legislature is doing our part to assist those who have been impacted by MNLARS issues. If you have experienced issues with MNLARS and need assistance, or simply want to share your experience, you can always contact my office at rep. peggy.bennett@house.mn or 651-296-8216, or visit <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/DMV/> Comment to tell your story.

Fort Snelling

On Nov. 3, I had a wonderful time touring the historic Fort Snelling site. Some good friends from Albert Lea and the Twin Cities joined me for the tour, along with my House colleague and friend, Rep. Linda Runbeck.

As members of the House Capital Investment Committee, Rep. Runbeck and I were also able to see first hand the Fort Snelling bonding project request along with the tour. I love early American and Native American history, so this visit was right up my alley. A lot of history for a number of different cultures took place in this area. Some

of the buildings date back to 1820 - the oldest buildings in Minnesota. Amazing! If you haven't had a chance to visit historic Fort Snelling, I hope you will sometime. Thank you to David Kelliher from the Minnesota Historical Society and Fort Snelling Site Manager, Tom Pfannenstiel, for taking the time to give us this tour. I greatly enjoyed it!

Local Award

Congratulations to Keith Erickson, retired special education director for the Albert Lea Area Schools, on winning the Legacy Award at the 2017 Minnesota Administrators for Special Education conference. I worked with Keith during my time at Albert Lea schools, and he's most deserving of the award. Congrats, Keith!

Please continue to call or email my office if you need anything in the months leading up to session. I love hearing your views and suggestions, and will get back to you as soon as possible. Please stay in touch!

Peggy Bennett is a state representative for District 27A, which includes Freeborn County and the city of Blooming Prairie.



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Merle McNutt is one of the oldest living veterans in Blooming Prairie at age 99. He was saluted at Veterans Day ceremonies in BP on Saturday.

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.

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

CONGRESSMAN

Tim Walz

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE

1034 Longworth House

Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

202-225-2472

MANKATO DISTRICT OFFICE

527-1/2 South Front Street

Mankato, MN 56001

507-388-2149

TOLL FREE NUMBER:

877-846-9259

SENATOR

Al Franken

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE

309 Hart Senate

Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202-224-5641

ROCHESTER OFFICE

1202-1/2 7th Street NW

Suite 213

Rochester, MN 55901

507-288-2003

SENATOR

Amy Klobuchar

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE

302 Hart Senate

Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202-224-3244

Fax: 202-228-2186

SOUTHERN OFFICE

1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,

Room 212

Rochester, MN 55901

507-288-5321

Fax: 507-288-2922

TOLL FREE NUMBER:

1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

BLOOMING PRAIRIE MAYOR

H. Peterson

507-583-7573

ELLENDALE MAYOR

Russ Goette

507-684-2681

HAYFIELD MAYOR

Rich Fjerstad

507-477-3535

MEDFORD MAYOR

Lois M Nelson

507-390-4553

dlnelson1167@q.com

OWATONNA MAYOR

Thomas Kuntz

507-774-7342

Fax: 507-444-4394

mayor@ci.owatonna.mn.us

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The bags are packed for the Blooming Prairie School District Backpack Program. The packaging is done at St. Columbanus Catholic church and the food is distributed on Thursdays at the BP Elementary School.

PACKING A PUNCH

Backpack program makes a difference in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Blooming Prairie School District resident Karen Peterson is not embarrassed to say that her family once several years ago made trips to the food shelf in Kasson. Now, Peterson, who resides across the street from the Blooming Prairie Elementary School, is coordinator of the Blooming Prairie schools Backpack Program that sends home meals for kids who need some healthy nutrition on the weekend.

The elementary school is the distribution point for the program. "This is my way of giving back to the community," says Peterson.

In the fall of 2016, two local parents, Karen Peterson and Stephanie Bruggeman initiated conversations about starting a backpack food program that would benefit kids on the weekend.

Through research with other area schools and the Channel One Regional Food Bank, Blooming Prairie's Backpack Program began sending home bags of food with qualifying students this past February.

Through partnership with First Lutheran Church Blooming Prairie, the Backpack Program currently serves 59 students with breakfast, lunch, healthy snacks and fruits each weekend during the school year.

The backpack program began serving local children, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, from all walks of life. The BP Backpack Program now serves some seventh and eighth graders.

The needs of food insecurity are ever-present in the Blooming Prairie community, says Peterson. The success of the Blooming Prairie Backpack Program is now, and will be, a long-term commitment, Peterson believes.

School administration, mainly BP Superintendent Barry Olson, high school Principal John Worke and elementary Principal Chris Staloch have been especially supportive of the program.

It was through the efforts of Olson, Worke and Staloch that the alliance was created between the school district and First Lutheran Church to make the church the fiscal agent for the program.

First Lutheran is a 501c-3 entity. Sylvia Myre, treasurer of First Lutheran Church, works closely with Peterson on the accounting side.

If students qualify for free and reduced lunches, they fill out a Backpack application through the schools, and are automatically part of the program.

It is recorded that 36.1 percent elementary students in Blooming Prairie receive free and reduced lunch services. The percentage is 32.74 for the junior high and high school.

Peterson orders food online through the Channel One Food Bank in Rochester for the program. She orders food on a monthly basis.

Food items include little cups of cereal, boxes of cereal, pop top meals, mac and cheese, chicken alfredo, mini ravioli, vegetables, fruits, peanut butter, jelly packets and granola snacks just to name a few.

The food is stored at the St. Columbanus Catholic Church fifth grade classroom.

The program is supported financially by donations. "It's sometimes a hit and a miss but we welcome all financial donations," Peterson says. With the current enrollment, the program costs about \$7,500, Peterson said. If it grows to 90 students, costs could approach \$12,000, she predicted.

In June, Peterson sent out 130 letters to area businesses and individuals asking for

interest in the program. "We need to find larger donors and I am working to obtain some grants to help continue the program," Peterson related. She currently is seeking a grant through Aldi's Smart kids and through the Otto Bremer Foundation.

Residents from the community and students help pack the food bags on Wednesday night at St. Columbanus Catholic Church.

Peterson is usually one of the volunteers who pack the bags. With two students and three adults packing, the project is completed in about 20 minutes, Peterson said.

Volunteers are then coordinated to help deliver the bags from St. Columbanus to the school. Teachers are aware of the recipients' names and on Thursdays during their class preparation hour, they grab the bags from a conference room at the elementary school and disperse them into kids' backpacks.

Peterson said the students are proud and happy, not ashamed about receiving food.

Parents have been very supportive and appreciative of the program, said Peterson. "They think it is a great program and makes a difference," she says. "It's also transparent," she emphasized.

If people wish to donate financially, send checks (place Backpack Program in memo) to First Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 697, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917.

To find out more about the program, send an email to bpbackpackprogram@gmail.com or go to the Backpack Program Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BloomingPrairieBackpackProgram/>.

When Peterson is not working with the Backpack Program, she is tending to family duties and also is involved in her Confections by Karen business. She is currently making lefse and has an order to fill for cupcakes.

ADMINISTRATOR: Changing of the guard

FROM PAGE A1

Golberg, who grew up in Owatonna, would like to get things back on an even keel and leave behind what's happened in the past.

Up until 2010, there was hardly any turnover in the board room and key leadership positions were in place for a long time. "We've had so many changes in the past six years with the board," Golberg said. "It has been hard to provide any consistency."

"I look at this as a fresh start," Golberg says. "You just have to move forward and you have to earn trust and respect," he said.

Asked about the division within the county in recent years, Golberg said, "With good leadership, we can get back to good decision making, which is going to lead to gaining the public's trust."

He added it's imperative for county officials to be responsible and transparent through the rebuilding process. The cornerstones to rebuilding the county are transparency, good communication and respect, Golberg said. "It all begins with respect," he said, adding he wants to let departments do their work with how they know best.

As for how he's planning to heal things within the county, Golberg

assures the public he's ready for the challenge. "Lead by example," he says. "I need to set the tone to send the right message. I can lead by doing things the right way," he said.

In terms of relations with the county commissioners, Golberg said he wants to be very open and candid with

"Lead by example. I need to set the tone to send the right message. I can lead by doing things the right way."

Scott Golberg
New County Administrator

board in the near future to see what its expectations are about Golberg's role as administrator. "I want to see how they want to see the organization operate," he said. "We need to find out how we will work together as a group," he added.

Golberg describes his management style as being a democratic listener

who seeks out input before making decisions. "I seek to get the right information," he said.

The administrator plans to have listening sessions with various employee groups to find out their concerns. "I want to understand some of the programs and services they provide that I don't know about," Golberg said.

He also finds it important to be "fiscally responsible" when working with taxpayer money. Along with the county board, Golberg will oversee a \$58 million budget. He will be in charge of 253 full-time employees.

A big challenge Golberg will quickly run into is implementing "a lot of underfunded mandates" from the state.

In the coming weeks, Golberg will be focused on finalizing the budget for 2018. The county board has to set next year's tax levy in December.

Golberg has risen to the top similar to the way his predecessor did in the environmental services office. He took over Dave Severson's job in 1981 when Severson moved up to county coordinator.

While Golberg wasn't the county's top choice, he's fine with that and realizes the top candidate had more administrative experience. "I was just honored to be in the top three," he said. "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role."



The Ellendale Methodist Church hosted a dinner for veterans on Veterans Day. Roger Wayne, left, and Gil Nelson, both U.S. Army veterans congratulate one another. Both are 91 and World War II veterans.

SCHOOL: Referendum passes



Blooming Prairie School District voters cast ballots at the BP Elementary School on Nov. 7. Here, Harvey Farr checks his registration with election clerk Joanne Nahlovsky. The voter count hit 601. All three referendum questions passed.

FROM PAGE A1

The final question called for approval of an additional \$60 per pupil for reducing class size.

It was necessary to pass the first question in order to ratify the passage of the other two referendum questions.

The renewal of the operating levy will bring in \$800,000 to the district. Approval of Question 2 will bring in \$74,000 and Tuesday's approval of Question 3 will raise \$35,000.

Voter approval of all levies means \$160 more per pupil unit. Starting in 2019, these levies will bring in \$1,020 per pupil.

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.

The passage of Question 1 has no impact on citizen taxes. Approval of Questions 2 and 3 does mean an increase in taxes, amounting to \$47.65 on a \$150,000 house.

"It is up to us (school board and staff) to make our education system even better," said Olson.

The superintendent said he

was not totally surprised by the margin of approval with Question 1. "It's also nice to see large margins of approval with Questions 2 and 3," he added.

Olson explained that approval of these extra monies will afford more opportunities for Blooming Prairie students. He specifically pointed to technology, saying more exploration in this area can now be done at the high school and elementary levels. He mentioned robotics, for example.

With a quality education system, Olson said it makes it easier for teachers to teach. "The community support helps make education strong and innovative," Olson continued.

"I am just very grateful and excited we have the community support to make our educational offerings better in Blooming Prairie," Olson stated.

Krell, the board chair, echoed Olson's comments, thanking the community for its support of education.

On the board membership side, Braaten led all vote getters with 490 votes, followed by Hameister with 478, Krell with 477 and Meshke with 473. Sixty-three write in votes were cast.

DRONE: New technology to enhance safety

FROM PAGE A1

The drone located the 84-year-old man using infrared technology. Authorities said without the drone, the man may not have survived.

One situation that comes to mind for Mundale where a drone could have been utilized in Steele County was in November 2016 when a train derailed in Ellendale, causing the entire community to evacuate. He said a drone could have been deployed to go up in the air and look for chemical leaks from the train cars.

In the case of a hazardous leak, the drone would be ideal to access the potential dangers to the public, Mundale said. "The drones would be accessing what the hazards are instead of putting personnel at risk," he said, adding a drone would help determine what's not safe.

Drones are unmanned aircrafts that can be navigated without a human pilot on board the aerial vehicle. They are navigated via control from the ground, using a GPS tracking system.

Police detective Joel Hunt has personal experience with drones and will be leading the effort to get the department's drone launched in the coming weeks. A committee will be formed to determine guidelines and procedures for the drone's operation within the city and greater Steele County. He said strict policies will be put in place, as well as a public hearing with the city council before the drone is implemented.

Hunt said the drone is not meant to lift off and go patrol.

Both Hunt and Mundale see significant benefits to having a drone available to emergency personnel. Among them are improved safety for first responders, improved response time for recovery efforts and improved efficiencies within city departments. "Overall, it will enhance the public's safety," Mundale said.

In addition to public safety, drones can also keep police officers safe. Hunt said a drone could be utilized in handling an "active deadly threat" involving an armed suspect. "The drone would give us intelligence to help us from a safe distance," he said.

For example, a drone could help the SWAT team in a cornfield search of an armed suspect, Mundale noted. "This could be your search tool," he said. "It could save an officer's life."

Added Hunt: "If we find one missing person, it is priceless."

Owatonna has purchased the "Cadillac package" of drones, according to Hunt. The city has invested about \$20,000 into the unit, which will be equipped with two cameras.

Hunt said a big benefit of the unit is its distance. The drone has a range of 4 ½ miles in ideal conditions. The top speed will be 43 mph, and the unit will be able to be in the air for about 30 minutes. The batteries, which are self-heating, can be in cold weather down to zero.

The city is currently seeking a certificate of authorization from the FAA, which, like commercial aircraft, regulates drones. "Flights are logged," Hunt said. "It's like a commercial



Drone At Glance

Cost: \$20,000

Use: All Owatonna city departments, including police and fire

Operation: In the air in less than 5 minutes

Goals: Improve public safety and officer safety

Launch target: First of the year

aircraft being monitored all the time."

The drone will be available to police and fire at any time for day or night time operations.

Privacy will be a consideration of local officials in operating the drones, Hunt said. "We won't be operating where we can't see," he said. "There will be no blanket canvassing just to see what we can see," he added.

Police and fire won't be the only agencies utilizing the drone. It has been purchased for all city departments in Owatonna, including park and recreation, engineering and grounds and facilities. All departments are splitting the cost.

OBITUARIES

Victor A. Richardson
Owatonna



Victor Arnold Richardson, 73, loving husband and father, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 1 after a long and courageous battle with Frontal Temporal Dementia (FTD).

Vic was born on March 10, 1944. He grew up on a small family farm in Spring Valley and graduated from high school in 1962. He married the love of his life, Clarice Lindeman, on May 31, 1969.

In addition to his family and church, Vic was deeply committed to the farming community. He graduated from the U of M in 1966 with a Bachelor's degree and in 1978 with a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education and held educational positions, first in Jeffers, Minn. and then in Owatonna and Austin.

He was passionately involved in the FFA, FarmAmerica and many other agricultural organizations on a local, state and national level. He dedicated his life to saving family farms, received many awards and honors over the years for his work, and was eventually inducted into the FFA Hall of Fame in 2013. Vic was also a Farm Tax Specialist, conducting and producing seminars and educational materials.

Vic was also a member of the Steele County Exchange Club and was a very active member of St. John's Lutheran Church for over 40 years. In his free time, he enjoyed collecting and over the years he amassed many stamps, coins, tractors, pigs, pencils and more. Vic also enjoyed being the master of his charcoal grill. The family favorite was his pork burgers.

Vic was preceded in death by his parents Douglas and Anna Richardson, his sister Linda Peterson, and his grandson Kaidin Staska Richardson Minowa.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 48 years, Clarice Richardson, his two daughters, Melanie Estes-Proulx (Mark) and Janelle Sorensen (Adam), his son, Craig Richardson Minowa (Connie), his 10 grandchildren, and one great grandchild, as well as his sister, Jean Post (Garry), and many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Birchwood Cottages in Owatonna where Vic spent the last year of his life. The entire staff was so very accommodating, compassionate, and generous, giving over and above what they were required to give, truly giving from their hearts. Our family feels blessed that Vic could spend his final 15 months under their care.

Funeral services were held at St. John's Lutheran Church on Saturday, Nov. 11.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the ALS Association, given their strong involvement with familial FTD research. The address for donations is 333 North Washington Ave., Suite 105, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

John (Jack) Earl Sheedy
Austin



John (Jack) Earl Sheedy, 77, of Austin, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017 at St. Mark's Lutheran Home in Austin.

He was born Jan. 30, 1940 in Austin, to Harry and Eleanor (Earl) Sheedy. He attended both Austin and Blooming Prairie High Schools, graduating with the class of 1958 from Blooming Prairie. Jack worked in construction for Ulland Brothers Inc. for 23 years and was also a farmer all his life.

On June 14, 1959, Jack married Eileen Dalager at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin. Together the couple raised two children. He was a longtime member of Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church. Jack enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking and snowmobiling. Jack will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife Eileen Sheedy of Austin; his children Lori (Greg) Stackhouse of Hayfield and David (Connie) Sheedy of Little Elm, TX; three grandchildren Blaine (Katherine) Stackhouse of Hayfield, JB Stackhouse of Hayfield and Cheyenne Redfearn of Lewisville, TX; and sister JoAnn (Richard) Tufte of Austin.

He was preceded in death by his parents Harry and Eleanor Sheedy, and his brothers Patrick Sheedy and Paul Sheedy.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017 at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin with Pastor Lindsay Stolen officiating. The Sheedy family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday. Interment will be in Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Judy K. Brown
Blooming Prairie



Judy K. Brown, 77, of Blooming Prairie, and formerly of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died Monday, Nov. 6, 2017 at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie.

Judy Kay Sawyer was born on June 13, 1940, in Estherville, Iowa to JD and Jeanne "Jean" (Harrison) Sawyer. Judy graduated from Claremont High School in 1959. On Sept. 1, 1962, she married Rex Brown at Claremont Presbyterian Church in Claremont. Their marriage was blessed with two sons.

Judy worked in communications for most of her life and retired from Mediacom in 2005. Judy and her husband lived in Cedar Rapids for close to 50 years before moving to Blooming Prairie in 2008 to be closer to their children and grandchildren. She loved to read, travel, watch college basketball and TV, especially Wheel of Fortune. Judy will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include her two sons Shawn (Heidi) Brown of Blooming Prairie, and Jared (Debbie) Brown of Blooming Prairie; 15 grandchildren Brandon, Chessa, Kayla, Cameron, Skyler, Ashley, Jaydon, Bailey, Mason, Lauren, Veronica, Makenna, Sarah, Peyton, and Lydia; her brother James (Linda) Sawyer of Northfield; her sister Janine (Dennis) Louks of Blooming Prairie.

She is preceded in death by her husband Rex Brown; her parents; her granddaughter Gianna Judy Brown, her sister Jonna Johnson, and her brother-in-law Richard Johnson.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie with Father Thomas Niehaus officiating.

Interment was at Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Darrell Robert Reese
Blooming Prairie



Darrell Robert Reese, 64, of Blooming Prairie, died Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester.

He was born May 9, 1953 in Owatonna the son of Darvin and Darlene (Ressler) Reese. Darrell married Lena Kraudy Aug. 5, 1972 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Litomysl. The couple lived near Lemond. In 1999, they moved near Litomysl to land they had farmed for several years which allowed them to be closer to Darrell's parents. Darrell worked for over 40 years at Anderson Roofing, which later became Malo Roofing.

Darrell enjoyed fishing and hunting, playing cards and watching old Westerns. He loved to spend time with his grandsons and his dog, Buddy.

He is survived by his wife, Lena Reese of Blooming Prairie; daughters, Kelly (and Tony) Gilmore of Cambridge, Kristina Reese of Geneva; sons, Robert (and Jane Urban) Reese of Geneva, Joseph Reese of Geneva; grandsons, Derek Gilmore, Dylan Gilmore, Bentley "Benny" Reese; mother, Darlene Reese of Blooming Prairie; brother, Jerry (and Koni) Reese of Owatonna; sister, Sherry (and Brad) Grobner of Owatonna and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by father, Darvin Reese; brother, Charles Reese.

Visitation will be at Michaelson Funeral Home on Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 10-11 a.m. Funeral services will be held Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Michaelson Funeral Home led by Sister Francheon Prikl.

Interment will be in the Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery in Litomysl.

SEMCAC Senior Menu

- Wednesday, Nov. 15**
Bean-Lentil Soup, Tuna Salad Sandwich (alt. Cheese on Bun), Citrus Fruit Cup, Starburst Cake
- THANKSGIVING DINNER, Thursday, Nov. 16**
Turkey w/Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Pie
- Friday, Nov. 17**
Enchilada Casserole, Lettuce Salad, Parslied Carrots, Chocolate Cherry Bar
- Monday, Nov. 20**
Chili con Carne, Crackers, Pear/Cottage Cheese, Corn Muffin, Chocolate Yum Yum
- Tuesday, Nov. 21**
Vegetable Soup w/Crackers, Shredded Turkey on Bun
Mandarin Orange Salad, Gingerbread w/topping

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS		Nov. 22
Nov. 15 Chase Wangen Chloe Joe Tocko	Rick Swenson April Lynn Olson Beth Trom	Pierce Deyoung Joe Morgan Shawn Johnson Carol Holmes Damon Milton Donna Maixner Kathy Ryks
Nov. 16 Daniel Krell Vivian Polinder Matthew Esplan	Nov. 19 Nicholas Bass LeMar Nelson Shayne Johnson	ANNIVERSARIES
Nov. 17 Terri Underwood Talon Arndt Jeffrey Doerhoefer Tom Trotman Salem Cremeans	Nov. 20 Dudley Smith Ethan Johnson Pam Ingvalson	Nov. 18 Ron & Marge Schmeling
Nov. 18 Isabella Heiber	Nov. 21 Abby Wayne Alison Mach Norma Hegal Andrew Wondra Jett Swenson	Nov. 19 Grady & Julie Strand
		Nov. 21 David & Jody Easton

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LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Reorganization helps
make library easier to use



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

Changes are happening at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library!

For many years the adult and children's non-fiction books (the true books, as kids say) have been mixed together on the shelves. That meant kids would look for their dinosaur books right next to the crime and diet books. The adults would have to look past the Ripley's Believe It or Not series to find self-help and religious books.

Now the children's books are separated from the adults so that both groups can find what they need more easily. For our regular visitors, this may take some getting used to, but feel free to ask at the desk for whatever help you need.

Our goal at the library has been stated before, but bears repeating: we want to help you find the right item at the right time. Actually the stated goal used to be the right book at the right time, but now we have many more options for you to choose from: books, audiobooks, eBooks, online databases, magazines, and more.

Come see us at the library for whatever help you need!

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Saturday, Nov. 18
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PASTOR LINDSEY STOLEN

RED OAK LUTHERAN CHURCH
AUSTIN

Confessing the ways we live only for ourselves

In our congregation, we've been using a different confession and forgiveness lately in worship.

It starts like this: We confess the ways we live only for ourselves.

Ouch. Every time I pray that confession, I feel convicted. So often, so much of our days, we do live only for ourselves. We're now entering that season in which goodwill towards others, serving those around us, donating to worthy causes is in the forefront. So let's do that.

Making a big meal for your family? Carry some leftovers to your homebound neighbor. Bake cookies to share. Consider donating to community food drives. These don't need to be huge, grandiose gestures either. Ask someone how they are and really, truly listen to their response. Open a door, share a smile, give a high five. Tell someone what they mean to you.

Even those tiny little alterations in our lives will add up to make a giant difference. A difference in living for

others. That is, indeed, precisely what the gospel of Jesus proclaims. To love neighbor. To welcome the stranger. To live lives in community. May then this season of compassion and listening and reaching out continue in the months to come.

As Jesus forgives us when we say we confess the ways we live only for ourselves, may that grace propel us outward, to live for the other, to go forth in love.

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 Weinlauf,
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
President
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 Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Worship: 10 a.m. Sun.
Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun.
Reformers Unanimous Meetings:
7 p.m. Friday

CEDAR CREEK

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN

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

ELEVATION NORTH

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

NEW BEGINNINGS

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

SIMPLE CHURCH

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

MENNONITE

PRAIRIE MENNONITE

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

MORMON

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

404 31st St. NW, Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
507-433-9042
Worship: 9 a.m. Sun.

PRESBYTERIAN

ASSOCIATED CHURCH

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

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

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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
507-583-2018

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

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121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

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‘I didn’t have much of a choice’

Betlach recalls World War II experiences

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Old enough to be drafted into American military service in 1943, Blooming Prairie resident Ernie Betlach said he didn't have much choice of whether to serve or not. "I was given the choice of which branch I wanted to serve and I chose the United States Navy because my brother Frank joined the Navy just months before," Betlach related. The veteran, who will be 94 next January, is precise in detail when discussing his nearly three-year stint in the Navy during World War II.

Betlach, a former businessman in Blooming Prairie for many years at the Pure Oil station, is often called a "walking encyclopedia" because of his unending ability to recall history.

Just prior to Veterans Day last Saturday, Betlach sat in the living room of his house and reflected on his service to his country from 1943-46.

Ernest Betlach was born in Blooming Prairie on Jan. 12, 1924 and was the youngest of three boys. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School class of 45 in 1942.

"I'm sitting in my living room, only about 20 yards from where I was born," he smiles.

Betlach, known to many as Ernie and to some as "Tinker," was 18 1/2 when he was drafted from Steele County. Most of his classmates, a year younger or a year older, were also drafted. Betlach reported for the draft in April of 1943 at the Fort Snelling Armory in St. Paul.

He recalls being asked whether he wanted to serve in the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Army. That's when he picked the Navy because of his brother's service. Ironically, the two brothers (Frank and Ernie) hooked up a few years later in the South Pacific. They hadn't seen one another for two years.

Betlach also recalls being asked to serve six years. He chose the three-year hitch and shipped out days later to the Faragut Naval Station in Faragut, Idaho for Basic Training. "That was tough training and it was damn cold until the sun came up over the mountains," he vividly recalls.

He remembers his Basic Training early duties of guarding a clothes line pole or a furnace. It was duty whether menial at best.

Following Basic, Betlach was shipped to a Seabee base near Santa Barbara, Calif. He was then assigned to the SS Young America, a Merchant Marine ship converted to a troop carrier.

The next destination was Guadalcanal in the Pacific theater of World War II. Prior to reaching the Guadalcanal Island, Betlach's ship landed at Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. Betlach said the Japanese used this island as a stepping stone to reach Hawaii. The United States also used this island to reach the Philippines.

Betlach's unit was then instrumental in building an emergency airstrip on the Solomon Islands. He was serving on a Landing Ship Taker and responsible for taking diesel fuel and gas to shore. "We rolled the barrels of fuel into the water toward shore and then started getting shelled," Betlach remembers. "We ran to shore and got into our foxholes. When you can hear the shells, they say you are OK," he continued. Ernie said one American on the LST was killed during a shelling by the Japanese. For two to three days, Betlach and his fellow Navy men lived in fox holes and built four-place tent used for a mess hall. "We ate K rations," he said. The climate was very hot at the time, he said. Construction of the air strip involved the installation of planks, six to seven feet long fastened together. This design was wide enough for friendly aircraft to land on it. After 18 months of service, Betlach was sent home on leave. Enroute to home, Betlach spotted a young Army kid playing cards on the ship. "I told him I should know him," Betlach said. He did know him. It was Clayton (Hickory) Peterson, a Blooming Prairie man who worked at Srsen Auto. Betlach and Peterson spent much of their leave time together. When they returned to duty, Betlach said he kept Peterson and his buddy alive by bringing them ice cream and Coca Cola. Following his leave, Betlach went back to San Francisco to a receiving station. He was on shore patrol. Some of his colleagues were "tough guys," San Francisco policemen, Betlach tells. Next tour of duty was out of the U.S. and on a perfect course to the Philippines. The war was over at that time. For five months, Betlach said he and his crew did nothing, only waiting to be discharged which occurred in February of 1946. Betlach then came home and ran the service station with his father and brother Frank. Ernie did book work at the station and Frank took care of the garage. The brothers were each given a quarter ownership of the business and father

“We rolled the barrels of fuel into the water toward shore and then started getting shelled. We ran to shore and got into our foxholes. When you can hear the shells, they say you are OK.”

Ernie Betlach
World War II Veteran



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Longtime Blooming Prairie resident Ernie Betlach looks over some clippings from when he raised the American flag at a Minnesota Twins baseball game in 2010.

Edward retained half. Their father sold his share to them in 1967.

"We were a full service station, pumping gas, checking oil and checking the tires," Ernie commented.

During those days, Betlach said he worked seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The station was located at the corner of Highway 218 and Highway 30.

Betlach and his childhood sweetheart were married in 1949. The Betlachs have four children, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way.

The station was sold to Bill Wilke in 1989. Betlach then worked for Jim's Standard for 11 years.

Betlach said his time in the Navy was a "good experience" and he has no regrets since he came back home safely.

He loves family and is a follower of many types of sports. He and his wife were Minnesota Viking season ticket holders, starting in the beginning, 1961.

Betlach was given the honor of raising the American flag at a Minnesota Twins game on Sept. 1, 2010 at Target Field. Much of his family was present.

Betlach is very sentimental when relating that he was born just across the street. The doctor who delivered him had to only walk across the street and in doing so, gave his parents a discounted delivery price of \$25.

"I grew up a block from the Catholic church, a block from the playground, a block from the bank, a block from the Pizza Cellar, three blocks from work and four blocks away from the grocery store."

Betlach is one of very few World War II veterans from the Blooming Prairie still living. The others include George Ressler, Don Bakke, Frank Williamson, John Christianson, Merle McNutt and Jack Shaw.



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

With the guidance of past American Legion Post 52 Commander Doug Johnson, left, Victor Fischer, an Army veteran, raises the flag during Veterans Day ceremonies at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11.

Veteran honored by raising of flag

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

"Why was I chosen?"

That was a question Victor Fischer, 90, of rural Blooming Prairie, posed on Veterans Day last Saturday while he waited at the BP Servicemen's Club to be the honorary flag raiser.

Each Veterans Day, Blooming Prairie military service organizations participate in a special ceremony, highlighted by flag raising.

Asked what he thought about the honor, Fischer said he was pleased but hadn't thought about it too much.

Fischer served in the United States Army from 1950-53, with much of his time spent in the Korean War. He was stationed near Inchon, Korea.

Fischer's day began with the flag raising and ended with Fischer receiving a Quilt of Valor, saluting his service.

His wife Esther and two sons, Chris and Daniel, were at both events.

Fischer lives in rural Blooming Prairie, three miles west of Bixby. He has farmed all of his life. Fischer served on a salvage boat. His ship picked up airplanes and other landing crafts. He remembers being fired at by the enemy.

Color guards representing American Legion Post 52 and VFW Post 878 participated in the flag raising ceremonies. Past Legion commander Doug Johnson was master of ceremonies. The Rev. Matt Fennel of the Blooming Prairie Baptist Church offered prayers.

QUILTS: More donated to veterans



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Boyd Demmer, formerly of Hayfield, was the first recipient given a Quilt of Valor on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. He is shown with Chris Butler, who pieced his quilt. Butler started the Quilts of Valor movement in Blooming Prairie four years ago.

FROM PAGE A1

The rest is history as she recruited several local quilters to join her in the quilting process.

The first quilt in the Blooming Prairie Quilts of Valor program was made by Butler and given to her stepfather, John Whiting.

"Everybody makes them when we can," Butler said. The program operates strictly on donations with each quilt valued at \$200. The cost comes in material front and back, batting and long arm quilting.

The Pine Needles Quilt and Sew shop of Rochester donated three quilts to the Blooming Prairie veterans quilting program. The Calico Hutch of Hayward also donates to the quilting efforts.

"I am deeply honored and owe a lot of gratitude to these women quilters,"

remarked Jerry Mikkell, the second recipient of the evening.

Another recipient, Richard Schwartz, thanked everyone for saluting the veterans and said he believed it was a "good experience" to have served in the military.

Marilyn Meshke, representing the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries, emceed the ceremonies surrounding the presentation of quilts. Family members came on stage with the quilt recipients and Meshke read a biography of each.

"Thanks for your service," Meshke said to James Klecker. "It was worth it," he responded.

The Quilts of Valor recipients were honored in three separate groups.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began as a dream of founder Catherine Roberts. Her son Nat was deployed in Iraq. Roberts tells the story of a young man sitting on the side of his bed in the middle of the night in combat and showing despair. Her next image was seeing her son wrapped in a quilt. His demeanor changed from despair to one of hope and wellbeing.

The first Quilt of Valor was awarded in November 2003 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to a young soldier from Minnesota who had lost a leg in Iraq.

From Catherine Robert's home in Seaford, Del., the Quilts of Valor movement spread across the nation and beyond through the power of word-of-mouth and the Internet.

Doug Johnson, past American Legion Post 52 commander, was master of ceremonies for the evening. He smoothly handled introductions and gave dining guests a sampling of celebrities who have served in the military. For example, Elvis Presley was mentioned as a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Jenny Flaherty and her crew served the nearly 300 guest in an unbelievable 20-minute time frame. Doreen Blome, chair of the BP Servicemen's Club board, said rolls and coffee and the evening food was donated by Thrivent (Vikki Wacek) and the Servicemen's Club gambling fund.



STAFF PHOTO: HOWARD LESTRUD

Sixteen more Quilts of Valor were given out on Veterans Day night at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club. Since 2014, 124 quilts have been given to honor area veterans. Recent recipients are Front Row (left to right): Victor Fischer, Delomone Martin, Keith Kruger, Lawrence Esplan Jr., Boyd Demmer, Gaylord Tapp, James Klecker and Robert Vaith; back row: Gerald Mikkell, Holli Naatz, Richard Schwartz, Margot White, Robert Salinas, Jr., Ed Christensen, Ken Ryks and Don Winter.

“I am deeply honored and owe a lot of gratitude to these women quilters.”

Gerald Mikkell

Quilt of Valor Recipient

Quilts of Valor

Recipients with the quilter and long arm quilter:

Boyd Demmer – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Cathy Martin
Gerald Mikkell – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Calico Hutch
Margot Meyerhofer White – pieced by Shirley Nelson, long arm quilter Bev Wacek
Don Winter – pieced by Bev Hoveland, long arm quilter Bev Wacek
Keith Jon Kruger – pieced by Shirley Nelson; long arm quilter Calico Hutch

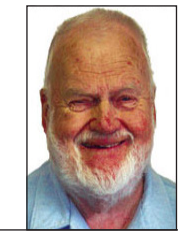
Gaylord Tapp – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Bev Wacek
Ed Christensen – pieced and quilted by Sue Powell
Robert Vaith – pieced by Marty Walters, long arm quilter Cathy Lightly
Delmont Martin – pieced and quilted by Pine Needles
Ken Ryks – Pieced and quilted by Pine Needles
Richard Schwartz – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Calico Hutch

Victor Fischer – made and quilted by Pine Needles
Lawrence Esplan, Jr. – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Pine Needles
Holli Naatz – pieced by Chris Butler, long arm quilter Bev Wacek
Robert Salinas, Jr. – pieced by Diane Anderson, long arm quilter Pine Needles
James Klecker – pieced by Carol Prokopec, long arm quilter Joan Correy

CHECK OUT ANOTHER VETERAN STORY ON PAGE B5

Time to reflect on Blossoms' season

Now that a little time has passed since the disappointing loss to Goodhue, the Awesome Blossom football team can sit back and evaluate the recent season. One thing that should be made clear from the start is that the team had another in the long line of successful seasons.



Outside the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

The three losses all came against the top seeded teams in the section and ranked teams in the state. In the case of Rushford-Peterson, the Blossoms got a good measure of revenge in beating them in the section semi-finals. Now the goal will be to upend Goodhue one of these next seasons. It is difficult to single out any individuals when the whole team has performed so well, but a few highlights could be mentioned.

The two touchdowns in the last three minutes that defeated unbeaten Mayer-Lutheran certainly qualified as outstanding, and the win over Fillmore Central also provided some thrills and excitement for fans. Individually, the defensive play of Mitchell Oswald, Payton Simon, and Dylan Nirk stood out, and Seth Peterson's performance in passing led to a 2,000-yard season. Tim Wolf, Colin Lerum, Gabe Hagen, and Simon all had outstanding games on offense.

In the kicking game Brad Staska, showed great dependability in kicking extra points and long kickoffs, and Matthew Pryor and Max Romeo took turns in leading the rushers. I could mention other individuals, but it all comes back to team, and the team showed great resiliency and determination in the face of some serious adversity. That should make the team and the individual players justly proud of their accomplishments. It was another great football season.

FOUR MATMEN RANKED

The Minnesota Wrestling Association has released its first ranking of high school wrestlers, and Westfield has four individuals in the top 10. A reminder to readers that last season marked the first time Blooming Prairie and Hayfield sponsored a shared wrestling program, and the team had a winning record in the first campaign.

In the first rankings this season Ethan Arett lands first in the 113 weight class, Colton Krell (160) and Mitchell Oswald (285) ranked third, and Morgan Moreno came in 10th at 195. This is the case even before the season begins, but it is notable that the local wrestlers have achieved that status. Arett, Oswald, and Moreno are seniors, but Krell is just a sophomore. It looks as if the 217-18 wrestling season will feature some exciting competition from Westfield competitors.

A MOST POPULAR PAIR

I have to echo the words of my publisher in singing the praises of Roger Erickson, one half of the famous and most popular Boone and Erickson duo. It was an accepted fact that the two announcers and often times comedians, ruled the Midwest radio market from 1961 until their retirement in 1998, and for some time commanded 60 percent of all radio listening in the area.

Even before I moved from South Dakota in 1957, WCCO radio ruled the air in my household. With the show in the morning, and Steve Cannon in the afternoon, no other radio station got any airtime for my family. When the Boone and Erickson show began in 1961, I was hooked for good. Now that both are gone, I can't see anyone who can replace the two of them. Too bad!

OWATONNA LIVE

It has been a string of BPHS athletes and personalities that have been featured on Owatonna live in recent weeks. Reporter Todd Walkingstick last week interviewed senior athlete Ayren Ingvalson in one of the segments on his show about her career in athletics at the local high school.

Ingvalson is a three-sport competitor, and she recounted some of her experiences in all three of her endeavors. She played a hitter in volleyball, is a guard on the basketball team, and ran track for the first time last season. She enjoys the relays in track and was glad she decided to give that sport a chance. She becomes just the latest in a half dozen local athletes in the last few weeks to be interviewed by Walkingstick, the on-air reporter for the Owatonna website.

COMING UP

Two events in the next two weeks put the community on notice that activity is always on tap for local residents. This coming Saturday, the local Knights of Columbus chapter is sponsoring its third annual fundraiser for the youth of the community. A delicious spaghetti supper, complete with garlic bread, dessert, and a glass of wine is scheduled, with background entertainment provided by the Lights of Litomysl.

This is a really fun event, and it is almost worth the price of admission to see KC member Tom Walters attired in his famous tuxedo (it still fits). Tickets are available from KC members or at the BP Youth Club at \$20. They are \$25 at the door. A large crowd is anticipated.

The other upcoming event is the annual Gobble Wobble to be scheduled for Thanksgiving Day morning. Linda Klemmensen and Sportstitch first organized this event, and she still gives valuable advice in its operation. The event is an excellent way to get some needed exercise before sitting down to the traditional dinner in which most of us indulge on this favorite holiday, and volunteers are lined up to see that the event proceeds smoothly.

Entries for the race can be made ahead of time, but individuals are also invited just to show up at the BP Youth Club Thursday morning by 8 a.m. There is also a Widdle Wobble for the little ones at the event. Contact the youth club for further details. With those two coming events in mind, enjoy fall, anticipate the upcoming winter sports season, and we'll talk again.

FOOTBALL



STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER

Runningback Jason Williamson (22) carries the ball during the State Quarter-final game at Lakeville North High School Saturday night while Brody Veach (70) blocks a Mahtomedi defender for him. At right, Nolan Malo (82) lifts Williamson up to celebrate Williamson scoring a touchdown. Williamson was one score shy of the state record for rushing touchdowns in a game.

TO THE BANK

Huskies crush Mahtomedi, advance to state semis at US Bank Stadium

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Owatonna High School junior running back Jason Williamson was simply mesmerizing on Saturday in the Class 5A state quarterfinal game at Lakeville North High School.

Williamson junked, sprinted and pounded his way through the Mahtomedi (9-2) defense to rush 34 times for 262 yards and an astonishing seven touchdowns in the Huskies' 59-34 victory over the Zephyrs.

"I firmly believe he is the best running back in the state of Minnesota," Owatonna coach Jeff Williams said. "But to do what he did in a state tournament game is just awesome."

"I firmly believe he is the best running back in the state of Minnesota. But to do what he did in a state tournament game is just awesome."

Jeff Williams
Owatonna Coach

Williamson was one score shy of the Minnesota state record for rushing touchdowns in a game.

He also had four receptions for 52 yards, made five tackles and hauled in an interception on defense.

"[Williamson] is just great guy that never stops grinding," senior offensive and defensive lineman Kadyn Mulert said. "He's always working and doing his best. He is just an awesome guy."

Owatonna (10-1) advanced to play Brainerd (9-2) at 7 p.m. on Saturday at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"It feels amazing and it's awesome for the people who are retuning from last year when we went," Mulert said. "It's going to be an unforgettable experience. We've worked really hard to get back. We just have to make sure we are in the right mindset and go in there and pull out a win."



Quarterback Abe Havelka (3) runs after a loose ball during the game. The Huskies went on to win 59-34 to advance to the State Semifinals at U.S. Bank Stadium.

Owatonna was forced to punt on its first drive of the game. Senior quarterback and punter Abe Havelka booted a 50-yarder that was downed at the Mahtomedi 5-yard line. It was the only time all night the Zephyrs would stop the Huskies' offense.

Owatonna's defense got the ball back quickly and senior wide receiver Alex Raichle flipped the field position with a nice punt return to set the Huskies up at Mahtomedi 42-yard line. The offense moved the ball down the field on a 10-play drive that was finished off by Williamson with an 8-yard touchdown run.

"Everybody came out an executed well," Havelka said. "Our o-line really set the tone for [Williamson] and he showed what he can do with his feet. That guy is crazy."

Mahtomedi answered on the following drive when senior receiver Andrew Praml caught a 39-yard touchdown pass to tie the game 7-7 with 2:04 remaining in the first quarter.

With the Huskies facing 3rd-and-2 at the Zephyrs 32-yard line, Havelka tossed a jump ball down the left sideline that senior receiver Dalton Kubista hauled in, but he stopped just short of the goal line.

SEE HUSKIES, B2



STATE SEMIFINALS

Owatonna (10-1) vs. Brainerd (9-2)

Saturday at 7 p.m.

US Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

BOX SCORE

OWATONNA	7	24	14	14—59
MAHTOMEDI	7	7	12	8—34

FIRST QUARTER

O-Williamson 8 run (Nelson kick), 5:46
M-Prami 39 pass from Larson (Lindquist kick), 2:04

SECOND QUARTER

O-Havelka 1 run (Nelson kick), 11:55
O-Williamson 34 run (Nelson kick), 6:45
M-Olson 1 run (Lindquist kick), 4:38
O-Williamson 42 run (Nelson kick), 2:45
O-FG Nelson 27, :45

THIRD QUARTER

M-Lindquist 17 pass from Larson (run failed), 9:09
O-Williamson 1 run (Nelson kick), 7:17
O-Williamson 19 run (Nelson kick), 3:07
M-Anderson 9 run (pass failed), 1:29

FOURTH QUARTER

O-Williamson 5 run (Nelson kick), 8:19
M-Anderson 32 run (Anderson run), 7:56
O-Williamson 40 run (Nelson kick), 4:09

	O	M
RUSHES-YARDS	43-299	26-131
PASSING	212	283
PUNT RETURNS	2-24	0-0
KICKOFF RETURNS	5-88	9-114
COMP-ATT-INT	15-26-0	13-27-2
SACKS	2	1
PUNTS	1-50	N/A
FUMBLES-LOST	0-0	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Owatonna, Williamson 34-262, Havelka 6-25, Wiese 3-12. Mahtomedi, Anderson 16-117, Olson 6-23, Bjork 1-2, Larson 3- -11. Passing—Owatonna, Havelka 15-26-0-212. Mahtomedi, Larson 13-27-2-283. Receiving—Owatonna, Raichle 3-81, Williamson 4-52, Kubista 3-45, Budach 5-34. Mahtomedi, Lindquist 5-145, Trowbridge 2-51, Prami 2-49, Tangwell 2-25, Anderson 2-13. Missed Field Goals—None.



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Excited to take on sports role at the Times

I'll admit it. I had a lot of trouble writing this. I consider myself pretty solid when it comes to writing sports. But a sports column? Well, that's a whole different story. When the publisher asked me to write a column, I clammed up in my chair. I had never really done a column before.



IN THE TRENCHES DENNIS MARSHALL

And no matter what words I came up with, it just didn't feel right. It actually felt like I was writing a profile for a dating site. I'm Dennis Marshall and I am fortunate to be the new sports editor at the Steele County Times. Sports excites me and I hope to convey that to our readers every week through my stories and photos. I am excited to join the Steele County community and look forward to meeting and working with the residents. I am also excited to get started covering all of the great sports teams and athletes in this area.

Now let me tell you a little bit about myself. I grew up in Southern Indiana, Evansville to be exact. I attended Francis Joseph Reitz High School where I played football, wrestled and was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. I received my bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern Indiana. I worked at the Evansville Courier and Press for three years before taking the sports editor position in September of 2016 at the Mena Star in Mena, Ark. It's a toss-up between football and basketball as far as my favorite sport. I have two dogs. Winston, who is a labradane, and Little Dog, who is a mixed of some kind of terrier and red heeler. I've been a Florida State Seminole, Tampa Bay Buccaneer and Dallas Maverick fan for as long as I can remember. In my free time I like to attend sporting events, concerts and I am an avid ping-pong player. Feel free to email me at bpdennis@frontier.com if you have any questions, story ideas or just want to talk sports.

BOWLING

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK FOUR NOV. 1, 2017

TEAM STANDINGS

	WON	LOST
F & M BANK	16.5	7.5
B TO Z HARDWARE	16.5	7.5
KOSTERS' KAR CORNER	13	11
J & H/DAIRY QUEEN	10	14
EPIC CONTRACTING	9	15
BUNKIES LANES & GRILL	7	17

HIGH TEAM GAME –SCRATCH

F & M BANK 527

HIGH TEAM GAME- HANDICAP

EPIC CONTRACTING 540

NIGH TEAM SERIES- SCRATCH

F & M BANK 1512

HIGH TEAM SERIES- HANDICAP

EPIC CONTRACTING 1407

HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL

1. ANGIE CARLSON 165

2. BECKY NOBLE 164

HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL

1. ANGIE CARLSON 453

2. JOANN NIELSON 441

FOOTBALL



STAFF PHOTOS: RICK BUSSLER

Outside linebacker Mitch Wiese (26) and defensive lineman Kadyn Mulert (78) attempt to stop a Mahtomedi player carrying the ball. At bottom left, running back Jason Williamson (22) intercepts a long throw meant for a Mahtomedi receiver. Williamson was all over the field during Saturday's game.

HUSKIES: Owatonna moves on to state

FROM PAGE B1

Owatonna regained the lead two plays later when Havelka powered into the endzone on a 1-yard sneak. The Huskies defense stood tall and forced the Zephyrs to punt again on the next drive. Havelka hit a couple of quick strikes to move Owatonna down the field and Williamson juked a defender out of shoes



Defensive back Tucker Alstead (2) grabs a Mahtomedi player to bring him down.



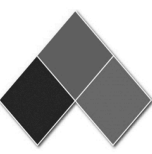
Offensive lineman Terrell Conner (73) follows behind Williamson (22) who is carrying the ball down the field.

on a 34-yard touchdown run to extend the Huskies' lead to 21-7 with 6:45 to go until halftime. Mahtomedi answered with a 5-play 79-yard drive that took 2:07 and was capped off by a 1-yard touchdown run by senior running back Adam Oslen. Williamson worked his magic once again on Owatonna's next drive. This time cutting his way through the Zephyr defense on a 42-yard touchdown sprint to increase the Huskies' lead to 28-14. Then Owatonna senior defensive back intercepted a Mahtomedi pass and returned it to the Zephyrs' 14-yard line. However, the Huskies were forced to settle for a 27-yard field goal by senior Josh Nelson that gave Owatonna a 31-14 advantage at halftime. Mahtomedi senior quarterback Brodi Larson found senior receiver Tim Lindquist in the left corner of endzone for a 17-yard touchdown on the opening drive of the second half to narrow Owatonna's led to 31-20. Williamson ran for his fourth touchdown on the Huskies' next drive to make the score 38-20 with 7:17 remaining in third quarter. Then Williamson picked off a Mahtomedi pass at the Owatonna 35-yard line. The Huskies marched down the field and Williamson ran in a 19-yard

touchdown a short time later. The Zephyrs' senior running back Brandon Anderson dash into the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown on the next drive, but Williamson answered with a 5-yard touchdown to make the score 52-26 with 8:19 left in the fourth quarter. Anderson scored his second touchdown of the game on a following drive with a 32-yard run. However, Williamson caught the right side of Mahtomedi defense napping after Owatonna had been primarily running to left. He sprinted to the endzone on a 40-yard run for his seventh and game's final score with 4:09 remaining. "We had a great game plan and our o-line was making the holes," Havelka said. "If your o-line is doing what the have to do up front than good things are going to happen. "This is what we wanted all year and we still have two more games to get," he continued. "I think we will get the job done and get our school a state championship."

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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 bpetimes@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 _____

11 _____

2 _____

12 _____

3 _____

13 _____

4 _____

14 _____

5 _____

15 _____

6 _____

16 _____

7 _____

17 _____

8 _____

8 _____

9 _____

19 _____

10 _____

20 _____

*Tie-Breaker Score _____

*

This week's winner is Keith Stark with the tie-breaker.



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THURSDAYS: 10-8
SATURDAY: 10-3

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19. Arizona at Houston



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YOU PICK IT. WE STICK IT

20. New England at Oakland (tiebreaker)



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Corn harvest lingers on



The corn harvest continues in many farm communities in Steele County and throughout southeastern Minnesota. Emptying corn just east of Ellendale is Rick Johnson of New Richland. Harvest has been hampered and dragging out because of snow and wet conditions throughout most of the fall.

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Leadership for successful employee management to be offered in St. Charles

“Leadership for Successful Employee Management,” a labor management workshop, will be taught at the St. Charles City Hall.

Nathan Hulinsky, extension educator; Bob Milligan, professor emeritus; and other extension educators will teach the three-session course.

The workshop will feature a wide variety employee management topics aimed at helping farms attract and retain employ-

ees. Through hands-on activities, tool development, and class discussions, participants will create an employee handbook and build leadership skills.

Hulinsky explains, “Labor management is a top concern for many farmers. It is hard to find and keep good employees. This class will help farmers develop leadership skills and risk management tools to set themselves up for successful labor management.”

Classes meet on Dec. 11, Dec. 21, and Jan. 4, 2018. Each class meets from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Two one-hour webinars will be held on Dec. 18 and Jan. 11 to discuss implementation of course tools and foster further learning.

Merchants Bank and Minnesota Dairy Initiative are sponsors of the program. North Central Extension Risk Management Education has provided grant

funds. Cost is \$45 per person and \$70 per farm due to sponsorship and grantor funds. Space is limited.

Registration is open. To register, please visit <https://z.umn.edu/30g5>. For more information on the workshop, please call or e-mail Nathan Hulinsky, 218-236-2009 or huli0013@umn.edu.

USDA appoints executive director for Farm Service Agency in Minnesota

The Trump Administration recently appointed Joe Martin as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Minnesota Farm Service Agency (FSA). Martin will join the Minnesota FSA team on Monday, November 13.

Martin is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. He has nearly 20 years of experience working within the non-profit, government and private sectors of agriculture, including time with the Minnesota and American Farm Bureau Federations. He has also served as an appointed assistant commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and worked as an independent agriculture consultant. Martin is a lifelong Minnesotan, raised on a farm in Central Minnesota. He now lives in rural LeSueur County where his family farms and where he and his wife, Staci, run a small cattle operation.

The Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs. The agency offers farmers a strong safety net through the administration of farm commodity and disaster programs. FSA continues to conserve natural resources and also

provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including special emphasis on beginning, underserved and women farmers and ranchers.

Under the direction of Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA will always be facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. Secretary Perdue leads the USDA with four guiding principles: to maximize the ability of American agriculture to create jobs, sell foods and fiber, and feed and clothe the world; to prioritize customer service for the taxpayers; to ensure that our food supply is safe and secure; and to maintain good stewardship of the natural resources that provide us with our miraculous bounty. And understanding that we live in a global economy where trade is of top importance, Secretary Perdue has pledged to be an unapologetic advocate for American agriculture.

As SED, Martin will use his leadership experience to oversee FSA programs in a customer-focused manner to ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food supply for consumers.



MFU and Farmers Union Insurance invest in 40 Square

The Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) Executive Committee voted on Nov. 3 to approve the organization’s purchase of shares in 40 Square Cooperative Health Solutions, a new health care cooperative for Minnesota farmers.

MFU, a grassroots organization, has its heritage in the co-operative model. 40 Square is a relevant example of farmers forming a cooperative to collectively address a need.

“Ever since farmers in Jackson County started organizing for fairer commodity prices in the early 1910s, MFU has been a strong backer of new cooperatives,” said Gary Wertish, President of MFU. “We supported legislation passed this year that allowed Minnesota farmers and agribusinesses to form cooperatives for health care, which

makes groups like 40 Square possible. We are happy to make this investment in 40 Square.”

Farmers Union Insurance Agency, an MFU-owned company serving the insurance needs of Minnesotans, is supporting the marketing efforts of 40 Square. The majority of FUIA agents have signed up to write 40 Square health care policies for their farmer customers.

“Farmers Union Insurance Agency is always seeking sustainable health insurance options for Minnesota’s farm families and their employees, and we feel 40 Square will be a viable option today and into the future,” said Rodney Allebach, President and General Manager of FUIA. “We are proud to partner with Minnesota Farmers Union and 40 Square by taking a stake in this partnership.”

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Minnesota Crop Report

Minnesota farmers took full advantage of the **4.7 days suitable for fieldwork** and harvested 19 percent of the statewide **corn** acreage during the week ending November 12, 2017, according to USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. Other field activities included baling corn stalks, moving cattle off pasture, spreading fertilizer, and working on fall tillage.

Topsoil moisture supplies rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 84 percent adequate and 14 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 11 percent surplus.

Corn for grain harvest advanced 19 percentage points, but remained 12 days behind the 5-year average, bringing the total harvest to 79 percent complete. Corn moisture content of grain at harvest averaged 18 percent. The sunflower harvest was 93 percent complete, 4 days ahead of last year’s pace.

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FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

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

Mortgage Assignee
The Sayer Law Group, P.C.,
By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgage Assignee
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

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

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

FORECLOSURE

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.
HVESTENDAHL, MOERSCH, DORSEY & HAHN, P.A.

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

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

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Skyview Townhouse Association Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (hereafter "Declaration"), dated April 26, 1988, and recorded in the Office of the County Recorder in and for Steele County, Minnesota, on the 16th day of June, 1988, in Book 34 of Titles, page 259, which said Declaration covers the following described property situated in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, to-wit: LEGAL DESCRIPTION - Lot 14, Block 1, Skyview Townhouses, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS - 149 22nd Street NW, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota 55060

PID # - 17.411.0114

Torrens Property - Certificate of Title Number 18136

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice by Laxman Sundae as unit owner to Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc., the principle amount of Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty and No/100 Dollars (\$7,730.00) for condominium assessments and late fees through October 1, 2017, and no action being now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt of any part thereof, and;
WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, and the statute in such case made and provided, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Skyview Townhouse Association, Inc.,
NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale created by statute, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at the Sheriff's Office, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota, on December 5, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said condominium assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorney fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owners, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied single family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the unit owners must vacate the property if the lien is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2018. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate the property is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.
Dated: October 11, 2017

SKYVIEW TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
HVESTENDAHL, 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

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-2057

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

Estate of
Marcia J. Camerer,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 01/22/18, at 2:45 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at the Owatonna Fire Hall, 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, April 12, 2002, ("Will") and for the appointment of Wade T. Camerer, whose address is 5928 SW 128th Street, Ellendale, MN 56026 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT
Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
11/09/2017

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnaattorneys.com

11/14, 11/21

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Rice Hamburger Hot Dish

1lb. hamburger	1/2 c. quick rice
1 can cream of chicken soup	1 soup can of water
1 can cream of mushroom soup	1 sm. onion, chopped
	1 tsp. soy sauce
	1 can bean sprouts (opt.)

Brown hamburger and mix all ingredients, except sprouts, and place in a casserole dish. Wash sprouts and place on top. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. 15 minutes.

by
Mrs. Stanley Johnson

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Janet Luick, Math
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Dave Pfiefer, Science
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Denise Hadrath, Second Grade
Kim Lea, Second Grade
Diane Pfeiffer, Second Grade
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Angie Avery, Third Grade
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Haley Hasleiet, Fourth Grade
Kayleena Miller, Fourth Grade
Andrew Hardecopf, Fifth Grade
Stephanie Murphy, Fifth Grade
Kayla Harvey, Fifth Grade

Diane Anderson, Sixth Grade
Paul Peterson, Sixth Grade
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Historical volunteers honored for service



Jim Soukup, left, and Joe Falteysek, both of Owatonna are being honored as the volunteers of the year for the Steele County Historical Society. The pair created the wood structures for the World War I exhibit, which is currently on display at the history center in Owatonna through the end of 2018.

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A pair of volunteers responsible for constructing the World War I exhibit at the Steele County History Center is being honored for their efforts.

Jim Soukup and Joe Falteysek of Owatonna were named volunteers of the year Thursday night at the historical society's annual meeting at the history center in Owatonna.

"Volunteers are the cornerstone of our organization, and are vital to accomplishing our mission and raising awareness in the communities in which they live," said Jerry Ganfield, president of the historical society. "Their importance at the historical society cannot be overstated."

The two spent countless hours over a two-month

period last winter putting together the display of houses and facades at Falteysek's heated shop. After the pieces were constructed, they brought them into the history center where the panels were set up for the World War I exhibit.

It took a couple days for Soukup and Falteysek to assemble the display in the society's main exhibit hall where the Great War has been featured since March and will continue to be on display for about another 15 months.

"I was really impressed when it got all done," said Falteysek, who has volunteered at the center for about 10 years. "It went together real well," he added.

Constructing wood projects comes natural for both Falteysek and Soukup. Falteysek has been building homes for more than 40 years while Soukup is retired from the construction business.

"It was the winter months and woodworking is my forte," Falteysek related.

Falteysek said he was lured into the WWI project from the construction end rather than the history itself. "Dan (Moeckly, society's technical manager) motivates me more than the history. He has a way with us," he said. But he admits he got more involved with the war history as the project progressed.

The WWI display turned out to be the first time Soukup and Falteysek worked together on any projects. "It was easy, fun and exciting work if you call it work," Falteysek said. "We clicked right off the bat. We had a good time doing it."

Added Soukup: "We had a good time and enjoyed it. It wasn't a job. It was fun."

Soukup is no stranger to the history center as he supervised the construction of the new facility several years

'Volunteers are the cornerstone of our organization, and are **vital** to accomplishing our misson'

Jerry Ganfield
Historical Society President

ago. "This was my second home for a while," he said with a chuckle.

As for last week's volunteer award, Soukup says it's quite an honor to be recognized by the society. "It was something I really didn't expect," he said.

Falteysek was shocked to receive special recognition. "It's an honor to work with the historical society," he said.

The pair's volunteer work doesn't appear to be over any time soon. "Dan already has something for us to do this coming January and February," Falteysek said.

Soukup is impressed with the quality of programs offered by the local society. "You don't see this in every town," he said. "It is fun to be a part of this," he added.

Other awards presented at the annual meeting were Brenda Jensen, education volunteer of the year; Paula Howell, GAR volunteer of the year; Wenger Foundation, community partner of the year; Jerry Atkinson, tour guide of the year and Peter Baxter, lifetime service award.

In addition to awards, the historical society also elected new board members. They include: Stefan Langendam and Jerry Lewison for first term and Ganfield, Paul Swenson and Diane Wilson for second terms.

Two outgoing board members—Marilyn Witzel and Joanne Giga—were recognized for their years of service.

Sorting out facts from myths related to mental health

We propose that Steele County Times readers use this article to engage family and friends in a myth-busting conversation about mental health. Please consider clipping this article to bring it out over coffee and conversation with your family and friends.



Steele Talkin'
CAROLYN WHEELER

Challenge your book club members, lunch companions, car pool buddies to determine – Fact or Myth for each of the areas below.

Can you tell the difference between a mental health myth and fact? Learn the truth about the most common mental health myths. Learning the facts about mental health is important for all members of a community. This aspect of our lives is as essential to our overall health and vitality as a physical concern. To get started – let's take the first area about much we are impacted by mental health problems.

Myth: Mental health problems don't affect me.
Fact: Mental health problems are actually very common. In 2016, about:

- One in five American adults experienced a mental health issue
 - One in 10 young people experienced a period of major depression
 - One in 25 Americans lived with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression
- Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. It accounts for the loss of more than 41,000 American lives each year, more than double the number of lives lost to homicide. Learn more about mental health problems. www.mentalhealth.gov/what-to-look-for/index.html.

Myth: Children don't experience mental health problems.
Fact: Even very young children may show early warning signs of mental health concerns. These mental health problems are often clinically diagnosable, and can be a product of the interaction of biological, psychological, and social factors.

Half of all mental health disorders show first signs before a person turns 14 years old, and three quarters of mental health disorders begin before age 24.

Unfortunately, less than 20 percent of children and adolescents with diagnosable mental health problems receive the treatment they need. Early mental health support can help a child before problems interfere with other developmental needs.

Myth: People with mental health problems are violent and unpredictable.

Fact: The vast majority of people with mental health problems are no more likely to be violent than anyone else. Most people with mental illness are not violent and only 3-5 percent of violent acts can be attributed to individuals living with a serious mental illness. In fact, people with severe mental illnesses are over 10 times more likely to be victims of violent crime than the general population. You probably know someone with a mental health problem and don't even realize it, because many people with mental health problems are highly active and productive members of our communities.

Myth: People with mental health needs, even those who are managing their mental illness, cannot tolerate the stress of holding down a job.

SEE TALKIN', C3

Effort recognizes WWI vets buried in area cemeteries

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

As the country marked Veteran's Day last week with a variety of celebrations, a local effort remembered the sacrifices made by area veterans who fought in World War I.

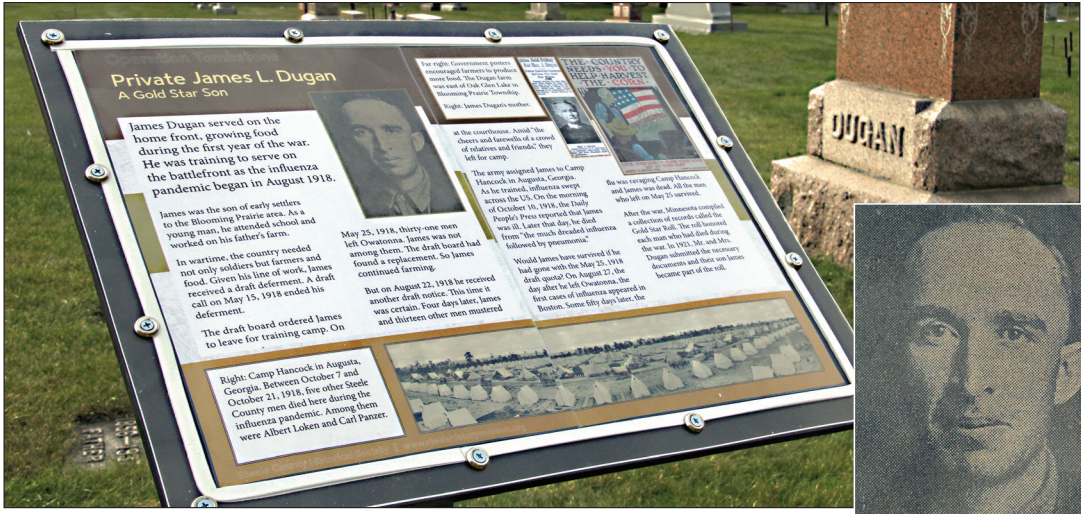
The Steele County Historical Society featured Operation Tombstone over the weekend at various cemeteries around the county. Kiosks showcased World War I veterans buried in Saint Columbanus, Ellendale Lutheran, Oak Hill, Union, Forest Hill and Saint John Lutheran cemeteries.

The society provided a map of the featured WWI vets, along with information about their lives. Residents were able to make the trek across the county at their own leisure to remember these war heroes.

"We selected veterans based on research we had available," said Stephanie Kibler, special events manager with SCHS. "We wanted to have a variety of education for people to see," she added.

The society's goal, Kibler said, was to feature veterans from across the county and those with a mix of experiences in the war. She added they also wanted to highlight veterans who died

Operation Tombstone



The tombstone of Private James L. Dugan at Saint Columbanus Cemetery in Blooming Prairie was one of several World War I veterans featured during a cemetery tour throughout the county over Veteran's Day weekend. WWI vets in six cemeteries were featured during the self-guided tours. The Steele County Historical Society erected special kiosks to share history of the WWI vets.

in various ways.

Kibler said this is the first time the society has featured WWI vets in a cemetery tour. A different series of veterans will be focused on in 2018, she noted.

Local history volunteers Barry Adams, Vincent Kesperich and Jim Soukup helped put with this year's cemetery tour by constructing the kiosks.

At Saint Columbanus Cemetery on the edge of Blooming Prairie, three World War I vets are buried. They are James Dugan, Frank J. Rysavy and John Motl, Jr.

Dugan, for example, was drafted into the war on Aug. 26, 1918 and died about six weeks later. He served on the home front, growing food during the first year of the war. He was training to serve on the battlefield as the influenza pandemic began in August 1918.

A Gold Star son, Dugan and his parents were early settlers to the Blooming Prairie area. He worked on his father's farm. Because of

Digital citizenship

Consultant teaches area students about appropriate uses of technology

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

All students of Blooming Prairie High School were given the opportunity recently to learn more about digital citizenship.

'I learned that the World Wide Web was a lot scarier than I thought. Our lives revolve around technology.'

Emma Christianson
BP Senior

What is meant by digital citizenship?

Kent Mollberg, a technology consultant who appeared at a student assembly, answered that question. Mollberg, a resident of Detroit Lakes, is a former public school teacher and coach for 35 years. He is the parent of two grown children.

Digital Citizenship is a teaching strategy that allows teachers and parents to understand what students should know to use technology appropriately.

Mollberg said Digital Citizenship is more than just a part of the curriculum. It is a way to prepare students for a society full of technology, he said.

"Very often in today's world, we are seeing students, as well as adults, misusing and abusing technology, but not sure what to do to correct

problems increased technology has created for them," said Mollberg.

It is through Mollberg's experiences as a teacher and parent that he has created a presentation on cyber safety that he shares with students around the state. He has made 28 presentations to teachers, students and parents already this fall.

Mollberg informed the students that 10 years ago, none of the following were part of our language. Now, these are common Internet terms that youths can identify.

Here's some of the terms Mollberg discussed with the Blooming Prairie students:

- Cyberbullying
- Facebook
- Textual harassment
- Sexting
- Internet urban legends
- Internet identity theft
- Fake news
- Social networking
- Cell phone safety
- Online posting
- Online predators

"We assume that kids make smart and safe choices when using technology, but unfortunately this is not always true," Mollberg told Blooming Prairie students and staff.

"His presentation was really eye opening," said senior Ayren Ingvalson. "Phones are such a big part of our lives and we must be careful," she added.

Mollberg told the students about an application that will track how much time one spends on the phone. Ingvaldson said she checked her data and found to her surprise that she had been on the phone four hours one day.

Senior Emma

SEE DIGITAL, C6

STAFF PHOTOS BY RICK BUSSLER

New Land, New Life Exhibit opens at history center

The Sons of Norway Nortonna Lodge No. 1-638 has partnered with the Steele County Historical Society to present, “New Land, New Life: Norwegian Immigration to Minnesota, 1825 – 1925” at the Steele County History Center in Owatonna.

The exhibit opened Nov. 9 and runs through Jan. 27.

The Sons of Norway Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1–8 has spearheaded this unique project which offers 20 exhibit panels on Norwegian immigrant life. The panels include information on everything from why Norwegians immigrated to Minnesota, to farming, education and folk art. The text was reviewed favorably by historian-authors Dr. Odd Lovoll of St. Olaf College and Dr. Betty Bergland of UW–River Falls.

The panels interpret primary materials and secondary research of Professors Carlton Qualey and John Gjerde on one of the earliest and largest ethnic groups to settle the Minnesota frontier. One in five Minnesotans claim Norwegian ancestry. Since 2013, the exhibit has traveled to communities across the Midwest.

The panels are complemented by the Owatonna Sons of Norway Lodge providing artifacts from local Scandinavian families.

Funding to create this exhibit came from the Sons of Norway Foundation and funds from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Dance the night away with the Woman’s Club



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Heading up the Woman's Club of Owatonna charity event this year are co-chairs Barb Nowak, left, and Joyce Hansel, right. The group's president is Karen Nelson, center.

Dancing the night away with the Ray Sands Orchestra is the plan for the Woman's Club of Owatonna annual charity event to be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Owatonna Eagles Club, 141 E. Rose.

The public is invited. Tickets are \$25 in advance at Kottke's

in downtown Owatonna, or \$30 at the door. The Ray Sands Orchestra will be playing the classics including Big Band and rock and roll from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The band will play a concert from 7 to 8 p.m. to be followed by appetizers during the first band break at 8 p.m. Dancing will be from 9 to 11 p.m.

with dessert and coffee served midway through the dance.

Proceeds will be split equally between three non-for-profit groups: Steele County Clothesline, Habitat for Humanity and the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity.

“Since the Woman's Club of Owatonna was organized in 1962, it has been the purpose of our club to develop an ongoing relationship with the community by providing a charity event so that we can help support worthwhile projects that give hope to others in need of some help,” said Karen Nelson, president of WCO.

Nelson said this year's event is focusing on helping to introduce children to being involved in volunteer work, setting them on a path of doing good for others throughout their lives and to providing specialized clothes for people needing specific clothing for work or school.

“The public is invited to the

event to help our community neighbors,” said Nelson. “It is an evening of fun, good music, dancing and good food.”

Chairing the event this year are Barb Nowak and Joyce Hansel.

“While I was still working, I would see the wonderful upcoming programs in the paper and decided it would be a fun organization to join when I had the time, which I finally did in 2012,” said Nowak. “The always enthusiastic Joyce Hansel and I had worked together on the program committee, so when she called last fall and asked me to co-chair the Charity Event with her, I couldn't refuse. We make an awesome team, if I do say so myself!”

Hansel said, “The charity event is, first of all, a fundraiser for excellent charities. But it is also a fun night for members, their spouses and community friends to party. I am excited to have Lori Osmundson as our decorator.”

SEE DANCE, C6

Owatonna Knights distribute coats for needy kids



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Owatonna Knights of Columbus recently distributed new coats to area needy families. Taking part in the Coats were front row (left to right): Sheila Sawyer, Tammy Balausk, Randy Balausk, state community programs chairman; back row: Dan Sawyer, deputy grand knight; Tim Rice, project chairman; Nicholas Matejcek, grand knight, and Gary Sanford, district deputy. Not pictured Tony David, recorder.

The Owatonna Knights of Columbus distributed new coats to 18 families in need on Nov. 7.

This was conducted as a part of the Supreme Council's

“Coats for Kids” program. Coats for both boys and girls in various colors and sizes were available. The balance of the 72 coats was delivered to the Steele County Clothes

Line to be distributed to others in need of a warm coat.

Many children throughout the United States and Canada go without a coat each winter. Many low-income families use their scarce resources to meet the most basic essentials and they need help to provide this vital winter necessity.

That's why the Knights of Columbus developed the “Coats for Kids” program, which allows councils across North America the opportunity to purchase new winter coats for children at a discount and to distribute them to children in need in their local communities.

Through their Coats for Kids program, 1,780 local councils distributed 87,906 coats to children in need throughout the United States and Canada in 2016. Since the program began in 2009, nearly 400,000 coats have been distributed.

A THEATRE REVIEW

Despite lousy acoustics, Legally Blonde hits a quality mark

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

This is one of those times when many people, including this writer, would pay a lot of money to sit in a real auditorium and watch and hear another in a long line of traditionally entertaining all-school musicals. Unfortunately, the present cast has to battle the continuously atrocious acoustics in the high school gym, as they present a quality performance of “Legally Blonde” as this year's production.

This is certainly no fault of the students, as this year's offering has a plethora of fine girls' voices, least of which is Emma Christianson in the title role. The show gets off to a great start with the group number, “Omigod You Guys,” by the Delta Nu girls, and their voices display excellent musical tone and pitch. When

Director Tammy Johnson said that she would like to do a play to highlight girls, as there were a number of excellent girls' voices, she was right on the mark.

Besides the lead, the Delta Nu girls all have quality voices that are always on pitch. Linnea Sunde, who plays Paulette, is also in tune and sings with gusto, and the other characters make the show really come alive. The duet, “Ireland” by Elle and Paulette is a highlight of Act One. That is not to say that there are no good roles for boys. In his first lead role, Ian Wayne makes Warner Huntington an enthusiastic and somewhat pompous suitor; Max Romeo is his usual strong supporting character, Charlie Heimerman, a droll and sympathetic professor, and Gabe Hagen and Baylee Sorenson supportive parents to Elle.

Director Johnson and

Assistant Director Kari Bottin have prepared the cast well, with the music tunelessly sung, and no lines lost in conversation. The small instrumental

SEE BLONDE, C6



STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Two favorites in the Legally Blonde production last week at Blooming Prairie High School were UPS guy Kyle played by Luke Larkowski and Paulette played by Linnea Sunde.

Hospital Foundation offers patient transportation vouchers

Owatonna Hospital Foundation—as part of a pilot program—is now offering vouchers to assist patients in paying for transportation after they leave the hospital.

“We understand that transportation can be a barrier,” said Elizabeth Keck, In-Reach Program care coordinator, Owatonna Hospital. “We want individuals to be able to get the care they need, without having to worry about how they might get home afterwards.”

More than \$4,000 was approved to launch this pilot program, which assists patients that face challenges such as not being able to afford transportation home or who are discharged during weekends, holidays or “odd hours.”

“To assist in getting patients home, it can cost upwards of \$300 if they live outside city limits,” said Keck. “This can create additional unneeded stress and anxiety; plus, those who have mental health issues or just had a procedure can be put in vulnerable or unsafe situations, when they don't have transportation lined up.”

In 2016, Owatonna Hospital spent several thousand dollars on taxis and bus tickets for patient transportation needs. Through the generosity of Owatonna Hospital Foundation and its donors, these costs were assumed. Medical Assistance covers some of the transportation cost, if the patient is going to a clinic appointment; however, “a ride home from the hospital does not fall into this

category,” said Natalie Ginter, director, Owatonna Hospital Foundation.

“We're currently working with local transportation providers to begin accepting our vouchers as payment, then invoice us for actual costs,” adds Ginter. “A ride home should never be the reason why someone decides to not get the care they need.”

Owatonna Hospital Foundation is looking for contributions to help sustain the patient transportation program. If you're interested in learning more or would like to contribute, email OwatonnaFoundation@allina.com or mail donations to: Owatonna Hospital Foundation, 2250 NW 26th Street, Owatonna, MN 55060.



Blooming Prairie
Cancer Group

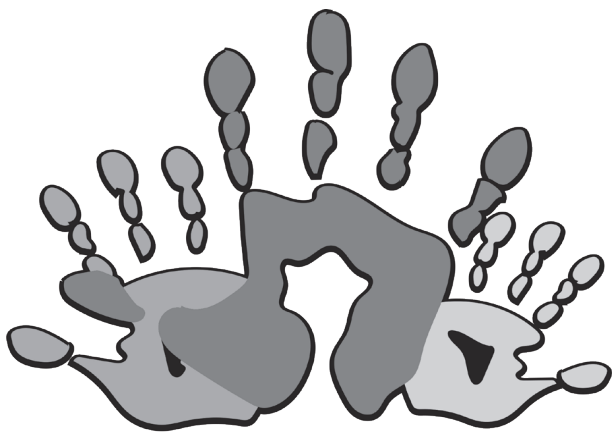
Cancer Corner

Helpful mineral

Selenium is a trace mineral that can be very potent in cancer prevention. According to Susan G. Komen, selenium helps antioxidants work more effectively and may reduce cancer incidence as a result. Selenium also may kill cancer cells and help normal cells repair their DNA. According to a Harvard study of more than 1,000 men with prostate cancer, those with the highest levels of selenium in their blood were 40 percent less likely to develop advanced disease over the next 10-plus years than men with the lowest levels of selenium in their blood. In addition, data from a five-year study from researchers at Cornell University discovered 200 micrograms of selenium per day resulted in 63 percent fewer prostate tumors and a 39 percent overall decrease in cancer deaths, among other benefits. Selenium is found in Brazil nuts, yellowfin tuna, halibut, sardines, and many other foods.

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TALKIN': Mental health myths and facts

FROM PAGE C1

Fact: People with mental health problems are just as productive as other employees. Employers who hire people with mental health problems report good attendance and punctuality as well as motivation, good work, and job tenure on par with or greater than other employees.

When employees with mental health problems receive effective treatment, it can result in:

- Lower total medical costs
- Increased productivity
- Lower absenteeism
- Decreased disability costs

Myth: Personality weakness or character flaws cause mental health problems. People with mental health problems can snap out of it if they try hard enough.

Fact: Mental health problems have nothing to do with being lazy or weak and many people need help to get better. Many factors contribute to mental health problems, including:

- Biological factors, such as genes, physical illness, injury, or brain chemistry
- Life experiences, such as trauma or a history of abuse
- Family history of mental health problems

People with mental health problems can get better and

many recover completely. Here is a website to hear the personal stories of hope and recovery: <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/talk/recovery/index.html>.

Helping Individuals with Mental Health Problems

Myth: There is no hope for people with mental health problems. Once a friend or family member develops mental health problems, he or she will never recover.

Fact: Studies show that people with mental health problems get better and many recover completely. Recovery refers to the process in which people are able to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities. There are more treatments, services, and community support systems than ever before, and they work.

Myth: Therapy and self-help are a waste of time. Why bother when you can just take a pill?

Fact: Treatment for mental health problems varies depending on the individual and could include medication, therapy, or both. Many individuals work with a support system during the healing and recovery process.

Myth: I can't do anything for a person with a mental health problem.

Fact: Friends and loved ones can make a big difference. Only 44 percent of adults with diagnosable mental health problems and less than 20 percent of children and adolescents receive needed treatment. Friends and family can be important influences to help someone get the treatment and services they need by:

- Reaching out and letting them know you are available to help
- Helping them access mental health services: <https://www.mentalhealth.gov/get-help/index.html>
- Learning and sharing the facts about mental health, especially if you hear something that isn't true
- Treating them with respect, just as you would anyone else
- Refusing to define them by their diagnosis or using labels such as "crazy"

Myth: Prevention doesn't work. It is impossible to prevent mental illnesses.

Fact: Prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders focuses on addressing known risk factors such as exposure to trauma that can affect the chances that children, youth, and young adults will develop mental health problems. Promoting the social-emotional well-being of children and youth leads to:

- Higher overall productivity
- Better educational outcomes
- Lower crime rates
- Stronger economies
- Lower health care costs
- Improved quality of life
- Increased lifespan
- Improved family life

On Friday, Dec. 1, please join us at a Community Conversation on Mental Health at the Owatonna Library, 3rd Floor Gainey Room between 1 and 3 p.m. We plan to have information about local resources, the mobile Crisis Response program, Peer Supports, and wellness through physical fitness. You may contact Kassy for more information at 507- 444-2243.

Carolyn Wheeler is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, and Executive Director at South Central Human Relations Center based in Owatonna. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various writers representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Owatonna Foundation has accepted a \$2,500 donation from Bremer Bank. Those involved in the presentation of the donation were (left to right) Foundation trustees Ray Stawarz, Dave Einhaus, and Todd Hale, mortgage loan officer Ryan Gillespie, ag banker Dave Stenzel, CSA manager Kelli Alstead, business service associate Shannon Pederson, Foundation president Betsy Lindgren, Bremer president Jason Eyberg and trustee Dr. Carol Winter.

Bremer Bank donates to Owatonna Foundation

Bremer Bank recently made a \$2,500 donation to the Owatonna Foundation. "We are extremely grateful to Bremer Bank and their President, Jason Eyberg, for their support. The Bremer culture of philanthropy has truly enhanced our community and we appreciate their support of our mission which is; improving the quality of life for present and future generations by supporting Owatonna projects that focus on community, arts, recreation, and education," said Foundation Executive Director Laura Resler. The Owatonna Foundation, now in its 59th year of serving the Owatonna community,

provides capital grants in Owatonna and its environs. The Foundation was established in 1957 with the goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations of Owatonna residents. Since then, the Owatonna Foundation has committed more than \$11.75 million dollars in grants to Owatonna projects and annually awards \$30,000 in scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students. For more information about the Owatonna Foundation, please visit our website at: www.owatonnafoundation.org, or call our office at 507-455-2995.

MAKE AN IMPACT, CHANGE A LIFE!

Kids of Christmas Campaign through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.



Mikell is a kind 9-year-old boy. When he grows up, he wants to either be a singer like Arianna Grande or a police officer. He loves art the most at school. With his Big, he'd like to make crafts, go fishing, play games, and explore outside. He wants his future Big to know that he plays Monster High a lot. "It's an easy game", he says, "so no worries". The best Big for him would be someone he can talk to about life.



Dominick is an active 11-year-old who likes being outside, playing sports, and fighting imaginary zombies with his brother. If he had three wishes, he'd wish for a million trophies, 8 million dollars, and a tackle box to give to his brother. Dominick would love a Big who can be a positive role model in his life.

For additional information on how to be a mentor to one of these kids or any others, contact Megan Horton at 507-451-5922. More info can also be found at www.bbbsofsouthernmn.org.

NRHEG Panther of the Week



Gabrielle Willaert



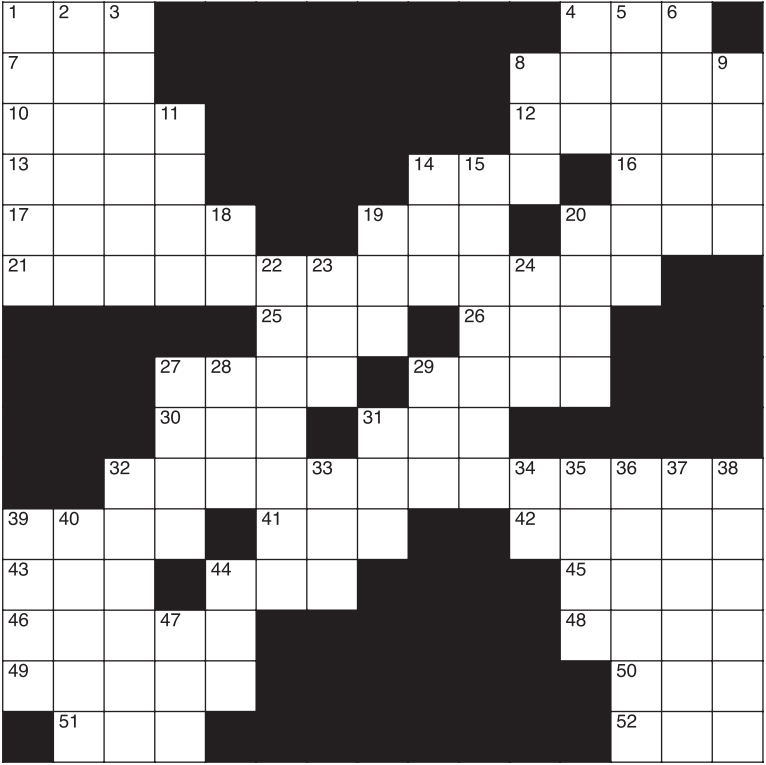
NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Gabrielle Willaert. Gabby resides in New Richland with her mother, Lisa Berg. She is in Mrs. Talamantes 5th grade class. Gabby is a very responsible student who always comes to class prepared and ready to learn. She has a quiet confidence and kindness about her that in infectious towards her classmates. She's also a very talented writer. Gabby's favorite books are the Pokemon comics, her favorite movies are Pokemon movies, and her favorite food is pepperoni pizza. She also enjoys playing video games. Keep up the great work Gabby!

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. "Be back later"
4. Zhou dynasty state
7. Mineral
8. __ and gagged
10. One of Lebron's former sidekicks
12. Ivory Coast village
13. Caffeinated beverage
14. Without armies
16. Intention
17. Sulfuric and citric are two
19. Supplement with difficulty
20. & & &
21. George and Weezie
25. Liquefied petroleum gas
26. Immortal act
27. Ancient Greek sophist
29. Aids digestion
30. Comedy routine
31. Actress Thurman
32. Adult beverage
39. Amounts of time
41. An awkward stupid person
42. __ Walker, "The Color Purple"
43. Covers babies' chests
44. Parts per billion (abbr.)



45. Ottoman military title
46. More skilled
48. Natives to New Mexico
49. Indigent
50. Illuminated
51. Very fast airplane
52. Devoid of cordiality

CLUES DOWN

1. Comedian Goldthwait
2. Worn by women
3. "Naked Gun" actor Nielsen
4. Processes fatty acids
5. Mortals

6. Not invited
8. Show __: entertainment
9. Darkens
11. Pilgrimage
14. Danish krone
15. Savior
18. Midway between south and east
19. Electroencephalograph
20. Henry's wife Boleyn
22. Hairstyle
23. Frames per second
24. Sinclair novel
27. Basics
28. A person's life story
29. Luxury automaker
31. Ultrahigh frequency
32. Island and antelope are two
33. Taxi
34. Farm state
35. Fence part
36. Rwandan capital
37. Onomatopoeic
38. In a state of turbulence
39. Abba __, Israeli politician
40. Flowering plants
44. Inquire too closely
47. Sun up in New York

Solutions on C6

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Blotter spotlight: Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of University St. E. at 6:42 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Owatonna begins winter parking ordinance

Owatonna residents are reminded that the city’s winter parking ordinance begins this week.

Starting Wednesday and continuing through March 31, odd/even parking restrictions apply to street parking where there is no current parking restrictions in place and during the following times:

- From midnight to noon, 12 hour restriction limited to one side of the street;
- On odd number calendar days, parking prohibited on even sides of the street, or

- On even number calendar days, parking prohibited on the odd sides of the street.

Police encourage residents using street parking to plan ahead and remember that the parking restrictions do no start until midnight.

Violators of the parking ban are subjected to a \$20 fine. During a snow emergency, violators could get a fine and have their vehicles towed.

The city’s snow emergency hotline is 507-444-4399.

High-risk sex offender moves into area
Community notification set for Thursday in Owatonna

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A high-risk sex offender has moved into Owatonna.

Police will be holding a community notification meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center at 204 Pearl St. E. in Owatonna regarding Gerald Becker, 46. According to police, Becker moved into the city on Nov. 7, and is living in the vicinity of East Rice Street and South Elm Avenue.

Becker has been identified as a Level 3 sex offender, which is considered the most likely to reoffend.

Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the local police department will be available to provide useful information on public safety related to sex offenders during Thursday’s meeting.

“This individual has served the sentence imposed on him by the court, and is transitioning into the community,” said Christian Berg, detective with Owatonna Police.

Becker has a history of sexual conduct and contact with female victims, including two adults and one teenager. The conduct included indecent exposure while the contact was sexual touching, and penetration. The adult victims were vulnerable due to developmental disabilities.

In two of the cases, Becker gained access by approaching the victims in public and coercing them to accompany him to other locations. He offered to help one of the victims. He reportedly gained compliance from the victims through physical force and intimidation. He was known to one victim and not known to another. The relationship with the other is unclear.

The attacks happened in Rice County.

While this notification is not intended to increase fear in the community, police believe an informed public is a safer public. Police are required by law to make the community notification.

Sex offenders are required by law to register their addresses with law enforcement.

There are currently five other sex offenders living in Steele County. They are Phillip Louis Davis, Curtis Lavern Enzenhauer, Benny Ledesma, James Peter Zylstra and Richard Villareal. Zylstra lives in Blooming Prairie while the rest reside in Owatonna.

Anyone with questions may contact the police department at 507-444-3800. Criminal activity involving Becker or any other individual should be reported to 911.

COURT NEWS
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 30 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Ethan T. Frye, 18, Grand Junction, IA, previously appeared and was convicted of felony criminal damage to property. He was sentenced to \$11,280.16, 60 days in county jail, obtain GED, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with co-defendant, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, psychological evaluation, no possession of firearms and 5 years of supervised probation.

Ethan T. Frye, 18, West Des Moines, IA, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault of correctional employee/probation officer/prosecutor/judge – transfer feces or bodily fluids. Frye was sentenced to \$3,209, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no contact with victim, psychological evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Jonelle S. Hill, 36, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault and misdemeanors disorderly conduct and trespassing. Hill was sentenced to \$131, 48 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, mental health evaluation, do not enter liquor establishments and 5 years of supervised probation.

Darcy T. Lewis, 28, previously appeared and was convicted of felony conspiracy to commit theft. The defendant was sentenced to \$131 and 30 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Oct. 30 – Nov. 3:

BLOOMING PRAIRIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jade W. Hedlund, 23, International Falls, brakes violation, \$181; Doroteo Jurado Arceo, 39, Red Wing, speeding, speeding and no license, \$261; Tyler L. Leuwer, 20, Ramsey, speeding, \$121.

MN STATE PATROL ROCHESTER

Servando L. Almaguer, 50, failure to obey a lawful order, \$131 and 5 days in county jail; Lucas S. Bailey, 17, Geneva, speeding, \$121; Teodoro Balbuena, 39, Clarks Grove, suspended license, \$281; Todd E. Buegler, 52, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Darcie A. Buskovich, 44, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Nicholas L. Crenshaw, 39, Hopkins, no license and no child passenger

restraint system, \$231; Andrew L. Edwards, 34, Carlisle, IA, speeding and no license, \$481; Kolten T. Flynn, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Thelma T. Garcia, 26, Laredo, TX, speeding, \$121; Roger L. Haroldson, 53, Amboy, seat belt, \$106; Andy L. Jacobson, 26, Grygla, revoked license, \$281; Nathan A. Johnson, 21, Albert Lea, speeding, \$431; Cody V. Kolstad, 28, Morristown, open bottle, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, illegal use of flashing lights and uncased firearm in vehicle, \$371; Mark A. Leipnitz, 34, Faribault, no insurance, \$281; Dovain V. Ottersen, 79, Clarks Grove, failure to yield, \$131; Scott A. Peterson, 48, Sioux City, IA, speeding, \$121; Angie L. Rivera, 42, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Jose A. Salinas-Rodriguez, 31, Oklahoma City, OK, no license, \$181; Eurrat L. Saylor, 26, Walkerton, IN, seat belt, \$106; Cheryl A. Snaza, 54, Dodge Center, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey A. Sullivan, 35, Rochester, speeding, \$381; Jesus Trevino, 22, Northfield, speeding, \$121; Delecta E. Watkins, 26, Austin, cancelled license, \$281.

OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mohamed A. Abdullahi, 29, Minnetonka, trespassing, \$81 and 90 days in county jail; Lukas R. Anderson, 20, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Jose A. Carrillo, 19, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Ernesto Charles, 29, Owatonna, no license, \$181; James T. Cooley, 48, Hayfield, receiving stolen property, \$183.46, 2 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 100 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Tangela R. Corral, 24, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Cameron R. Elmore, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Alex J. Guerrero, 18, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Nicholas A. Hull, 39, Owatonna, failure to obey traffic control device, \$131; Matthew J. Huskey, 25, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Lance A. Kubat, 21, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Travis R. Martin, 34, Owatonna, obstructing legal process, \$81, 1 day in county jail, 20 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Rosalinda E. Martinez, 35, Owatonna, no insurance, speeding and revoked license, \$621; Sergio R. Maya Rueda, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Chad A. Olson, 39, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, \$131; Joshua J. Quast, 30, Faribault, failure to drive in single lane and speeding, \$191; Shandra M. Saufferer, 46, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, \$81, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health evaluation, obtain permission to leave the state, 200 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Nicole G. Weller, 24, Medford, parking violation, \$37; Luis N. Yciano,

34, Faribault, revoked license and no insurance, \$481.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jesse A. Banton, 34, Blooming Prairie, no license, stay of adjudication, 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Marisol L. Barrientos de Leon, 34, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Brooke A. Berg, 39, Geneva, speeding, \$121; RaeAnn M. Brogren, 18, Owatonna, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and not using crosswalk to cross road, \$201; Samuel M. Burrow, 38, Geneva, speeding, \$121; Barbara L. Durbahn, 59, Mankato, speeding, \$161; Brody A. Ernewein, 24, Waseca, speeding, \$281; Scott T. Fee, 48, Mankato, speeding, \$141; Rane M. Flory, 35, Burnsville, speeding, \$121; Anthony S. Galloway, 33, St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Joel A. Gasner, 47, Waseca, stop sign, \$131; Michael F. Harmer, 32, Ellendale, revoked license and improper information on license, \$301; Matthew R. Jensen, 22, Coon Rapids, seat belt, \$106; Brandon H. Johnson, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Shaw Reh, 24, St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Chelle L. Ronquist, 24, Austin, improper information on license, \$101; Daniel J. Selvik, 34, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Hayden K. Spencer, 38, Scandia, stop sign, \$131; April M. Symes, 44, Kenyon, speeding, \$121; Greta J. Thorndson, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Keith A. Volkman, 61, Waterville, DWI, \$581, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 216 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Brandon L. Weitzenkamp, 26, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

Nov. 8 Criminal Sexual Conduct: Police received information regarding criminal sexual conduct on 4th St. SE at 8:06 p.m.

OWATONNA POLICE

Nov. 3 Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of University St. E. at 6:42 a.m.

Mental Health: At 7:29 a.m., officers responded to a mental health incident in the 1400 block of Sunset Dr. SW.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 2:33 p.m.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:14 p.m.

Fraud: Police received information regarding a fraud incident in the 2200 block of Condor Place NE at 6:13 p.m.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:57 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 7:34 p.m., a

hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Nov. 4 Vandalism: Police received a property damage report from the 400 block of Kim Lane SW at 1:58 p.m.

Shoplifting: At 9:38 p.m., a shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Road W.

Nov. 5 Arrest: Officer arrested a motorist during a traffic stop at Elm Ave. S. and Mill St. E. at 1:44 a.m.

Hit and Run: At 11:57 a.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 500 block of Elm Ave. S.

Welfare: Officer issued a citation during a welfare check in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 4:17 p.m.

Shoplifting: Police responded to a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:55 p.m.

Nov. 6 Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 12:35 a.m.

Vulnerable Adult: Police received a vulnerable adult report from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:22 a.m.

Theft: Officers took theft reports in the 100 block of Allan Ave. SW at 10:23 a.m. and the 300 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 12:48 p.m.

Hit and Run: At 5:44 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 100 block of Richard Place SE.

Nov. 7 Stop Arm: Police received information regarding a stop arm violation in the 1500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8:31 a.m.

Disturbance: At 10:08 a.m., police arrested a subject for disorderly conduct in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W.

Suspicion: Police responded to suspicious activity in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 12:25 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 2000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 12:50 p.m.

Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 400 block of Kelly St. NW at 5:42 p.m.

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:37 p.m.

Nov. 8 Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at 15th St. NE and Cedar Ave. N. at 1:01 a.m.

Suspicion: At 6:46 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity in the 1200 block of Frontage Rd. W. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of Vine St. E. at 9 a.m.

Fraud: Police received information regarding a fraud incident in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 2:36 p.m.

Hit and Run: A hit and run

accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of 12th Place NW at 4:22 p.m.

Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 5:33 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 3 Threats: Deputies received information regarding a subject making threats in the 700 block of 5th St. S. in Ellendale at 10:40 p.m.

Nov. 4 Harassment: At 9:05 a.m., deputies received a report of harassment on 42nd Ave. SW in Summit Township.

Arrest: Deputies arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 14th Ave. NE and 69th St. NE in Medford Township at 9:25 p.m.

Nov. 5 Arrests: Deputies arrested motorists during traffic stops at Albers Ave. and 265th St. E. in Walcott Township at 1:24 a.m. and at Highway 218 and 133rd St. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 4:06 p.m.

DWI: Deputy made a DWI arrest at Hoffman Dr. NW and State Ave. NW in Owatonna at 8:13 p.m.

Nov. 6 Crash: A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred at 44th Ave. NE and Kenyon Road in Merton Township at 9:25 p.m.

Nov. 7 Domestic: Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 31000 block of 168th St. SE in Summit Township at 7:18 a.m. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 26000 block of Kenyon Road in Clinton Falls Township at 8:45 a.m.

Theft: At 5:57 p.m., deputy took a theft report in the 82000 block of 18th St. SW in Meriden Township.

Arrest: Deputy arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at 36th St. NE and 15th Ave. NE in Clinton Falls Township at 8:38 p.m.

Nov. 8 Arrest: Deputy arrested motorists during traffic stops in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Owatonna at 2:05 a.m. and on Highway 14 W. in Meriden Township at 10:02 p.m.

Burglary: Deputies responded to a burglary in the 3900 block of Runway Road in Clinton Falls Township at 9:24 a.m.

Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 41000 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township at 5:13 p.m.

ARREST
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Victor Guerrero, 23, arrested at 1:47 a.m. Nov. 5, warrants arrest, body only.

Jacob Skylar Farless, 25, arrested at 8 a.m. Nov. 8, pos-

session of controlled substance and paraphernalia and theft, held for court.

STEELE COUNTY

Casey William Myeong Jones, 29, arrested at 9:45 p.m. Nov. 4, DWI, held for court.

Trace Michael Stanley, 20, arrested at 1:40 a.m. Nov. 5, warrants arrest, body only.

Trevor Steve St. Martin, 38, arrested at 10:58 a.m. Nov. 8, felony burglary and false information, held for court.

Deanna Karlene Keller, 32, arrested at 11:01 a.m. Nov. 8, felony burglary, held for court.

Antwaine Lavale Williams, 43, arrested at 3 p.m. Nov. 8, warrant arrest, body only.

Lindsey Jane Dupraz, 32, arrested at 1:48 a.m. Nov. 9, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 30 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Nicholas D. Larson, 36, Mankato, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault – dangerous weapon. Larson was sentenced to \$1,155, 101 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, write letter of apology, 100 hours of community service and 3 years and 6 months of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Oct. 30 – Nov. 6:

DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

John G. Baker, 36, Dodge Center, revoked license, 22 days in county jail; Willem H. Burger, 26, Bejou, speeding, \$120; Taylor J. Finn, 22, Mantorville, speeding, \$140; Ryan M. Gunderson, 26, Ham Lake, speeding, \$220; Sackey G. Joles, 64, Rochester, speeding, \$120; Jennielynne P. Meldahl, 28, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Roderick M. Washington, 45, Hayfield, cancelled license, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

KASSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Justin R. Baker, 23, Dodge Center, seat belt, \$105; Jenny L. Fiksen, 26, Wanamingo, revoked license, \$280; Janis A. Gross, 31, Winona, revoked license and possession of marijuana, \$330; Sierra L. Gustafson, 18, Kasson, possession of paraphernalia, \$130; Jason R. Margotta, 29, Kasson, stop sign, \$130; Jesus Reyes, 22, Dodge Center, expired license, \$180; Ravuth Thorng, 31, Rochester, speeding, \$140; Jacob A. Ulrich, 20, Rochester, stop sign, \$130.

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

- Joseph Rodriguez – theft by check - \$1,000 bail
- Prudencio Rodriguez – traffic - \$2,000 bail
- Roland Rodriguez – escape from custody – no bail
- Pedro Roldan-Minjarez – false name - \$3,000 bail
- Jose Roman – DWI - \$6,000 bail
- Justo Roman – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jose Rosales – criminal sexual conduct – no bail

- James Russell – no insurance - \$1,000 bail
- Anthony Russo – assault - \$10,000 bail
- Ramiro Salinas – DWI – no bail
- Miguel Sambrano – DWI - \$2,000 bail
- Gilberto Sanchez – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jorge Sanchez – theft, shoplifting - \$100 bail
- Maria Sanchez – theft - \$500 bail

- Roberto Sanchez – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
- Russell Sanchez – theft - \$200 bail
- Thania Sanchez – warrant - \$3,000 bail
- Jose Saucedo – theft - \$3,000 bail
- Teresa Saucedo – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Benjamin Savedra – DWI – no bail

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

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Nov. 15
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library

Nov. 16
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library
7 p.m. – Turkey Bingo, Pizza Cellar Party Room

Nov. 18
Spaghetti Supper Fund-raiser for BP Youth Club, Servicemen's Club

Nov. 20
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library

Nov. 21
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5:30 p.m. – BP Ambulance Commission Meeting

Nov. 23
6th Annual Gobble Wobble, Take off from BP Youth Club

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Nov. 15
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – 55+ Driver Improvement Refresher Class, Community Ed Room at Roosevelt School
5:30 p.m. – 50+ Fit and Flex Workshop, Sollid Yoga
6 p.m. – A Night to Know the Truth Community Forum, Owatonna High School

Nov. 16
7:30 a.m. – Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Owatonna Country Club
6 p.m. – Predatory Offender Community Notification Meeting, Owatonna Police Department
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, Owatonna Library

Nov. 17
5:30 p.m. – Annual Fall Pickleball Tournament – Mixed Doubles
7:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. – Festival of Trees, Holiday Inn

Nov. 18
9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Mens & Youth Fall Pickleball Tournament
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Victorian Tea, Village of Yesteryear
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. – Womens Doubles Fall Pickleball

Tournament
7 p.m. – 11 p.m. – Dance the Night Away, Owatonna Eagles Club

Nov. 19
8 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Steele County Progressives' Pancake Breakfast, Owatonna Eagles
3 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Oyster-Chili Supper, Aurora Lutheran Church

Nov. 20
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Medford School
6 p.m. – Sons of Norway Meeting, Owatonna Elks Lodge

Nov. 21
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library
5:30 p.m. – Study Session – Ordinance Review for Proposed Amendments, City Administration Building
6 p.m. – Tech Tuesdays, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Administration Building

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Nov. 15
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Kickball) Class, Ellendale Elementary Gym North
6 p.m. – After Prom Meeting, NR Media Center

Nov. 16
4 p.m. – Com Ed (Beginner Piano Lessons), NR Choir Room
6:30 p.m. – NRHEG Athletic Awards Ceremony, NR High School Gym

Nov. 20
3:30 p.m. – Com Ed (Tasty Thanksgiving Treats), NR

High School Upper Commons
7:30 p.m. – NRHEG High School Band Concert, NR High School Gym

Nov. 21
6:15 p.m. – Com Ed (PIYO Live) Class, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room
6:15 p.m. ECFE Adventures in Parenting Class, Ellendale Preschool Room
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North
7:30 p.m. – NRHEG High School Band Concert, NR High School Gym

COMMUNITY CALENDAR BRIEFS

RED CROSS CALLS FOR BLOOD DONORS
The American Red Cross encourages people to share their good health this holiday season by donating blood for patients in need.
A decline in donations occurs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day when donors are busy with holiday activities and travel. However, patients don't get a holiday break from needing lifesaving transfusions. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
By giving blood or platelets, donors may give patients more time – and more holidays – with loved ones. 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:
Albert Lea – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Nov. 30, Salem Lutheran Church
Austin – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Nov. 17, Riverland Community College
Austin – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Nov. 28, Mower County Senior Citizens Center
Kasson – 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Nov. 16, United Methodist Church
Medford – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Nov. 20, Medford School
Medford – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Nov. 24, Medford Outlet Center
Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Nov. 22, Family Video
Owatonna – 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29, McKinley Elementary School

SONS OF NORWAY MEETING NEXT MONDAY
The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway meets Monday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine Street.
The annual Taste of Norway supper will feature favorite Norwegian foods, such as herring, meatballs, fruit soup, rommegrot, lefse and Scandinavian sweets. Serving begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$7 per member or guest and free if you bring a Norwegian dish to share.
The event also includes a silent auction with items donated by lodge members. Proceeds from the auction will be used for lodge programs and events.
If you would like more information regarding the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Nina Zak at 507-213-1919 or Cindy Hokanson at 507-451-9301.

55+ DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMING TO AREA

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: 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.

NORTHFIELD ARTS GUILD HOLDS AUDITIONS FOR LES MISÉRABLES

Purple Door Youth Theater, an educational branch of the Northfield Arts Guild, will host auditions for Les Misérables (school edition) from 5-7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 26, and 4-7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27. Auditions for this all-student production of the Tony Award winning musical take place at the Northfield Arts Guild Center for the Arts, 304 Division Street S., Northfield.
Rehearsals will begin in January 2017. Les Misérables performances are March 9-11 and March 15-18 at the Northfield Arts Guild Theater. More information and audition tips are available by visiting the Education page at NorthfieldArts-Guild.org.
Students in grades 5 through 12 from across the region are encouraged to try out for the many roles both on and off stage. To view the character descriptions, find music to prepare, and to sign up for a 30-minute audition slot, call 507-645-8877 or visit northfieldartsguild.org/theater/auditions. Students interested in working with the technical side of theater are asked to attend the auditions for a technician interview; however tech candidates need not prepare anything in advance.
Each Purple Door Youth Theater session provides both a full-scale production and theater training; there is a nominal tuition cost. Through hands-on-theater experiences, students will be involved with every aspect of producing the show.
Les Misérables is the story of Jean Valjean, a prisoner who breaks parole to create a new life for himself. Set in post-revolutionary France, the story is an emotional masterpiece that has thrilled audiences all over the world. Les Misérables (school edition) has been abridged, but is still rated PG-13 and continues to maintain the integrity of one the greatest musicals ever written.

performance on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-3 production, SNAPSHOTS: Memories, Moments, Music.
Owatonna is a very diverse community, and this show reflects that. The production includes different acts – some Christmas, but others from various experiences and traditions around the world. These allow LTO to share “devised theater,” for an “Owatonna only” experience.
In the same way that a snapshot from days past captures the fondest memory and magic of a family event, a holiday celebration, cultural experience, or a historic moment, we hope this production invokes that warm feeling all over again.
We're searching for hospitality this holiday season while celebrating cultural traditions from around the world. Each performance varies in many ways, dance to drama, music to magic and beyond. The production promises to entertain, educate and inspire.
Story-telling, both poignant and humorous as well as magic - the first on LTO's stage - round out this special family-friendly LTO opportunity.
Performances of SNAPSHOTS: Memories, Moments, Music will be one-weekend-only at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2 and Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at www.LittleTheatreOwatonna.org on Nov. 25. The LTO Box Office will open Nov. 27. .

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA

First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie invites the ladies of Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area to its Annual Ladies Christmas Tea on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.
The event begins with Christmas music and fellowship in the main sanctuary. Following the performance, Christmas tea and delectable treats will be available in the church's fellowship hall, which is handicapped accessible.
This evening is a special way to begin the Christmas season with turning hearts towards Jesus.
Please RSVP for the event by Monday, Nov. 27 by calling the church office (507) 583-2673.

SNAPSHOTS: MEMORIES, MOMENTS, MUSIC COMING TO LTO

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● EUCHRE: Nov. 18, 1 p.m.

● CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS: Wednesday, Nov. 8 & Dec. 6, 5-7:30 p.m.
A Touch of Charm—Holiday tastings, special discounts, holiday decorations
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DIGITAL: Students learn about digital citizenship

FROM PAGE C1

Christianson said, "I learned that the World Wide Web was a lot scarier than I thought. Our lives revolve around technology."

Christianson said Mollberg taught the group how to use an "app" that will inform callers/texters that the person being called is actually driving and cannot answer the phone.

Mollberg referred to a recent study done by Time Magazine saying there is evidence of a correlation between smart phones and teen mental health. From 2010 to 2016, adolescents who experienced at least one major depressive episode, increased by 60 percent.

Further referring to the Time piece, Mollberg said the study found

kids who spend three or more hours per day on smart phones were 34 percent more likely to suffer at least one suicide-related outcome, than kids who used them two hours a day or less.

One factor could be the inability to separate social media glamor from real life, fueling a rise in teen anxiety, Mollberg explained.

The undeveloped teen brain with less impulse control may lead teens to disturbing content, Mollberg pointed out. Teens also have less of a filter while using their phones which leads to increased bullying via text and social media, Mollberg said.

Mollberg said this current generation is treading on an area not touched by man or woman before. These youths, young adults and older adults are guinea pigs, Mollberg believes.

"We will be writing books in years to come about both the good and the bad technological impacts that this generation is experiencing," Mollberg said.

His best advice to parents is to talk to older parents who have already experienced some of this technological tsunami and learn from mistakes.

"Two of the simplest pieces of advice I give are: 'Cell phones should never ever again be brought to the dinner table, and cell phones should not go into a bedroom with a teenager at the end of the day. Leave all the family phones charging in the kitchen over night. Buy them an alarm clock.'"

Mollberg said, "This is not a punishment, but rather you are providing our young people the opportunity to free themselves from the leash of the cell phone. They will sleep better,

be more relaxed, and generally be healthier both physically and emotionally if you can break the technological bond that addiction to a cell phone creates."

He urges parents to "take a good look at your kids and their addiction to technology."

Mollberg asked: "When was the last time that the cell phone was out of a teen's reach for more than an hour?" For some kids and adults, it has been years, he mused.

Issuing a warning to students, Mollberg said, "There are bad people out there looking for you and wanting information about you."

In conclusion, Mollberg said anything posted on the Web is there forever. "You are being watched! If you won't say it in person to someone, don't write it, text it, or post it."

DANCE: Woman's Club of Owatonna charity event

FROM PAGE C2

She has been a WCO member for three years, worked on the committee for the 2016 event, and has agreed to again co-chair the event in 2018.

in Wanamingo and I have two daughters," said Hansel. "Our daughters all attended Kenyon-Wanamingo High School. My youngest daughter, Jill, and their oldest daughter, Kristyn, were best friends all

nearly every weekend. He is in the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Over the years, he and his group have played in Austria, Scandinavia and at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. He has also played on Prairie Home Companion.

Corporate sponsors also support the event. Committee members in charge of this portion of the event are Connie Ruth, Joan Salmonsens and Betty Ahrens. They are still accepting donations and those interested may call Ruth at 507-451-1144.

Corporate sponsors so far are Wenger Corp., Festal, Charlie Herrmann, Rocon, Mark Walbran, Michaelson Funeral Home, Owatonna Motor Company, Berkshire-Hathaway, Thrivent, Tri-M, and G&K.

Other members of the committee are Sandy Boss, Hildie Kehler, Nancy Westphal, Jan Tippet, Marlys Olson and Joanie Mosher. The committee has been meeting since June to organize the event and see to the details.

"The charity committee has done a wonderful job contributing their time, talents and skills to this project. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed. I, with the entire WCO, would like to express our deep gratitude to each and every one of them," Nelson said.

BLOND: Play hits high marks

FROM PAGE C2

combo, led by pianist Amelia Harthan, provides good accompaniment and background music, and both the lighting and staging work to set scenes and action.

Although the actors do yoeman's work in enunciation of the words in the songs, it still comes through to the audience in something less than quality hearing. That is too bad, as the entire cast of actors portray the roles with flair and enthusiasm throughout. Although none of the songs are memorable, they fit the story line in excellent fashion, and the audience will be humming some of

the music for several days.

As high school musicals go, "Legally Blonde" is just one more example of quality productions performed by BPHS students, and Johnson and Bottin can be applauded for their direction. It has been refreshing in the last few years, also, to see the director and the students tackle more modern and lesser-known works. This year's cast can be justly proud of their efforts, despite the acoustics problem, and the actors can count themselves among hundreds of local students who have been a part of quality musicals. Well done, all.

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Crossword solution

She also has a son who is married to a woman who lives in Kenyon. She and her husband have a daughter who lives in Kenyon. Her husband has had a band called "The Kenyon Band".

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Bloomington 150th

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 | D1

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS IN BLOOMING PRAIRIE

A look back over the past 25 years

Compiled by LeMar Nelson

It has been 25 years since former Blooming Prairie Times publisher John Iacovino brought the community up to date with a publication chronicling a quarter of a century after the big Blooming Prairie centennial anniversary of the town's establishment.

It would seem only appropriate, then, that the events of the last 25 years be recorded, as the town and the community celebrated 150 years of the town's incorporation throughout 2017.

As Iacovino wrote in his closing summary, "And somehow life marches on in Blooming Prairie. Something in the spirit of the people refuses to be dominated by an unpredictable, sometimes cruel and incredibly rapidly changing world. A bit of that history shows through in the construction of the city's latest project—the new Blooming Prairie civic center building.

"If a future historian is able to write the story of Blooming Prairie on the occasion of its 150th anniversary, it will be because the spirit of the people in this village prevailed against the challenges that undoubtedly present themselves."

I will humbly strive to be that historian.

In any recounting of history, there is always plenty of room for discussion and argument as to which events and businesses should be recognized and included in the publication, and I would hasten to assure readers that this history is my recollection and research,



Mystery photo - Please help us identify this photo. Appears to be early 1900's in Blooming Prairie. Email info to bptimes@frontiernet.net or call 507-583-4431.

and it is certainly open to one's own interpretation and revision. Without the time or space for everything, here is an update of events and items of interest from the years 1992 to 2017.

Special section captures Blooming Prairie's history

It has been a year of celebration in Blooming Prairie. Throughout 2017, the community has marked its 150th anniversary. Blooming Prairie is a prideful community deeply rooted in its history.

As part of the city's sesquicentennial, the Times has designed a special section devoted to the history of the community. This section features history over the past 25 years as compiled by local legend LeMar Nelson, who is a retired educator and current writer for the Times. He has lived in the community for more than 60 years.

Besides recounting historical events, we thought it would be fun to pull some old photographs and advertisements that local businesses ran in the newspaper over the years.

We hope this will be a keepsake for our readers to cherish and treasure for years to come.

Happy anniversary, Blooming Prairie!

Rick L. Bussler
Times Publisher

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GOODS... AND
CLOTHING.

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All the bright fancies from slipperdom are here for your seeing and choosing. 'Twould be hard to say which is the more attractive, the stock or the prices.

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Likes nothing so well as his comfortable home slippers. Don't let him be without a pair. Fine Plush Slippers .75, \$1.00 & \$1.25 Fine Morocco \$1.50

Young Women and Girls:

Are naturally fond of pretty footwear. See the dainty styles we have for them.—French Kid, cloth top Bootees, \$2.50.

Young Men and Boys:

Like our "Royal Blue" Shoes at \$3 and \$4, because they fit perfectly, are light and durable. Kangaroo Hand-sewed, \$4. They are some of the shoes people buy year after year.

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If you want them, at less than general store prices.—Men's \$1.25, Boys' \$1.00, Women's \$1.00, Girls' 80 cts and Children's 65 cts.

Taylor's SHOE Store

1992

In January 1992, Peterson Implement celebrated 40 years of service to the farmers of the area, and Elf Atochem purchased Viking Chemical. In February Margaret Noble and her Noble Place Hair Salon turned 30. One of the community's great bowlers, Judy Esplan, was leading the entire state in the singles division of the state bowling tournament. She bowled a whopping three-game 747 series in the tournament.

In May groundbreaking for Prairie Manor Chapel took place, and America Bank was established with Randy Schwake as its president. It was estimated that 30,000 onlookers watched the Fourth of July annual parade, and later that year a ribbon-cutting ceremony opened the new City Center. Gateway Foods, the wholesale grocer in town operated under Gateway Foods of Lacrosse, Wis., and Rod Koster established a new business in town when he opened Automerica, an auto body and used car lot.

The November issue of the local paper denoted a whole section to pictures reliving the devastating ice storm of the previous year. Certainly, other events and businesses made news locally in 1992, but the preceding may give one the impression that life in the community continued to march ahead.

1993

As the years continue to roll along, the community has its shares of ups and downs. One of those down incidents happened mid-1993, when an altercation between Police Chief Terry Bredeck and local resident Gary Christianson resulted in a gunshot wound to Bredeck's throat. Fortunately Bredeck recovered. The BP Christian Fellowship church closed its doors, and in July Atochem announced a \$5 million expansion plan that would add 5,000 square feet to its plant.

The local school provided news on several fronts. The BPHS one-act play, "Help," ranked first in the district drama contest, besting six other area schools. Mrs. Renee Burns directed the production. The girls' basketball team finished 1993 with a record 35-game conference unbeaten streak, and in June the Board of Education hired Irving Peterson as the school's new superintendent.

The local newspaper moved into the former Lucille's Blossom shop, and at the east end of Main Street Lon and Rey Mast repainted the mural on the building at the mini-park, giving it a shiny and attractive vista. The Alliance for Building Community (ABC) celebrated Mexican Independence Day, and heavy rains caused a citizens' committee to appear at the city council meeting to complain

about storm sewer problems and flooding.

Four area farmers received Century Farm Designation—Lawrence and Annette Balzer, Alvin and Marilyn Claussen, the Lorraine Butler family, and Kenneth and Julia Farr. Another big up for the community came about in November, when a school referendum for \$3.085 million received approval from community residents. Certainly, the year concluded with more ups than downs.

1994

Every community develops its own rhythm or pattern of life, as each year rolls along. In the 25 years leading up to the 150th year of the town's existence, each year has its own events, personality news, and business activities 1992 and 1993 gave examples of this, and 1994 also had its unique activities, persons in the news, and business openings and closings. The details may be different, but the community rhythm remains constant.

It was interesting to note that the local newspaper went through two owners, two name changes, and two locations. A Missourian transplant, Jeff Schrag, purchased the newspaper in January and changed the paper's name to BP Prairie News and Times. The paper office moved to its present location during the summer, and the name returned to be The Blooming Prairie Times. In the fall Schrag returned to Missouri, and Elsie and Ron Slinger of Faribault purchased the paper.

A \$3 million bond was approved for the construction of a new elementary school, and later that summer a report stated that the construction was ahead of schedule. Bixby Feed Mill received a conditional use permit, after the mill constructed a new dryer and an additional bin. Several businesses opened and closed during the year.

Sportstitch began its business on Main Street, Subway opened upon Highway 218 South, and Jane's on Main styled the hair of regular clients. The biggest disappointment of the year came when Gateway announced it was closing the wholesale grocery business in the community. That ended a long history of having the wholesale grocery business operating and serving the entire area.

A lot of muscles ached after a donkey basketball happened in February. The Jaycees battled the high school faculty, while the FFA tangled with the Chamber of Commerce. Aside from the aching bodies, no broken bones were reported. Electronic filing for income tax preparation gained popularity, and retired astronaut Mike Millam spent two days in the community, addressing business groups and high school classes.

cont. on D2

Harry Mitchell



Well, Boys!

The swellest materials that are woven by the American and English mills are here in our store for your inspection, there is no admission fee either, an open house.

It's just this way—we represent HARRY MITCHELL, Minneapolis' Finest Tailor, he makes the clothes worn by the best dressers in the Twin Cities. We show you the goods, from 300 beautiful and latest styles of samples, every one guaranteed all wool, take your measure, send it to Harry Mitchell, and he makes the clothes. If anything is not entirely satisfactory to you, we return them at his expense.

For \$20.00 we will take your order for a Spring suit or overcoat, that any other tailor would not make for less than \$30.00.

For \$25.00, a garment that would equal any \$35.00 outfit you ever saw, and for \$40.00, we will take your order for a suit or overcoat, that you have been paying \$40.00 for. We positively guarantee style, cloth, fit and finish or you don't have to take the clothes.

Come in and let us show you the samples, you don't have to order unless you want to. Come today, Come tomorrow, Come any day, BUT COME.

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Johnson's—
Baby Soap, — 19c

Johnson's—
Baby Cream, — 49c

Castile—
Baby Soap, — 15c

Albalene—
Baby Powder, — 25c

Albalene—
Baby Oil, — 39c

Cotton Balls, — 29c

Boric Acid, — 15c

Diaper Liners, \$1

Mennen's Tips for Tots, — 50c

Nestles Baby Hair Treatment, — \$1.00

Absorbent Cotton, — 17c

Bottle Warmers and Vaporizers, — \$4.98

BOX OF BABY NEEDS, consisting of—

Baby Powder — Baby Oil — Baby Cream

and Baby Lotion, — 43c

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Add 20% Federal excise tax to Cosmetics, Jewelry

TO THE LETTER



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PHONE 88 — BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINN.

Some individuals and teams accomplished special things during the year. Local racecar driver mark Noble finished third overall in a national race competition at the Arizona Speedway in Phoenix. The junior PGA named 12-year-old Lisa Meshke the junior golfer of the year, a very singular honor. Finally, the BPHS girls' basketball team finished the 1994 portion of their basketball season with an astounding 46 straight conference victories.

Over 5,000 fans attended the annual Gopher 50 car race in July, Red Oak Grove Church recognized a 135-year anniversary, and Eastern Star turned 90. One tragic note marred the year when Plainview resident and former Blooming Prairie citizen Rodney Hanson drowned in an accident on the Cannon River, while canoeing with a friend.

And so the years march along. It offers nostalgia and sparks old memories to relive some of the events, businesses, and personalities. It will be interesting to follow the years, as we draw closer to that huge 150th celebration.

In just three of the 25 years leading up to the 150th, several milestone events have already taken place. Besides several new businesses, and some closings, Atochem underwent an ambitious expansion, a functioning city center (city offices, library, center meeting area, fire and police department and chamber of commerce office) opened, and a new elementary school began construction. All of that contributed to the unique rhythm that epitomizes our community. What new adventures are in store?

1995

Compared to the previous years, this one stayed relatively normal. Some exciting happenings did occur, however. A four-man toboggan team- Craig Kruckeberg, Cedric and Eugene Boyd, and Kevin Hart- set a national record in winning the 1995 U.S. toboggan championship in Camden, Maine. The four competed in the Developmental race that boasted

175 competitors.

The high school girls' basketball team had its consecutive unbeaten string broken at 53, when NRHEG defeated them 43-29. They lost a second in a row in an overtime defeat by United South Central, but still managed to take their fourth straight conference championship. Blooming Prairie boasted five Eagle Boy Scouts, when Jeremiah Moser, David Miner, Mike Anderson, Brian Styndl, and Anthony Brant all reached that rank.

First Lutheran Church celebrated its 125th birthday in March, and Dr. Chad Eischens opened Prairie Family Sports and Chiropractic in April. Local resident Anita Angell earned a spot on the cover of Successful Farming magazine in May; an open house took place in May for the new elementary school. Prairie Manor turned 25 in June, and Lisa Meshke took fifth place in the state golf tournament.

In July long-time piano teacher and St Columbanus accompanist retired after playing at countless weddings and funerals, and the Fourth of July celebration accommodated 35,000 people, the biggest such occasion ever. Todd Prafke took the office of City Administrator in July, and the Dairy Queen also had new ownership.

Jim Madson gained some fame for his 15 acres of gladiolus, which he shipped all over the country, Mike O'Connor took first in the regional National Truck Pull contest in August, and Cory Thurnau earned grand Champion in the FFA Market Service category. "Cinderella" entertained large audiences, and it probably provided a fitting climax when a rumor riled up two communities. The uproar began and ended with a rumor that nude dancing would be coming to Whispering Pines just east of Ellendale. The county commissioners were quick to squash the rumor, and the year ended peacefully.

1996

It has already been noted that every community has its own rhythm and pace of living, and BP was no exception. That is why both

1995 and 1996 varied the pattern just a bit and offered more normal activities than some of the earlier years of this 25-year period. Each community generally finds years to vary the usual rhythm.

In early January, Steele County workers helped get the rural address system get close to completion by installing street signs at many road intersections. The system would be finalized later in the year.

A prolonged frigid temperature string of days in February, lowered temps to 35 below zero one day. Gov. Arnie Carlson ordered all schools closed one Friday during the height of the low temps. The BPHS one-act play, "The Small World of Molly McIver" took first in the sub-section drama contest, and wrestler Paul Tollesfson advanced to the state tournament.

A small explosion at AtoChem did some damage and injured two employees.. The Pines Supper Club opened in March, and former Times publisher Vernon Krejci died. Ten members of First Lutheran Church spent 10 days in Israel as part of a larger tour group. Pastor Tom Pietz organized a youth room at First Lutheran in April for the youngsters in the community, and severe storms hit our area in May, causing some damage.

If the community has problems with regulation of feedlots in the area, the subject was also causing problems in 1996. An Ethanol plant near Claremont opened in April, the high school girls' track squad won an 8-team True -Track meet, the girls' golf team won the sub-section, and Theresa Hatteberg, in her second trip to the state speech festival, took first place in the poetry division.

Krejci Ford won the highest award for Ford dealers for the fourth straight year, Gregg Fristedt opened The Bakery, and the Dubuque Trail Ridge wagon train stopped in Blooming Prairie in September. Police Chief Bredek went to Atlanta as part of the security forces at the Summer Olympics and then promptly resigned his position here upon his return. The town was not without police protection for long, however, as Paul Wayne assumed the chief's role just two months later.

And so 1996 passed into a new year. Not a lot of new building took place in 1996, no major accidents or disasters occurred, but the community still enjoyed a certain rhythm of living. What 1997 will bring is anybody's guess, but residents are eager to find out.

1997

The years in the early 90s had a vibrant rhythm of expanding businesses, numerous new constructions, and many big social events. The middle years of the decade saw a pause in the rhythm of the town, as evidenced by the less upheaval of the activities. However, life in our small town community continued to thrive, and time marched on, as illustrated by 1997.

The SCAT transit program started in January to begin the year of activity. The BPHS One-Act play won the sub-section drama contest for the second straight year and competed in the state contest. The Gopher sports conference celebrated 50 years of operation, and Coach John Worke was named Section One Coach of the year.

An explosion at Atochem injured two and resulted in a \$44,000 fine from OSHA later in the summer. Atochem appealed the ruling. The city filed an appeal for financial aid after the serious storms of last year. In May, the local food shelf closed and moved to Owatonna. The town acted to enforce a strict curfew ordinance, after an up-tick in vandalism throughout the town.

Summit Creamery and store set a date for auction. Krejci Ford

landed a Chairman's award again, T.S Morton became 125 years old in July, and Peterson Implement closed its doors in August. A feedlot discussion took place in the fall, and Todd Prafke resigned his position as City Administrator to take a similar spot in St. Peter. BPHS presented "The Sound of Music" as the all-school musical and Atochem celebrating 10 years in the community. Other events took place, surely, but 1997 joined the other years in the mid-nineties, as the town marched along the way to the 150th anniversary of Blooming Prairie.

1998

The Blooming Prairie continued to thrive with its own particular rhythm, although the last two years of the decade, and even more importantly, the last two years of the 1900s, began to cause some apprehensions and questions about the new century about to burst on the scene. What might happen when the calendar turned to 2000?

Mike Lea and Rick Hansen were named Distinguished Service winner and Outstanding Young Minnesotan at the annual Jaycee banquet, SCAT finished it first year of operation successfully, and Mark Robinson became the new administrator at Prairie Manor. Steele County commissioners passed a new feedlot ordinance for the county, and the volunteer fire department volunteers successfully raised \$160,000 to purchase a new pumper truck.

In the spring Tom and Christine Butler received awards for outstanding conservation cooperation and for outstanding farm and sportsmanship. Joe Haberman rebuilt his service establishment after last year's storms had demolished the original service garage. In April Cabelas opened its new store in Owatonna, the first expansion by The Nebraska Company into Minnesota.

Area community St. Peter was hit with a devastating tornado that put a former BP City administrator into the public eye for some months. Todd Prafke was in his second year as the St. Peter administrator. At the same time Michael Reitz

became the new city administrator here in Blooming Prairie. The local Dairy Queen found new ownership when Nick and Amanda Schiefert purchased the business from Kevin Hart.

Five Blooming Prairie educators retired in June when Norma Amundson, Naomi Erickson, Marilyn Srsen, Roger Saathoff, and Robert Nahlovsky all left the ranks of teaching. The Minnesota design team spent three days in the community and the county offering suggestions for improvement in the area, an the uncertainty of the coming new century finally drew attention locally. A long article in the paper reassured the public that the new century would occur without any major distractions.

BPHS student Lisa Meshke as named a 1998 Compaq Scholastic junior all-American, Ronald Anderson won the mayor's position in the November election, and Prairie Village developer and the city reached a tentative agreement. Only two trailers still remain in the old trailer park at the present time. The year ended with news that the BP center had received a \$20,000 grant for the Alliance to building a better community. And so, it was on to the last year of the 1900s, and more questions about the coming new century would undoubtedly arise. What would 1999 bring?

1999

The last year of another decade dawned on the Blooming Prairie community, but this wasn't just any year. It marked the end of the 1990s and the 20th century and the beginning of a new millennium.

cont. on D3



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Reduced 20%-50%
"Fixies" (briefs) now...25c

NEW SHIPMENT
TYPE 140 SHEETS
81x99" a few slight irregularities
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HOUSE FROCKS
Mostly small and large sizes
Were \$2.98
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NEW LOW PRICE!
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NEW MERCHANDISE IS
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Super Valu THRIFTY MEAT

 GROUND BEEF,-----lb. 45¢
WIENERS, -----lb. 45¢
SLAB BACON,-----lb. 49¢
PURE LARD, -----lb. 19¢
CHEESE SPREAD,--2 lbs. 79¢

Super Valu FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Fcy. ROME BEAUTY APPLES, 3 lbs. 35¢
Iceberg HEAD LETTUCE,----2 for 27¢
Calif. SUNKIST ORANGES,---doz. 39¢
Idaho RUSSET POTATOES,--10 lbs. 59¢
Texas Seedless GRAPEFRUIT, 10 for 41¢

Erickson's
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota





Light Plant and Community Building, Blooming Prairie, Minn.

postage stamps went up to 33 cents First Class, Blossom cager Tony Lea reached the 1,000-point career mark, Pastor Tom Pietz accepted a call to Colorado, and Shirley Anderson became the third woman to chair the local board of education, joining Agnes Schaefer and Lorraine Ferguson in that capacity.

The Austin Hospital was named one of the 50 top non-teaching hospitals in the country, four BPHS speech students advanced to the state contest- Ryan Ashton, Lindsey Carlson, Jason Harber, and Luke Severson- and the BP boys' track team won the sub-section track meet.

Officer Mark Lang got a quick lesson in childbirth, when he helped deliver Joshua Hein in the Hein bedroom. A local group of investors purchased the Farmer's Elevator in August, with no changes in elevator employees, and Barry Olson and John Worke took over duties as Principal and Athletic Director at the local high school.

The local Women of Today organization celebrated 50 years of service, Central Coop was honored with an Environmental Respect award, and local citizen Ardis Knutson received a Virginia

McKnight State Human Service Honor. With further assurances that the transition to 2YK would be a smooth one, the end of the decade and the passing of a century faded into obscurity, and a new rhythm began in Blooming Prairie and the entire community. The year 2000 made an immediate appearance.

2000

With apprehension over the tragic effects of the Y2K tech changeover to a new century dissipated, and everything operating smoothly, the local community and the whole country settled back into a more normal rhythm of events and activities. In Blooming Prairie the new century brought no great changes to disrupt the norm.

An all-school reunion spearheaded by Verna Magnusson and others probably provided the most excitement and enjoyment of the entire year. At least 400 people gathered the weekend before the Fourth to enjoy several events, including a Sunday afternoon reunion program at the high school gymnasium. That waxed both patriotic and nostalgic.

Recent graduates and those from

many classes ago spent countless hours reconnecting with classmates and regaling each other with tales of high school activities and antics. The occasion was rated an unqualified success for all involved, and the events forged many new memories for attendees.

In January the school district and the teachers reached agreement on a new contract, 3.37 percent the first year and 4.7 percent the following year. The local Jaycees named Brian Nelson, Jim Fiebiger, and Richard Hegal as honorees in various categories. Marian Becker retired as organist of St. Columbanus Church after 44 years of service.

The High school one-act play, "The Spirit of Life," directed by Frank Vorlicek, won the section contest and competed at the state drama contest in St. Paul. The Blossom wrestling team earned a section runner-up, the basketball girls won their sixth straight conference title, and Andrea Banton became the first female basketball player to earn 1,000 career points.

The recently formed BP Education Foundation received high marks and was judged a sound investment for school students in the district. Former graduate Mark McCrady and his band Bobby

Llama won a national music contest. It earned them \$20,000 and a trip to play at Panama City, Fla. Prairie Manor received a top rating and was named one of the top 10 rest homes nationally.

The local school board initiated all-day kindergarten for all Title 1 students, but weather defeated the graduating class of 2000, when approval for an outdoor ceremony had to be scrapped for indoor exercises due to rain. After six straight years at the state golf tournament, BPHS senior Lisa Mesheke finally reached her goal with a championship at the state golf tournament.

Almost seven inches of rain inundated the community July 1 and 2, flooding many basements and yards in the community. Michael Reitz resigned as city administrator. The BP Gun Club celebrated 100 years of operation, and residents and city council members met to discuss possible solutions to overcrowded sewer lines.

Mike Jones received appointment as City Administrator in September, and a \$600,000 grant from FEMA that had instituted "Project Impact" two years ago to improve the county and the community was coming to closure. County agencies officially took over in December.

Thus, our thriving little community passed another milestone, and residents seemed ready to approach another year with enthusiasm and optimism. The unique rhythm of this town and community progresses at its own pace.

2001

After 2001 began with no misfortunes resulting from the rollover to a new century, the existing rhythm of the community took residence again. Street crews kept busy the first couple of weeks in the new year cleaning streets and removing the record 38 inches of snow the community received in December. The BP Ed Foundation held its second year banquet, with another glowing report of first year success.

In February the city signed a contract to monitor and repair sewer lines, and the BP Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first annual chili cook-off. A local high school history class researched and published a newspaper describing the "Roaring 20's" era. Rodney Earlywine began tenure as plant manager at the local chemical company.

The BP Library celebrated 25 years of existence, and Superintendent Irv Peterson resigned to take a similar position at Thief River Falls. The 2000 census saw a drop in the city population to 1,935. Minnesota campgrounds had a record-breaking year in camping, with over 100,000 overnight visitors.

An elementary school triathlon team earned a title in a state contest, and long-time high school teacher Frank Vorlicek retired in June. The Board of Education named Barry Olson the new Superintendent of Schools, and Blooming Prairie was the first community in the area to switch to a citizen-automated dispatch system.

Long-time resident led the Fourth of July parade as the Grand Marshall and Heidi Heimgartner accepted a call to be Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church. Margaret Noble retired from her long career in the hair salon business. A spate of local vandalism resulted in damages in thousands of dollars, and the BP Country club celebrated its 50th year north of the city.

Ironically, on the day that the September 11 issue of the Times was published, probably the greatest disaster in our country took place when terrorists stole airplanes and wreaked havoc that seared the memory of every citizen. Two planes toppled the New York Twin Towers, another crashed into the Pentagon, and another plan was

thwarted because of the extreme courage of passengers on the plane.

Over 3,000 people lost their lives, and the sense of security enjoyed by everyone was shattered, forever for some. In 1941 President Franklin Roosevelt had called the attack on Pearl Harbor that triggered our entry into World War II "A Day of Infamy." The Terrorist attack on 9/11/01 demonstrated the fragility of life, and the date will be observed every year hence. It marked a defining moment for the second year of the new century.

After the horrific events of 9/11 and the days following, events and happenings in this little sheltered community had to seem anti-climatic, but life went on. Pastor Matt Fennel began his tenure as leader of First Baptist Church, and the public expressed confidence in the local school system when an extra levy referendum sailed through with 77 percent approval.

Miner's Outdoor and Rec held a grand opening in November, and a former eyesore in the south part of town received a real beautification when Prairie Village opened on Fourth Street, and Gary Trom constructed a number of mini-storage units across the street.

WWII vets like Ed Habberstad, who had been a bomber pilot in the 40s shared memories of Pearl Harbor in December.

cont. on D4



This is the season when colds and coughs are prevalent. Take every sensible precaution against infection, and should you feel that you are "catching cold," take care of it immediately. Prompt treatment with tried and proven home remedies often lessens the severity and duration of a cold. Put these health guards for cold weather in your medicine chest now so that you will be able to get after a cold at the first warning sneeze or sniffle. If a cold begins with chills and fever, or if it doesn't yield readily to home treatment, call your doctor without delay.

KLEENEX	27c
Grove's BROMO QUININE,--large	69c
SQUIBB ASPIRIN,-----	200 79c
MILK OF MAGNESIA TABLETS,--	19c
Colgate DENTAL CREAM,--ec. size	59c
Blue Jay CORN PLASTERS,-----	29c
Bromo Quinine COLD TABLETS,--	39c
St. Joseph ASPIRIN TABLETS,----	10c
85c NOXZEMA SKIN CREAM,-----	59c
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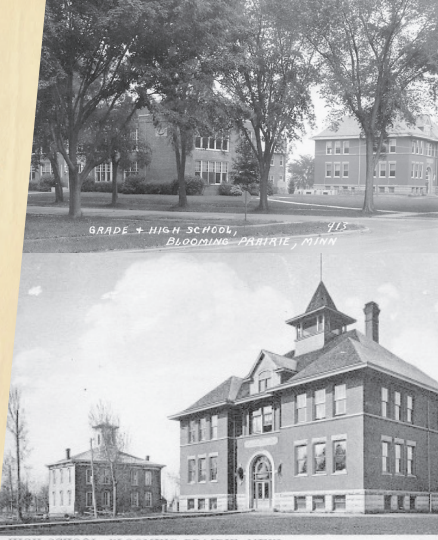
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PROCESSIONAL..... High School Band
INVOCATION..... Rev. Claire Karsten
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Winona State Teachers College
PIANO RELECTION..... Janet Seale
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS..... Gordon Lindquist
For American Legion and Auxiliary
PRESENTATION OF CLAS..... Maurice McPartin
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS..... G. R. Thorsen
President, Board of Education
CREDITION..... Rev. Chire Karsten
High School Band

Graduates

Anderson, Allen
Brentley, Barbara
Brown, Donald
Christiansen, Nathan
Christiansen, Phyllis
Clyde, Jack
Conrad, Charlotte
Doecker, Alvin
Doecker, Barbara
Doecker, Lucille
Dieterson, Leewood
Duke, LaVane
Feri, Anos
Fisher, Hilda
Friedland, Marian
Harding, Jean
Harding, Wally
Helsok, Myron
Hilton, Marie
Hips, Donald
Hips, Harvey
Jacobson, Elaine
Jensen, Lucille
Johnson, Beverly
Johnson, Roger
Johnson, Marilyn
Knutson, Marilyn
Kotaka, Mary
Krell, Eugene

Lee, Marvin
Lund, Marilyn
McDonald, Philip
Magidary, Alice
Magnuson, Sydney
Mayne, Dorothy
Mortis, Alvin
Mueller, Carol
Nelson, Norma
Nott, Beverly
Olson, Arthur
Osby, Marilyn
Pacheco, Gordon
Pacheco, Debra
Peterson, Donald
Peterson, Mark
Pitt, John
Pruiter, Marvin
Pruiter, Mary Ann
Rasmussen, Paul
Schon, Pat
Svensen, Robert
Thiese, Frank
Trom, Verna
Wagner, Marion
Yestich, Marion
Zapp, Mary Ann
Zweiser, Eugene

*Valedictorian *Co-Scholarship

HIGH SCHOOL, BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINN.

The Red and Black Chronicle

VOLUME XVIII BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1948 NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

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Asst. Editor..... Connie Brundson
Sports Editor..... Arthur Olson
Editorial..... Mary Kotaka
Manager..... Barbara Remley
and Sue Anne Beltsch
Typists..... Beverly Nott,
Carol Miller, Dorothy Meyer
Exchange Editor..... Mary Butler
Business Manager..... Mary Ann Zapp
Peattie..... Alice Magidary
Barbara Kading, Peter Bob
Repeckers: Phyllis Christianson,
Jean Esterson, Marilyn
Osby, Hilda Fischer, Marie
Nelson, Marlon Fjerdstad and
Charlotte Conrad
Advisor..... Miss Deard

Editorial . . .

By Mary K

Do you realize that this is the last day of school for the seniors, not counting exam days? How time flies! Or doesn't it for some of you who just sit and waste your time? We know we have to be here as why not get something out of school? We are wasting our time and the taxpayer's money when we don't get anything out of school. School is a place to prepare for our life's work. We get only as much out of anything as we put in it. Life and school are alike! The teachers are here to help prepare us for our vocation. They are interested in us and want to help us as much as possible. Have all of you made use of your time and really earned something? A student is a hardy thing to have, but if you didn't learn any thing

17 Seniors Honored By Music Mothers

The final meeting of the "Music Mothers" was held May 27th in the High School Auditorium. Those seniors who had been active in band and chorus and their mothers were guests of honor. The seniors received gold pins for their work in music. Those who received pins were: Charlotte Conrad, Lucille Dietrich, Hilda Fiedler, Elaine Jacobson, Alice Magidary, Dorothy Meyer, Carol Miller, Matthew Osby, Pat Schen, Marion Yentich, Mary Ann Zapp, Phyllis Christianson, Barbara Doecker, Beverly Johnson, Roger Johnson, Marilyn Knutson, and John Felt.

The following musical program was presented. The Junior Band played, "Take Off March," "My Valentine Waltz," "Birthday Serenade," "All Stars March," and "Military March." A Cornet Trio played, "In the Gloom" and "Love Love Love." The trio consisted of Phyllis Anderson, Beverly Deussen and Scott Wald. A brass quartet consisting of Marion Edler, Richard Somier, Curtis Christensen and Verna Jensen played "Fanfare."

Afterwards a lunch was served in the high school library.

Students Reveal Valued Possessions

Asking around school, we found some of the students' possessions that they valued most.

Joan Harding—My hairnet
Lorne Holm—My pearl earrings
Lyle Koehler—My infant car
Marian Hutton—My shoe ring
Miss Lenz—My glasses
I don't wear any hairnet.

Baccalaureate Services To Be Held Sunday, May 23rd

Baccalaureate services will be held in the High School auditorium at 8 o'clock on Sunday, May 23rd.

The program is as follows:
Processional..... H. S. Band
Invocation..... Father Mulecky
Hymn..... Come Thy Almighty King
Address..... Father Mulecky
H. S. Chorus..... Softly and Tenderly
Benediction..... Father Mulecky
Recessional..... H. S. Band
Miss Langhough and Miss Edwood are in charge of the program. The music is under the direction of Miss Mildred Kroeger. The class of 1948 is in charge of decoration and ushering.

News Received From H. S. Office

Richard Christianson, who graduated with the class of 1948 and has put in his time in the service, called at the office the other day. Richard is some what uncertain as to what he will do but will undoubtedly make use of the O. L. Bill of Rights and go to school somewhere. While in school Richard took an active part in the Future Farmers of America, and "no doc" lines farming fairly well.

Howard Peterson spent a few hours in school visiting in the office on his recent short furlough. Howard enlisted for three years and more than a year left of service. He is a member of the Air Corps. In school Howard took part in many activities and excelled in sports. Mr. Peterson remarked, "what he lacked in

BLOOMING PRAIRIE BASEBALL TEAM WINS FROM ELLENDALE BY 4-2 SCORE

Interviews Held With '48 Seniors

Verna Trom's ambition is to be a fifth grade school teacher. She is a 5 feet 5 inches tall blonde, brown-eyed senior of Norwegian descent.

To run a pretty pair of nylon is Verna's "Pet Peeve." Any kind of a maid appeals to her in the way of food. She considers Denma Mervan as her favorite actor. Her pet possession is her future diploma. Green is her favorite color.

Her ideal must have a good personality, a pretty smile and be tall. She will miss everything from books to buddies when she graduates.

Marian Yentich is a blue-eyed, brown-haired senior who plans on becoming a stenographer. She is of Danish and Norwegian ancestry.

Dancing and movies are Marian's favorite forms of entertainment. In the line of food "Gau" is her favorite. Robert Walker is her favorite actor and basketball her favorite sport. Snacks up people make Marian angry.

She will miss all the kids when she leaves Blooming High.

Fellow of medium height, dark hair and brown eyes is her ideal. "Couldn't be Bud could it?"

"To live in Austin or Denver," it depends" replied, Mary Ann Zapp when asked what her ambition is. Mary Ann is a 3 1/2 German and 1/4 Irish descent. Mary Ann likes to listen to the

The Blossoms added another Gopher Conference victory to their credit by defeating Ellendale High School in a baseball game played at Ellendale Monday afternoon. The score ended at 4-2 in Blossom's favor.

Allan Norton gave up but 3 hits and struck out 19 Ellendale men to give him his third straight Gopher Conference victory.

The ball game was tight all the way as Gordie Johnson, Ellendale's hurler gave up but 4 hits while he struck out 14 Blossoms.

Blooming Prairie scored all 4 runs in the second inning. Knutson opened the inning with a single and Christianson walked to put men on first and second. Hellock singled Knutson home. Hellock was out on a feline choice and Christianson reached the same play as Martin scored first. Underwood then stepped up and cleared the bases with a home-run over the left field fence.

Ellendale scored their two runs in the third inning on a single by Mori and a double by Lagesen. Lagesen scored on an out at first.

Summary:
Blooming Prairie..... 4 0 0 0 0 0-4
Ellendale..... 0 0 2 0 0 0-2

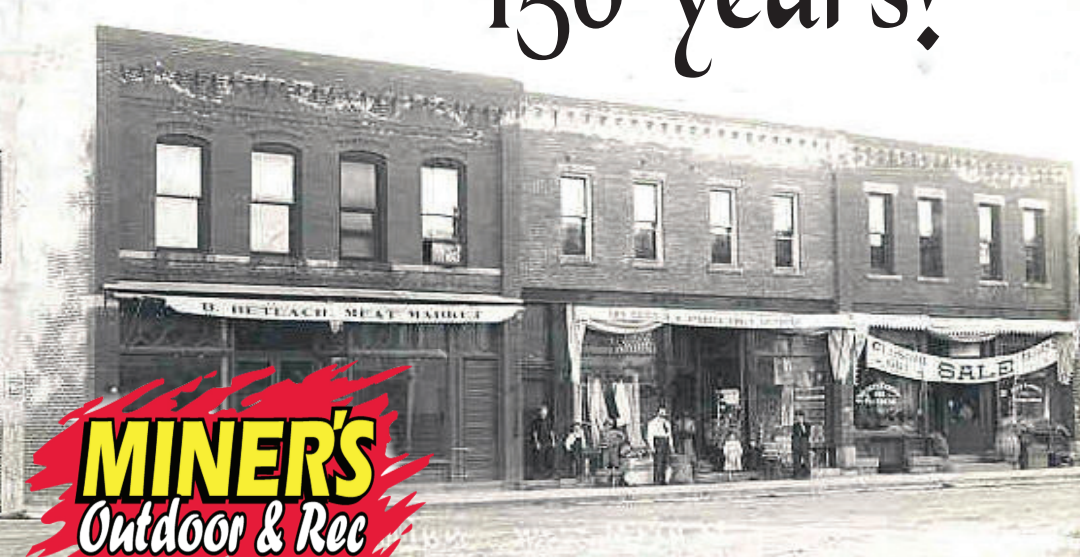
A Bases on balls: off Morton 6; off Johnson 2. Strikeouts: by Morton 10; by Johnson 14. Hits: off Morton 3; off Johnson 4. Runs batted in: B. P. Hellock, Larson, Underwood, 2; Ellendale, Martin, Wayne.

Blooming Prairie meets Jameville in the final game of the season here this afternoon. Thoms

Congratulations

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4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION KICKS OFF



Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Local racecar driver Dave Noble received notice that he had been elected to the Independence Motor Speedway Hall of Fame in Independence, Iowa. Although 2001 would be a year never forgotten in the history of our country, people arose to preserve our heritage and soldier on to a better life. The same could be said for Blooming Prairie, and residents looked forward to another year of prosperity with optimism.

2002

After the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, in which over 3,000 people lost their lives to the terrorist attack, it proved difficult for many to settle back into a more normal existence. In Blooming Prairie and the community, memories still lingered, but true to the resiliency of the people, life gradually settled back into the normal rhythm to which they were accustomed.

In January Mayor Norm Coleman of St. Paul spoke at the annual Jaycee banquet, and LeMar Nelson, Diane Pfeifer, Pam

Ingvalson, and Alex PirkI received the various honors for the year. Former Superintendent Maurice McFarlin died, leaving a huge legacy of service to education in the local school system and the community. Patricia (Peterson) Tueting and her family watched the 2002 Winter Olympics with special interest, as the Tueting's daughter Sara starred as one of the goalies on the women's hockey team. Patricia was the daughter of Tom and Lucille Peterson.

Three BPHS wrestlers- Steve Salinas, Grant Johnson, and Ryan Klemmens- competed at the state wrestling tournament. SCAT celebrated five years of operation in April, and Lt. Governor Mae Shunk visited the local schools in April and was quite impressed with some of the programs offered. The city council granted preliminary approval for Phase I of the Prairie Village project.

After 18 years of keeping teens safe with after-prom activities, the committee vowed to continue the annual program. Kindergarten teacher Joan Mast received Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year honor.

The high school had success on several fronts in the spring. The baseball team wins its first conference title in 10 years; Lisi Ingvalson won a state title in the 300m hurdles, Kyle Verley finished third in the 200m dash, and Andrea Rumpza placed fourth in the 800m run.

The city council approved the SW sewer line project, and Darrick's Preferred Auto opened for business in May. The BP Times newspaper celebrated 110 years of publication. And the matriarch of Main Street, Harriet Ressler, died. She had operated her dress and clothing store for 62 years when she retired.

In July the Servicemen's Club reported had a substantial amount of gambling money was missing, but the club vowed to continue operation, despite significant loss. Later that summer the state licensing committee revoked the club gambling license for two years. Young Taylor Farr, daughter of Harvey and Nancy Farr, won the National Championship Pedal Pull contest n Nebraska.

After a rather heated campaign for county commissioner,

Doug Johnson came out on top in November, largely due to wholehearted support from local voters. H. Peterson became mayor of the town, and Bill Newman won a council seat in the election.

As the memories of 2001 gradually became less painful, activities at the end of the year continued with the usual traditions of Holiday Dazzle, special shopping events, Christmas concerts all combined to put a cap on 2002, a year that continued the unique rhythm of our special community and one that drew us ever closer to that very special 150th celebration of our town.

2003

In every community a 25-year span of years develops its own unique rhythm of the time. Some years that encompass the time like the tragic events of 2001 remain etched in our memories for years to come, but some also pass through their existence without much drama or earth-shaking activities or events. The year 2003 fit into that category.

to begin. The new Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna opened in August.

Taylor Farr, the daughter of Harvey and Nancy Farr, added to her national pedal pull championship when she added the International crown to her collection. Local racecar driver Mark Noble was featured in the August issue of "Speedway Illustrated," and Harriet's Dres-Wel closed its doors for good in November.

The local school board passed a resolution not to allow cell phones in school, and the year-long struggle of the local servicemen's club finally had some resolution. Members voted to keep ownership and find ways to become solvent again. Thus ended one of the quietest periods in the 25-year span leading up to 2017 and the 150th year anniversary of our town.

2004

After the disasters and tragedy that befell the first two years of the first decade in the 21st century, community activities and events settled into a more settled and measured rhythm. The year 2003 had its share of events, but none of them were earth shattering or too dramatic. The following year followed the same pattern, though things certainly happened.

A group of Just for Kix dancers participated in the halftime performance at the Outback Bowl football game. Katherine Felts began tenure as the executive director at the BP Center, 10 inches of snow fell in February to snarl traffic for a couple of days, and a local woman was formally charged for the Servicemen's Club embezzlement.

BPHS Senior Kraig Olson joined the 1,000-point career club in March, and five local wrestlers earned their way to a state tournament berth. Worlein Funeral Home added a community service and support program, and area law and health agencies dealt with a growing meth problem. The city authorized purchase of a new street sweeper, and Farmers and Merchants Bank celebrated 100 years in May.

Two railroads upgraded the tracks between Austin and Owatonna, which would increase train speeds to 25 mph.

cont. on D5



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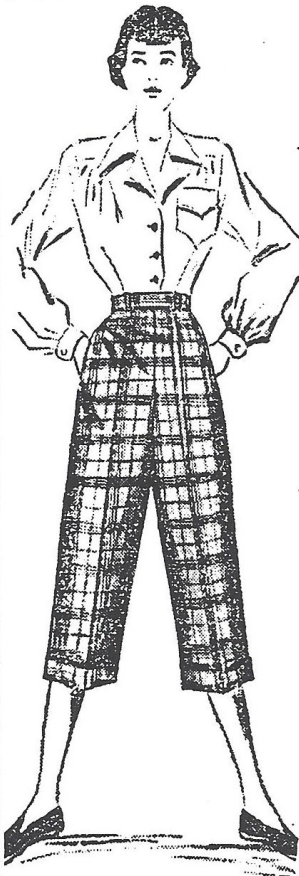
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No. 2½ can for.... **10c**

RAISINS,
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CHEESE FOOD,
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Gorton's - 1 lb. pkg. **52c**

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New Process—
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Four local national guardsmen- Bryce Schlichter, Dustin Doocy, Michelle Maxwell and Doug Kinny- were deployed to service overseas on June 4, and former BP resident Jef Behnken received the City of Burnsville Officer of the Year award.

Kristi Miner opened her Seasons of Change store in June, and a Long Island, N.Y. car owner, who had over 2.5 million miles on his vehicle, planned to drive to Blooming Prairie for the Fourth of July, anticipating eating a Bunkie burger in celebration of the occasion. Over nine inches of train fell on July 3, cancelling those events, but the Fourth of July activities went ahead without a hitch.

The County Public Health nurse reported the first case of the West Nile virus in the area, and Tom Walters was named one of Steele County's Outstanding Seniors. The Sun-Rich Company purchased the local elevator in August, and the heaviest rain in 100 years dumped over 14 inches on the community, flooding almost every inch of space in the community. The area was eventually declared a disaster area.

Suzzi Strunk purchased the local veterinary clinic, the local lutefisk dinner served its 70th straight delicacy, and Dennis Kruckeberg joined the 1,000-point career club in December. The city council got as first look at a city water project estimated to cost nearly \$4.1 million. Despite that unsettling news, the city and the community enjoyed another brisk Christmas season of socializing and local shopping, and the residents eagerly awaited what the next year might offer in the way of new or comparable events and activities.

2005

After the relative stability and calm of the last couple of years, year 2005 offered a new rhythm and tempo to the community. Probably the biggest news all year for at

least one small segment of citizens proved to be the initial request and follow-up that resulted in the BP Center becoming a Blooming Prairie chapter of the Rochester Boys and Girls Club.

Several interviews and examinations by the county and Rochester personnel after the initial request for organization followed, but ultimately the process succeeded, and Blooming Prairie became the only and the smallest Boys and Girls club in the entire southeastern Minnesota area. Final approval took place in December, and Laura Underdahl took over as unit director after Katherine Felts took a new position.

JWP handed the Awesome Blossom girls their first loss of the season, but the team rebounded to win the conference again. Mike Salinas took second in the state wrestling tournament, and a public hearing on the proposed school renovation drew a mixed response. The referendum failed in May with 58 percent voting no. BP Township appealed to the county in June for help in feedlot controversy.

Dianne Anderson named Wal-Mart Teacher of the year, The Highway Roost restaurant opened in June, and an article in the Times recalled the Rex Theater closing in 1955, with "Gone With the Wind" the last movie shown on the screen. Jack Shaw celebrated 50 years of barbering at his downtown location, and Heather Haus celebrated 10 years of successful operation.

A local bobsled team of Vern Krebs, Bob Nahlovsky, and Doug Lysne set a record on the Olympic bobsled run at Lillehammer, Sweden. Publisher Elsie Slinger sold the Times newspaper to Dan and Joyce Evans of LeRoy. The 2004 flood was remembered in articles in the local paper, and local U of M student Gary tashima was crowned Homecoming King at that university. Long-time Standard Oil station owner Jim Hansen called it quits after 38 1/2 years in the business, and Joyce Trom resigned

her position from the kitchen at the Servicemen's club, after 50 years of cooking up a storm.

The city council held a public hearing for the storm sewer project and visited the proposed Industrial Park purchase and operation. The Times hired two student reporters-Jenna Nelson and Derek Haubenschild- to its staff, and the year ended with a burst of Christmas activity and busy shopping trips locally in preparation for Christmas. The beat goes on, and another year emerges.

2006

The year 2006 dawned on the Blooming Prairie community, as we come within a dozen years now of the last 25 years leading to the July celebration of 150 years of the town. The rhythm established in 2005 continued in this new year as events and activities, both in the community and at the local school, continued to manufacture news.

A new look appeared at Prairie Manor, after renovation that began last November completed in January. Colleen Faye Boever was sentenced to jail time and a \$1,000 fine for the embezzlement charges in 2006, and local soldier Bryce Schlichter received a Purple Heart award for injuries suffered in Iraq. The BP School Board went into negotiations to purchase several acres of the Bray addition west of the present high school.

The Boys and Girls Club held its second annual banquet at Lansing Corners, the city council sought bids for industrial park project in February, and five individuals purchased the Budget Mart and Convenience Store. High school wrestlers Jeremiah Johnson and Brad Klemmenson finished fifth at the state tournament. Mike and Pat Noble opened Noble RV in Owatonna, and the local Lions Club helped Paul Dale procure a guide dog in March.

Local golfer Mike Linse, a

seven-time golf club champion, was honored at the annual BPCC kickoff event, and Jerry Nelson and Darin Nutt became new owners of the Chateau Speedway in April. The speedway celebrated its 50th birthday during the year. The city awarded bids for Phase One of the Industrial Park and later in the summer advertised for bids on Phase Two, and Metal Services began a new building project.

TT motorcycles held a grand opening, Brownsdale turned 150 years old in July, and local race car driver Mark Noble notched his 600th race win at Chateau Speedway. St. Columbanus Church completed a renovation project both inside and outside, thanks to financial assistance from Harriet Ressler.

The Cue Company was purchased in July by Tony Lea and Collette Holmes, Ian Campbell earned a trip to the state cross country meet, and later in the fall the BPHS football team won its first conference title by itself since 1987. All of these activities and events attested to the fact that the community marched along to its own vibrant rhythm. The question then arose as to what another year would bring to the town and the community.

2007

Probably the most important news of 2007, especially to school district residents, happened on April 20, when voters approved a \$14 million referendum for renovation projects at both schools. However, a separate referendum for new gymnasium and auditorium failed. Renovations would begin as soon as bonds were secured.

In other school related news, former BPHS Basketball star and graduate Dave Tonolli earned a place in the Minnesota Basketball Coaches' Association Hall of Fame, all wrestling programs went under an 8-week quarantine, as an outbreak of Herpes Simplex swept the state, Jeremiah Johnson captured second at the state wrestling tournament, and Scott Verley and Spencer Ohm both signed Letters of Intent to continue their athletic careers at Augustana College in Sioux Falls and Concordia College in St. Paul respectively.

Metal Services held an open house in January to showcase new facilities, and local realtor Dale Hansen discovered a 6 to 8 foot snake in the corner of the Hansen Real Estate building. The snake, probably an escapee from some other refuge, was captured by local

brave individuals and transported to Owatonna Reptile Gardens.

Billie Dierson took over the director's position at the local B & G club and directed a face-lift at the building, the local Boy Scouts distributed life capsules to citizens one Saturday in the spring, and United Methodist Church closed its doors for the last time in June. Owatonna Health care Clinic held groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital and expanded clinic in August.

Sisters Breanna and Resha Koster placed tops at the Valley National 8-ball tournament at Lincoln, Neb. in the fall, and BPHS alumni formed a new group of sports boosters, Awesome Blossoms forever. Elliott Herdina set a Minnesota state high school record for receiving yards in football when he caught a pass giving him 3, 167 yards overall. One of the last items of the year involved Ralph Diaz being hired as the new Servicemen's Club manager. The Christmas season occupied most citizens for the remainder of 2007, another eventful year in Blooming Prairie history.

2008

As the years march closer and closer to 150, community life goes on, and 2008 proceeded in its own measured rhythm. The year proved another in the relatively tranquil period in the mid 2000's in which things happened, but no major dramas or tragedies spoiled residents' everyday conversation and communication.

In January Nancy Vailancourt took the position of head librarian at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library, and Jack Hayinga opened up Shaw's barbershop for two days a week. BPHS graduate Tim Higgins earned a promotion to major in the U.S. Air Force at the local Servicemen's club and a blood donation bill, sponsored by Joe Gibson, passed the Minnesota House. Westfield Lutheran Church continued a restoration project begun almost twenty years ago, with floors, pews, and the altar the latest to be completed.

In the spring Karen Pirkel and Karen Nelson retired after a combined 78 years of teaching in the local school system, and groundbreaking ceremonies took place to signal the start of the major renovation projects at the two schools in town. BP Utilities also upgraded its facilities and installed a new generator to provide more power locally.

Father Dernek left St.

Columbanus Church in June, and Pastor Dick Hegal called it quits after 38 years in the ministry. A Highway 218 renovation project between Blooming Prairie and Austin finished in July, and five local residents were among 58 people from Minnesota who attended a weeklong retreat at Holden Village in Washington State.

School began in the fall to finished renovations at both the elementary and high school, Resha Koster recorded her 2,000th assist in a volleyball match at Southland, and Worleim Funeral Home earned a 2008 Pursuit of Excellence honor from the National Funeral Directors' Association.

cont. on D6

Times Offers \$1 Subscriptions On Friday, Saturday

Bargain Event For All Subscribers In 25 Mile Radius

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The buying power of the weak and shrunken dollar will come back with a thump Friday and Saturday with the offer of The Blooming Prairie Times of a year's subscription for just \$1.

You can thumb back the files of this newspaper to its beginning in 1893 and not find a subscription price of less than \$1.50 a year. For a long time the price has been \$2 yearly. This sets a new low for all times.

The offer is made for just two days, Friday and Saturday of this week. Subscriptions can be paid by a personal call at the office or by mail providing the check or money order is mailed either Friday or Saturday. It applies to either old or new subscribers who live within 25 miles of Blooming Prairie. Those who already are paid in advance can have their subscriptions extended one year by the payment of \$1.

This offer is made principally for the purpose of extending the subscription list of The TIMES and thereby increase the large family of readers. It comes at a time when people in this community are having difficulty making their dollars stretch over their needs and it enables everyone to subscribe to this newspaper at a price which is the lowest in its entire history. Today the farmers' dollar is just buying 51 per cent as much as it did in 1929 and The TIMES wishes to do its part to help the farmers carry on under some of the most difficult conditions they have experienced.

The TIMES will be open Friday and Saturday evening until 11 o'clock to handle the subscriptions. This offer expires Saturday night at midnight.

1904



1934

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank Has Completed

30 Years of Service To This Community

JUST 30 YEARS AGO, May 17, 1904, the Farmers and Merchants State bank started business in the old Guthrie frame butcher shop building across from the Times office. The new bank came to fill a demand of the people of this community and we recall when we started that the books were kept in the old meat refrigerator and the cash carried every night and placed in a big safe in the Bell Brothers saloon. We remember that we fondly hoped that our deposits would some day reach a total of \$100,000 although at the time we felt that this was almost too much to expect.

THIRTY YEARS have passed and during this time we are proud of the part we have played in the up-building of this community. This bank has acted as a reservoir of the credit, accepting deposits and giving credit for worthy purposes which at the same time protected the interests of the depositors. During the time this bank has been in existence it has weathered a panic, the greatest war in history and the world's greatest depression. When the distress of conditions shook, rocked and finally closed many banks the Farmers and Merchants State bank rode through the storm.

HINDSIGHT IS always better than foresight. As we look back over the past we can see many things we would do differently. We are equally sure that the state officials who ordered the drastic deflation of bank properties and the selling of bank

bonds would never sanction such a movement if their foresight had been as good as their hindsight.

BUT THIS IS ALL water over the dam. We feel satisfied now after 30 years that the Farmers and Merchants State bank fills an important need in the community and that it has been built upon a sound foundation. We know that it has come through the worst financial storm in our history with colors flying and that our deposits today are 400 per cent greater than we had dreamed they could be 30 years ago.

THIS BANK HAS an important function to perform for the people of this community and with 75 per cent of its resources entirely liquid it is in a position to do an important job well. It is here to serve the people. Without the loyalty of the depositors, stockholders and the general public it would have been impossible to make the progress or even weather the storm of recent years and to these people who have made this bank possible we feel we owe a responsibility as well as a full measure of service and appreciation. We wish to thank you all for the part each one of you has played in the success of this bank.

97% of our deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation which was set up by the Federal government. This spells absolute safety for the depositor.

With this federal protection of the deposits and the high state of liquidity we have cleared our decks and this bank is now stronger and safer than it has been during its entire 30 years of existence in this community.

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Our Deposits Are Insured By The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The Farmers and Merchants State bank has been bigger but never stronger or safer than it is today. There never was a time when we were in a position to aid in the development of our community more than we are today.

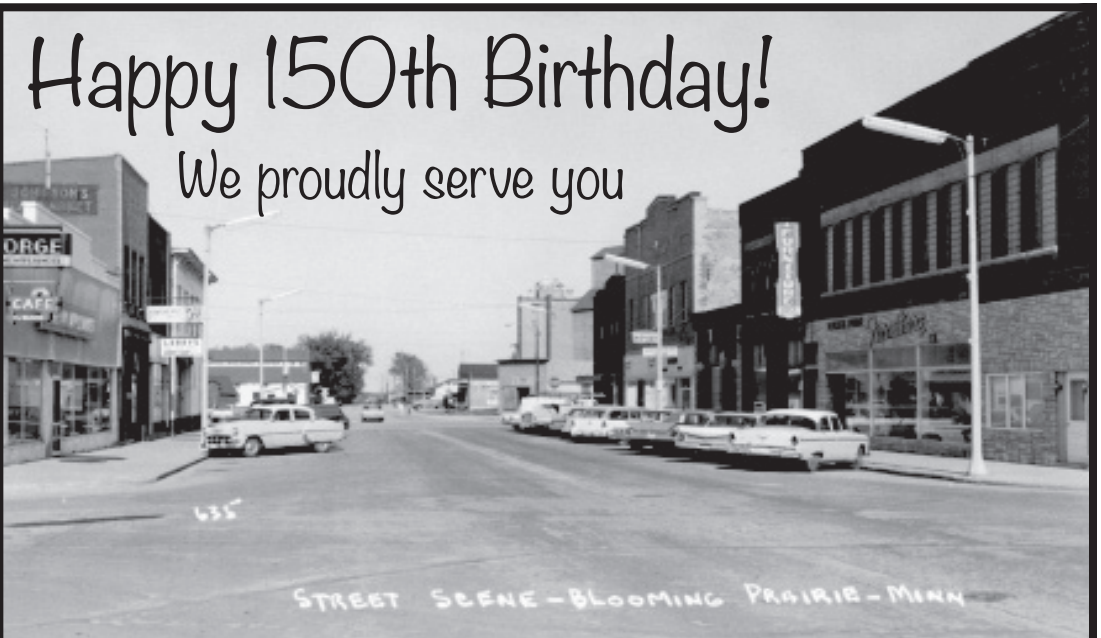
The resources of this bank are 75 per cent liquid and this means strength. In addition individual deposits up to \$25,000 (and this includes

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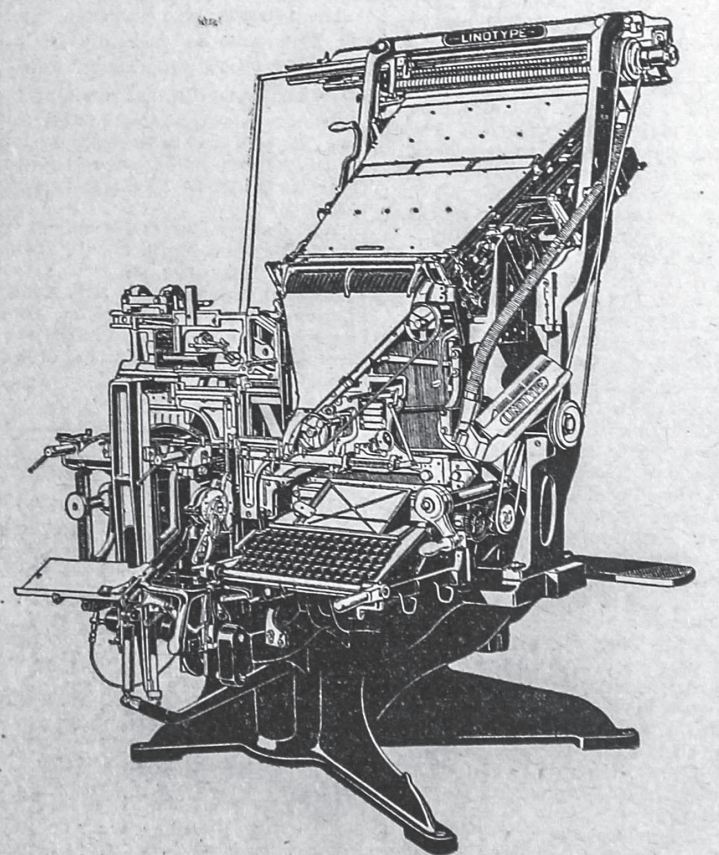
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Times Publisher Announces Installation Of New Linotype Composing Equipment

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Beginning with the next issue, the Times will be supplied with its type through this mechanical marvel, of six men. Thus, the Blooming Prairie community is assured the maximum possible in quick service and news distribution.

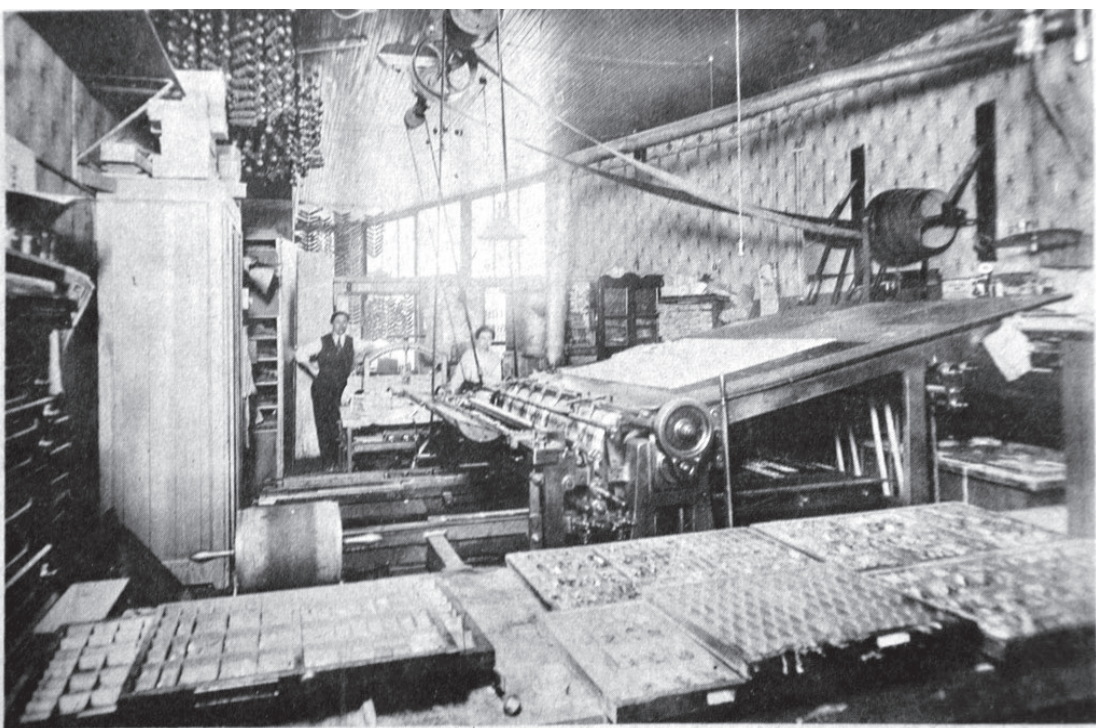
Mechanical Marvel Will Be Used In Preparing Next Issue

With a great deal of satisfaction the publisher of the Times announces the installation of a new Linotype, to be used in preparation of the next issue. This mechanical marvel qualifies us to serve efficiently the large number of persons who look to our publication for enlightenment and entertainment, and who patronize our job printing department.

The rapidly increasing circulation of the Times, together with our desire to place at the command of our advertisers and others the highest grade of typography, induced us to secure a fine composing machine for the quick and accurate and pleasing presentation of the news of the day, and the production of superior job work.

Our new Linotype enables us to set by machine many forms of composition that previously necessitated tedious work by hand. Our plant is now capable of turning out composition consisting of correct type faces in many different sizes, and the change from one size to another is made very quickly. At a high rate of speed the versatile operator—whose hand is made famous by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company as “the hand that keeps the world informed”—produces line after line of the sort of composition desired.

Testimonial to Prosperity
This installation is a testimonial to the prosperity of Blooming Prairie and vicinity.



The Blooming Prairie Times when it was located in the old Commercial Building. The man pictured is a former owner and printer of The Times, S. S. Severson. Many changes have been made in equipment over the years. Ray Renchin donated the photograph.

A fitting conclusion to 2008 came when local designer Tina Bush became one of nine designers selected to do the Christmas decorations for the Minnesota Capital Building.

2009

In 2009 the rhythm of the community picked up a little, as several events and items made more than average news. The high school football team won its fifth straight conference title, but didn't stop there the squad advanced to the state playoffs, defeated New Um Cathedral, and then upset favored Goodhue to earn a game in the state semi-finals at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Minneota rode the arm of a hot quarterback in the second half to down the Blossoms, but the year proved an unqualified success because of the determined play by the team.

One other big event of note came when the renovated elementary and high schools held an open house for the completion of the second phase. At the high school new band, choir, art, and agriculture rooms went on display, much to the satisfaction of many residents who toured the new facilities. Other events were maybe not as earthshaking, but were quite important to whom they involved.

Jaxon Michael Studer appeared to Mike and Crystal Studer as the first baby in 2009; Johnson and Doerhoeffer opened a branch accounting office in Austin in January, and BP firefighters assisted in fighting a fire in downtown

Austin of big proportions and then had to fight another fire at the Les Shawback residence outside of Blooming Prairie.

Two and a half tons of peanuts had to be recalled by the agriculture department, after they were found in 16 Minnesota schools. Bunkie's Grille was found to be the 12th oldest bowling alley in Minnesota, Bethlehem Academy downed the Blossom basketball team in one of the most exciting games in years 75-72 in triple overtime, and Matt Zelmier scored his 1,000th career point. The girls' basketball ended another two win season, but lost to NRHEG in the section semi-finals.

Anita Bunne (Herdina) designed the fabrication in a construction project for the ABC show "Extreme Makeover," local firefighters battled four grass fires in a single week in April, and Red Oak Grove celebrated 150 years in June. Jamie Bodenstab opened a photography business, Studio Images, and Mitch Ruzek, the son of former BPHS graduates Jim and Lynda (Moeykens) Ruzek, found some fame as a model for home shopping network and Harley-Davidson motorcycle company advertising.

Tornadoes touched down in Austin, doing damage there and in rural communities in our area. Five local students traveled to Spain with advisor Jennifer Thomas in July, and the annual BOB Ride netted approximately \$7,000. Thirteen riders, most from the Blooming Prairie area, took a 3,000 mile six day motorcycle trip, and Morning Glory stables just outside town held a grand opening in September.

First Lutheran Church called Pastor Charlie Leonard to be its senior pastor in October, and Casey's store opened that same month. The city council approved the Third Street utility and sewer project, and the first baby born in the new Owatonna Hospital happened to be Gavin Underdahl, son of Travis and Laura Underdahl of Blooming Prairie. The big news at the Times newspaper came when Rick Bussler of Lakeville purchased the local paper from Dan and Joyce Evans. Some changes immediately became apparent after Bussler's takeover.

Jeff McCabe became the new president at Minimizer Company, the BP Fire Department was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Ag Star Corporation, and the year ended with a December snowstorm that dropped almost a foot of snow on the community in early December. That was probably a fitting climax to a relatively exciting year in our march to 150.

2010

While 2009 brought a little faster rhythm of events and news items to the community, Mother Nature hogged the spotlight and brought to the area several unusual and, in some cases, tragic events during 2010. Two snow storms, one in January that dumped several inches of the white stuff on the community and rapidly wiped out the city budget for snow removal, and another in mid-December that left 8-10 inches of snow on the surroundings provided just two of the unique weather events.

In June a series of tornadoes swept the area, destroying property in Hollandale, rural Ellendale and rural Blooming Prairie, narrowly saving the life of Judith Kollar, whose house was destroyed by the

destructive force of nature. The entire community banded together to initiate clean up that went on for weeks.

Heavy rains in Owatonna and the area in the fall caused major flooding in that city and also caused some hardship in Blooming Prairie and the community around. Steele County was eventually declared a disaster county. Those events generally were labeled one in a 100 years' storms, and to have several in one year certainly classified them as very unusual. Other news, however, reached the community besides the ravages of Mother Nature.

Larry Wurst took over the Highway 218 Off-Sale, and police officer Mark Lang and John Sime's quick work in putting down a kitchen fire in Paula Sime's home probably saved the structure from major damage. Claudia Jan Miller had the honor of the first baby of the year to parents Matt and Stephanie Miller, and the local Minimizer Company had the distinction of providing strong poly fenders to Army vehicles in Afghanistan.

Blooming Prairie had the dubious distinction of having two residents on America's Most Wanted fugitive list. Dale Harvey Batt made it, and a little later Oscar Trevino joined him on that infamous list. Heavy snow collapsed a cattle barn on the Steele County Fairgrounds. Dan McIntosh became the Steele County Attorney, and the Southeast division of the Red Cross sent volunteers, including some community residents, to Fargo to help battle flood waters from the Red River.

A fifth and sixth grade triathlon team from BPES won that event in the ZED district and advanced to the state triathlon tournament. Steve's Meat Market won Reserve Champion honors in state competition at St. Cloud. Gary Ringhofer officially retired in April as county sheriff, and local policemen Mark Lang and Jake Peterson joined comrades from all over the state in attending the funeral of an officer killed in Maple Grove.

For the third straight year, the Steele County Detention Center was named the best jail in Minnesota by the Minnesota Sheriff's Association. The BP Trading Company opened its door in April, and TT Motorcycles held an open house in its new location

on Main Street Blooming Prairie. The BPHS team defeated Hope Lutheran 4-0 to win the Section 1A championship and advance to the state softball tournament. The team lost both games, the last on a very controversial umpire decision.

Casey's renovated store held a grand opening in June, and Mark Lang, Jake Peterson, and deputy sheriff Tony David received life-saving medals for their action in the tornado that struck the community. Two vehicles originally stolen from Koster's Kar Corner were located on a ship bound for Ghana. BPHS student Jordan Ressler lost his life in a car accident in early November that threw the entire community into shock and a long period of mourning his passing.

Lon Thiele assumed the position of Steele County Sheriff, after winning the November election. The BPHS football team lost its bid for a second straight state appearance, when Goodhue edged the Blossoms in the section finals; and the Mower County new jail was set to open n December. It was doubtful that 2011 could match in drama and excitement that 2010 had offered, but the community would probably welcome a little slower rhythm. The big birthday celebration of 150 years drew ever closer.

2011

The faster rhythm that the preceding couple of years initiated did not let up appreciably in 2011. Several events and unique proceedings still occupied the community, highlighted by two significant accomplishments for BPHS sports. In June the softball made another trip to the state tournament, after winning the Section 1A title. This time the team improved its record by finishing fourth at the meet.

In November the Blossom football team also earned another trip to the state playoffs and a game at the Metrodome. After winning the conference championship for the seventh straight time, the Blossoms defeated Medford, Goodhue, and Southland in the section finals. That game set an attendance record for the playoffs. Unfortunately, Dawson-Boyd rode the hot hand of its quarterback to deprive the locals of a chance to play in the finals. In that semi-final game Luc Zellmer

threw his 102nd touchdown pass that gave him the state record for TD passes in a career. Those accomplishments, however, did not hide the fact that there were several other highlights for the year.

Local horse rider Nicky Lang earned a chance to compete in the national final of the Reined Horse Association organization, and Mackenzie Ann Wangen was welcomed into the world on Jan. 3 to Jeremy Wangen and Brienne Fristedt. The county "Take It to the Box" campaign culminated with one of the outdated drug receptacles placed in the City Center entry.

Arlene Jolson and daughter, who were found dead in their rural Blooming Prairie home, were later determined to have died of natural causes. The Times newspaper claimed two seconds at the Minnesota Newspaper Association convention and later in the year captured a first place at the national convention for its coverage of the 2010 tornado that ravaged the community.

In February, several Women of Today took part in the Polar Plunge in support of cancer research, and the Mike Ressler family led a community celebration to thank the University of Texas for the support the Longhorns contributed to the JR Foundation in memory of Ressler's son, Jordan. Former KAAL news anchor Beth Bednar visited the city to publicize her book concerning the disappearance of fellow anchorwoman Jodi Husentrutit of KIMT in Mason City.

Ryan Hurd was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a 19-year-old woman near Owatonna, Casey Hatch opened a new real estate office in Austin, and the Third Street north project finally got approval in April. The Oak Glen Wind Farm also began construction in May and Chris Staloch took the position as Principal at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School. FSN aired the funeral of Twin legend Harmon Killebrew live, and Hilltop Greenhouse reopened nearly a year after it was destroyed by the 2010 tornado.

Local noted fisherman Brett King won a Pro-am fishing contest in Michigan and later in the year the year received Fisherman of The Year honors, and Alysa Alwes won first place in her division of the state bowling tournament.

cont. on D7

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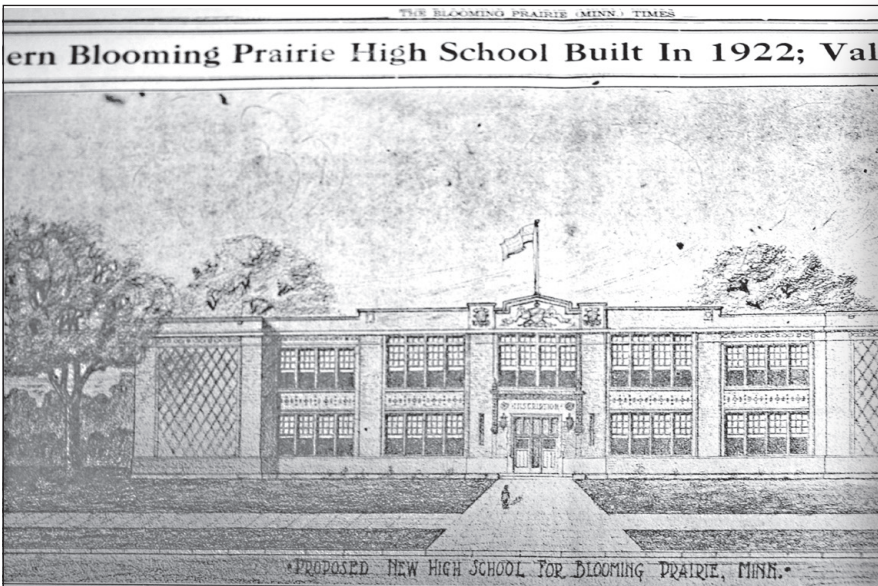
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Recreation Park, Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Krejci Ford earned its 12th straight President's Award, and a state government shutdown that lasted 20 days hurt the local economy, as it did the entire state. The Oak Glen Wind Farm had 24 turbines erected by November, and Elmer Reseland retired as Steele County fair manager after 18 years on the job. If 2012 has as much excitement and activity as the last three years, a pretty fast rhythm will prevail.

2012

Many events took place in 2012, some of much more interest than others. One of the most unsettling and uncomfortable of those happenings surrounded a period of unrest and problems at Prairie Manor Rest Home came to a head in July. After the administrator and three other employees had

their employment terminated earlier in the year, it caused nursing home residents and local citizens to complain and clamor for explanations of the situation. After one employee's lawsuit against the organization leadership resulted in an out-of-court settlement, the board directors terminated the present administrator, Deidre Burke, and her management company, and rehired a former employee, Susan

Johnson. That put an end to a rather disturbing chapter in Prairie Manor history.

Brandon Wacek and Kristi Anderson welcomed daughter Arlynn Mae as the first baby of the New Year. Project Greenhouse at the local high school received approval to begin construction, Oak Glen Wind Farm began producing electricity, and Superintendent Barry Olson received an administrator of excellence award from the Minnesota Association of School Administrators.

Fire gutted Salinas Auto Repair in late January, and the South central Drug Investigation Unit arrested six individuals in a drug bust in the county, and Times Editor John Flatland was terminated after charges of plagiarism were levied against him. The Steele-Waseca Electric Co-op was awarded an electric co-op of the year honor.

BP switched to a single sort recycling system, Steele County ranked first as the healthiest county in the state, and Krejci Ford won its 13th straight Ford company Presidents award, and the BPHS golf team took the sub-section golf title. Not to be outdone, the local softball team won the section championship for the third straight year and eventually earned the runner-up honors in the state tournament, losing to Cherry high school in the finals.

In July, a severe heat wave found thousands of fish dead in Lake Geneva and also contributed to drought in many areas of the country. Farmers in our area suffered some, but not nearly as much as other area. Oak Glen Wind Farm's parent corporation received a U.S Dept of Energy honor for leadership in wind power utilization; Father Steven Peterson became the priest for St. Columbanus Church in Blooming Prairie and Sacred Heart Church in Hayfield.

The Rodney Krell family was named Farm Family of the Year in Steele County, and WCCO TV named the Awesome Blossom as the best mascot in Minnesota. Elmer Reseland, Steele County fair manager for 18 years, died during the 2012 county fair. The fair set an all-time attendance record of over 321,000 visitors.

The DART Corporation honored local trucker Steve Trexler as its contractor of the month from among 2,000 drivers, Tyler Mundy opened his Metal Service business in October, Salinas Auto Repair had a grand reopening of its new shop on the east edge of town, and an attempted robbery at Casey's was thwarted by local law enforcement. Bussler Publishing announced the purchase of the News Enterprise paper in West Concord.

The entire country mourned the slaughter at Sandy Hook elementary School in Connecticut that killed 28 people, 20 of them children. The Awesome Blossom football team lost to Bethlehem Academy in the section football finals, but the Owatonna Huskies football team took second in the state. The Times newspaper concluded its 2012 coverage with a 60-page progress tab in the paper that probably illustrated better than anything that Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area continued to thrive and promote a good quality of life for its residents.

2013

We have reached that point in our coverage of the last 25 years leading up to the Big 150th that most residents can probably remember the events, and personalities that made news in 2013 and beyond, but some items may have slipped our minds, which leads to our narration of some of those things.

The year 2013 will go down in local history as one of the most successful high school athletic ventures in many years. Probably the BPHS softball team provided the biggest accomplishment that excited the community the most and evoked the most school spirit when it climaxed a fourth straight season of competition at the state softball tournament with the biggest prize of all- a state championship.

The four-time Section 1A champions improved their state tournament record each year they competed, earning a spot in the finals in two straight years. After a heartbreaking loss in 2012, the girls would not be denied in 2013, and they rode the strong right arm of Shelby Swenson to a 3-1 victory over New Life Academy in the finals. That victory earned coach Ali Mach the Minnesota Softball coach of the year.

The same year, neighboring NRHEG girls won the state basketball tournament, behind all-star Charlie Wagner, and later in the fall the Owatonna Huskies football team took the state title in 4A football, The Awesome Blossoms lost in the section football finals to Bethlehem Academy for the second straight year, and earlier in the year the BPHS basketball boys captured the sub-section basketball championship, but lost to Rushford-Peterson in the section finals.

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY BLOOMING PRAIRIE!

-Kenny and Gloria Trom

Blooming Prairie Association Produces Most Milk in January.

SHORT MONTH OF FEBRUARY MAKES GOOD SHOWING IN HERDS OF LOCAL TESTING ORGANIZATION.

The report of the testing association for February is naturally a trifle smaller than usual due to the handicaps of a 28 day period. Nevertheless the records are good and show that the members of the association are not losing interest in the dairy game altho feed and butter fat prices could

be more favorable than they are at the present time.

Blooming Prairie is getting a place in the sun as far as production in the dairy business is concerned for according to the state report of the cow testing association work the Blooming Prairie Association had high herd for milk production for the month of January.

Fifteen herds produced more than 25 pounds of butterfat during the 28 day period and 52 cows produced more than 40 pounds during the same period.

The following table gives the names and records of the herds producing more than 25 pounds.

Owner	No. Cows	Breed	Ave. milk	Fat	Ave. BF
R. A. Klingbeil	10	Hol.	1086	3.83	41.6
E. J. Paulson	6	Dur.	674	3.8	25.5
Iver Hjelman	9	H.	646	4.11	26.6
Chris Ditlevson	16	H.	906	3.37	30.6
T. P. Peterson	13	G.	781	4.50	35.2
Hans Peterson	19	G.	694	4.53	31.4
Paulson Bros.	17	H.	744	3.7	27.5
C. Rasmussen	19	H. & G.	676	3.77	25.5
J. W. McNearney	14	H.	830	3.3	27.4
Chas. Calverley	28	H.	871	3.14	27.4
Thos. Cartin	7	H.	1202	3.05	36.6
R. W. Farr & Son	10	H.	1621	3.88	62.9
O. C. Jolson & Sons	6	H.	1362	3.81	51.9
Nick Jensen	20	Dur.	743	3.82	28.4
Arne Brudwick	11	Dur.	630	4.34	27.4

The following table gives the names and records of the cows in the Association that have produced more than 40 pounds of butterfat during February.

Owner	Cow	Breed	Milk	Fat	B. F.
R. A. Klingbeil	Snow Ball	PBH	1430	3.6	51.4
R. A. Klingbeil	Queen	PBH	1176	3.7	43.5
R. A. Klingbeil	Tiene	GH	1764	3.6	63.5
R. A. Klingbeil	Pansy	GH	1401	4.2	58.8
R. A. Klingbeil	Rosie	GH	1050	4.3	45.1
R. A. Klingbeil	Brownie	D	1050	4.4	46.2
R. A. Klingbeil	Buttons	D	1176	3.5	41.1
Iver Hjelman	Floss	GH	1044	4.1	42.8
Iver Hjelman	Brindle	GH	882	5.0	44.1
A. H. Borchert	No. 2	GH	1274	3.2	40.7
A. H. Borchert	No. 3	GH	1282	3.3	42.3
C. Ditlevson	Black	GH	1282	3.3	42.3
C. Ditlevson	Johanna	GH	1332	3.3	43.9
T. P. Peterson	Buttercup	GG	1008	4.2	42.3
H. P. Peterson	Glory	PBG	1058	3.9	41.2
H. P. Peterson	No. 20	GG	845	5.3	44.7
H. P. Peterson	No. 15	GG	9.43	5.0	47.1
H. P. Peterson	No. 5	GG	828	5.0	41.4
H. P. Peterson	No. 11	GG	1136	3.9	44.3
C. Rasmussen	Rose	GG	935	4.4	41.1
C. Johnson	No. 12	GG	959	4.6	44.1
J. W. McNearney	Big Heifer	GH	1296	3.3	42.7
C. Calverley	Julie	PBH	1321	3.2	42.2
C. Calverley	Cornucopia	PBH	1470	2.8	41.1
C. Calverley	Lafrica	PBH	1307	3.1	40.5
C. Calverley	Fairview	PBH	1237	3.4	42.
C. Calverley	Johanna	PBH	1450	2.8	40.6
C. Calverley	Edenwold	PBH	1680	2.4	40.3
C. Calverley	Lilly 18 days	PBH	968	4.2	40.6
R. W. Farr & Son	Inka	PBH	1674	4.4	73.6
R. W. Farr & Son	Delphie	PBH	1979	3.7	73.2
R. W. Farr & Son	Primrose	PBH	2128	4.2	89.3
R. W. Farr & Son	Delphie 2	PBH	1218	3.3	40.1
R. W. Farr & Son	Johanna	PBH	1565	3.3	51.6
R. W. Farr & Son	Jessie	PBH	1652	3.9	64.3
R. W. Farr & Son	Elsie	PBH	1531	4.0	61.2
R. W. Farr & Son	Goldie	GH	1576	3.7	59.2
R. W. Farr & Son	Annie	GH	1433	3.8	54.4
R. W. Farr & Son	Mary	GH	1458	4.4	64.1
O. C. Jolson & Sons	Maybelle	GH	1867	3.67	67.9
O. C. Jolson & Sons	Marie	GH	1472	3.9	57.4
O. C. Jolson & Sons	Bobbie	GH	1579	3.5	55.3
O. C. Jolson & Sons	Esther	GH	1218	4.4	53.5
Thos. Cartin	No. 1	GH	1593	3.3	52.5
Thos. Cartin	No. 4	GH	1780	2.4	42.7
Thos. Cartin	No. 5	GH	1311	3.2	42.1
N. Jensen	Wh. Face	Dur.	1260	4.3	54.1
N. Jensen	No. 24	Dur.	1064	3.8	40.4
A. Brudwick	No. 9	Dur.	1120	3.6	40.3
A. Brudwick	No. 15	Dur.	966	4.4	42.5

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The BPHS mascot lost out to the Winona Winhawks in a best state mascot contest, with a flood of votes on the final day of voting, and both Michael Thomas and John Rumpza earned entrance into the exclusive 1,000 career point club within two weeks of each other. It all proved that it was a banner year for sports in the area. The year had other events, both personal and business-wise as well.

Luke and Theresa Swenson welcomed Lyla Jo as the first baby born in 2013, the Times newspaper received 10 awards at the state newspaper annual convention, and later in the year were honored with a second place national award as well. A number of BPHS students traveled to Washington D.C., for a weeklong educational adventure. The city received a May record of over 13 inches of snow on May 2.

Hormels announced that it was constructing an 8,800 square foot structure in Blooming Prairie to store tech information and records, and Eastern Grain project would build a \$30 million grain terminal in the community of Hope in 2014. Geneva Meats opened Dean's Smokehouse in February, and Noble RV expanded its business into a Minneapolis location. Fire destroyed the home of Ken and Judy Esplan, but fortunately, no one was injured. The BP Chamber of commerce named LeMar Nelson as its Citizen of the Year.

The City of Blooming Prairie bought two lots next to Miner's Outdoor and across the highway from the NAPA store. Minimizer received nomination from Ernst and Young for Entrepreneur of the Year award, long-time business and ardent athletic supporter Bud Hansen died at 95, and the rural Toquam family was named the Dodge County Farm Family of the Year. The Steele County Fair broke an all-time attendance record with almost 351,000 visitors, and the Salvation Army expanded its free backpack program to Blooming Prairie for the first time.

Although, as noted, many other events happened during the year, the athletic successes around the area truly made 2013 the year of the athlete, and it certainly had a definite rhythm of its own. What would 2014 bring, as we inch ever closer 150 years of our town? It can't duplicate this year, for sure.

2014

It would be difficult to duplicate 2013 as far as athletic achievements were concerned, but 2014 has its own share of interesting developments and events. A survey by the Times newspaper indicated that 90 percent of those who contributed to the study indicated that Blooming Prairie offered its citizens a very good place in which to live. The peacefulness of the community received the most reasons for that survey satisfaction.

Adam and Kristen Bishop welcomed Kennedy Grace Bishop into their family on Jan. 21 as the first baby of the year. At BPHS,

John Rumpza became the all-time leading basketball scorer in history with 1,307 points, with half a season yet to go, and Taylor Hagen joined Andrea Banton as the second female athlete to reach the 1,000 career point pinnacle. The girls' basketball team upset an undefeated Lyle-Pacelli in the subsection semi-finals, but then lost to Rushford-Peterson in the finals. Neighboring NRHEG won the state basketball title for the second straight year, and prolific-scorer Charlie Wagner was named the AP Player of the Year.

Ten inches of snow on Feb. 21 and 22 closed schools and roads for a couple of days, Prairie Manor received a four-star rating from U.S. News and World Report magazine, and Craig and Janie Bishop swept the awards at the annual "Dancing With the Steele County Stars" competition in April.

Kasson-Mantorville Elementary Principal Michelle Krell was nominated as a Distinguished Elementary School Principal by the national organization, and in October traveled to Washington, D.C. to accept the award. Krell graduated from Blooming Prairie High School. The city council appointed Greg Skillestad the new Chief of Police.

Aaron Ressler reopened Bunkies Grille and Lanes, with a golf simulator a new and welcome addition to the business. Lansing Corners, the popular supper club for many years, also reopened after extensive remodeling and changes. Heavy rains in mid-June caused some minor flooding in Owatonna, Richard Feeney took over as administrator of Prairie Manor in August, and Al Vandal's daughter, Brandy, and her husband, and Brandy's brother, Waco, replaced the retiring father at the local Super Valu store.

Nick Kreckelberg opened Prairie Village Café; A.J. Lysne received a Spirit of Excellence award from Hormel, one the company had received every year since 2004, and the BP Medical Clinic reopened in September on a limited basis. Crystal Valley Grain Terminal at Hope officially opened on Sept. 10, and Johnson and Doerhoefer Accounting expanded to New Richland, brought in Dan Miner as another partner, and hired Doug Johnson to help with the expanded entity.

Eleven area people were arrested on drug charges after a two-year investigation by the Southeast Drug Coalition. Worlein Funeral Home received a Best of the best award from the National Funeral Directors Association for a video the local organization had produced on "Embracing Grief." The Awesome Blossom football team earned another trip to the state quarterfinals with an upset win over Rushford-Petersen in the section finals, but then fell to a Minneapolis North team that reached the state finals.

The local newspaper changed its name to the Steele County Times to cover a broader areas of the county, Barry Olson resigned his principal

position and maintained a part-time Superintendent spot, the Blooming Prairie Elementary School was one of 22 schools in the state to receive a Celebration School status, and Vavra Farm's auction had sales of over \$4 million in November. Just one more indication that our little community is a part of some pretty big accomplishments, as we can truly begin the countdown to 150 years. Only two more years to go.

2015

With just two more years left until the big 150th, many community residents will venture that the last two years before 2017 need not be summarized. However, for many, short-term memories become as elusive as events from the distant past. Thus, a short summary of recent years often needs reminders as well. The year 2015 had no major disasters or earthshaking events, but the steady rhythm in the everyday lives of the village residents continued.

To the business community the Main Street reconstruction project that disrupted businesses from the end of June for the next few months was declared complete on Halloween Oct. 31. It marked a proud day for the business district, but also one that afforded a great deal of relief. It was business as usual after that.

In January Times Editor Alan Van Ormer slipped on the ice and suffered a concussion and head lacerations that laid him up for three months. The newspaper also received a state leadership award for community service at the annual MNA convention. BPHS Blossom female basketball athlete Madison Worke joined teammate Taylor Hagen in the 1,000 career point club, basketball star John Rumpza reached 2,000 points, and Dylan Nirk won his 100th wrestling victory.

Paisley Marie joined parents Kelsey Wolf and Jacob Gray as the first baby of the year on Feb. 17. Krejci Ford celebrated 25 years in business, a March snowstorm disrupted schools and traffic, and the Board of Education appointed John Worke as the high school principal. Pete and Mary Kittelson appeared on the national game show "Wheel of Fortune," and a sex sting in Freeborn and Steele County netted 20 arrests.

Bussler Publishing acquired the Dodge County Independent newspaper, Laura Berndt took the newspaper position as news editor, and the B & G Club kitchen renovation was completed. Geneva Meats came back from the annual Meat Processors' Association meeting with grand champion award for its pickle bacon and smoked brats.

A high-speed chase through three counties ended in front of the BP Elementary School when

a fortunately located pay-loader caused a stolen pickup to crash, Jason Iacovino joined the Frank Henefeld law firm, and Holli Naatz was honored by the Chamber of Commerce as BP's Citizen of the Year.

Over 200 pink flags flew on the lot across from Highway 218 in honor of cancer victims and survivors, and the cancer group operated its third year of “cancer cab,” made up of several volunteer drivers offering transportation to cancer patients. Vandals announced a grand reopening, the Salvation Army distributed approximately 100 school backpacks to needy kids, and 23 community members participated in the Blandin Community Leadership program.

The local school board awarded bids for part of the elementary school renovation, and KIK Graphics culminated the year in Blooming Prairie with an open house the day before Christmas at its new business on the corner of Main Street and Highway 218. Christmas activities dominated the last days of 2015, as the community prepared for the final year before the year of the 150th birthday of Blooming Prairie.

2016

For those with short-term memory problems, 2016 proved to be a rather normal year business-wise, but several individuals made news during the year. The first baby of the year was truly the first baby, as Tony and Colette Lea welcomed Sailor Renee on Jan.1. Marcy Sundine took the reins as the unit director of the BP Boys and Girls Club, and local resident Rick Kittelson retired from his position with the local utility company after 42 years of service.

The local newspaper took home five state awards at the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association annual convention and later in the year earned six awards at the National Newspaper Association convention. The Steele County Exchange Club honored BP police officer Jake Peterson as the Peace Officer of the Year. Managing Editor Alan Van Ormer resigns from the Steele County Times, and Mark Delap is hired in March.

Longtime Frontier Communications employee Darrell Hansen retires in April, and Greg and Allyson Skillestad claimed three awards at the "Dancing with the Steele County Stars" competition. A new bus garage was completed in May, and the Third St. SW water main project finished

in June. The Boys' golf team and Taylor Christianson advanced to the state golf tournament, where Tommy Braaten took fourth place, and Christianson finished sixth. The boys' team paced fifth.

Nathan McFarland died in an ATV accident on Third Street SE, and the murder of a Medford man in July probably was meth-related, the first such killing in the history of the county. Excessive rains during county fair week caused the lowest attendance at the fair in nine years, former BPHS graduate Jessica Kruckeberg received the prestigious 2016 Entrepreneur award for the state of Colorado, and Minimizer Company unveiled two new products, two of six that the company introduced in 2016.

Rushford-Peterson defeated the Awesome Blossom football team in the section finals, but the Owatonna Huskies won their section and finished second in the state playoffs. Pastor Charlie Leonard of First Lutheran Church accepted a call to be the pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester, and the third week climaxed the year's news by sending the community into the deep freeze the middle of December with 20 degrees below temperatures. That was probably a fitting end to this last of the 25 years leading up to the town's milestone birthday.

As Iacovino wrote in his closing summary, "And somehow life marches on in Blooming Prairie. Something in the spirit of the

people refuses to be dominated by an unpredictable, sometimes cruel and incredibly rapidly changing world."

It seemed only appropriate that the last 25 years leading to the big birthday also be recorded, and that has been my attempt. I am not a native Blooming Prairie, but I have lived the last 60 years of my life as a proud citizen.

The town and the community have survived and prospered through good times and bad, through tragedies and triumphs through blizzards and floods and even worldwide conflicts. All of those events have contributed to the point now that we can celebrate 150 years of incorporation. Some may argue that this summary of events and people has placed too great an emphasis on the local school and its history. But I would argue that, as in any small and rural community, the local school is the focal point for a great number of those important aspects. Readers can draw their own conclusions as to the accuracy of that.

As I mentioned earlier, I have been a proud citizen of this town, having raised a family here and enjoying everything the community has offered. I hope readers can enjoy this little publication, as we celebrate 150 great years here. As has been the motto for many the past few years, "It is good to be a Blossom!"

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