

OUR VIEW

Club provides safe haven for kids

As many people are in the giving spirit this time of the year, there are many worthy organizations and groups that deserve support throughout our county and region.

One of them is the Blooming Prairie Youth Club, formerly known as the Boys & Girls Club. This week Empowering Blooming Prairie's Youth, a special section found elsewhere in this paper, highlights the benefits of the local club. Through short features on past and present members, the club is seeking to increase its membership as well as seeking donations from community members and other organizations to maintain a strong hold in the community.

For years, the youth club has been an integral part of Blooming Prairie. And while the club recently went under a new name and organizational structure, it is still a club dedicated to the youth.

The club provides children from kindergarten to 12th grade with a safe place to go after school and on days with no school. In this day and age where kids are more likely to be absorbed in digital screens, not eating healthy and having fewer social interactions, the club is a true jewel in creating future leaders.

It's commendable to see what Marcy Sundine has done as executive director of the club over the past year. And it's impressive to see 10 volunteers of varying age groups from the community serve as the club's board of directors. They speak volumes to the importance of the club.

Funding is always a delicate issue for many organizations. The club is soliciting help from the community to make sure this youth club stays open for years to come. By donating money or supplies or even just giving a gift of your time to volunteer, the help will make a difference in the lives of our youth. You can help by giving your time, talents and monetary donations.

The future of our children, as well as the future of our country, lies in decisions we make as adults. In this giving season, it seems appropriate for citizens to contribute to the local youth club as they decide how to best allocate their charitable contributions.

We all have the ability to empower our youth for years to come. Bringing smiles to children in a safe environment is one of the best ways to make that happen.



Kindness starts with you

Have you been extra kind lately? I hope so because the calendar proclaimed Nov. 13 as World Kindness Day. And, of course, Thanksgiving is this week.

Unlike all the other national days, Kindness Day is one celebration designed to benefit us all.

Steele County United Way, along with other United Way organizations around the state, has been promoting random acts of kindness this month. United Way encouraged people earlier this month to do something special for another person.

While I try to be kind all the time, I got a little extra dose of the kindness bug the other day because of the United Way's push. I reached out to someone in Steele County who has been a frequent source for information for the Times and made her a proud recipient of a ticket to take in Sister Act, the musical currently playing at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre. To say the least, she was ecstatic, especially because she has never been there before.

I must admit it made me feel pretty darn good to make this woman happy. I love when I can do things for people that they may have never experienced before.

With the holidays right around the corner, it's a great time for us all to take a kindness reality check. I would encourage everyone to be extra special to someone, perhaps even a stranger.

We all have the power to turn the world into a better place to live. It doesn't have to be filled with all gloom and doom, cynicism, skepticism or negativity. Sadly, being kind is often not in the cynical nature of many people.

Most of us, myself included, are pretty selfish in nature. We don't take the time out to think about

people outside our closed circles in great detail.

Making things better starts internally within us. How we project ourselves and what we project is critical.

Kindness can be contagious. It doesn't have to be anything major or necessarily have any monetary value. It can be just a simple kind act of taking the garbage out for someone or getting the mail for a neighbor. Just recognizing and acknowledging another person can be enlightening for some.

Everyday should be World Kindness Day, not just the official date every November. No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. Remember kindness starts with you, and only you.

Along with the kindness, it's also important for each of us to count our blessings and give thanks this week. Though we don't often see it, or choose to overlook it, we are a country rich in blessings. We have so much to be thankful for that many in other parts of the world can only dream about.

We all take so many things for granted. We whine about the silliest things. We don't appreciate what riches we may have.

During this Thanksgiving week, I encourage everyone to give thanks and to extend some kindness to a stranger.

Isn't it time to go in hot pursuit of pouring out kindness to others? Try it, it may give you a whole different perspective on life.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

GUEST COLUMN

Be sure to thank our veterans



BY PEGGY BENNETT

As we observed Veterans Day, I wanted to be sure to say thank you for all of our veterans and for all the men and women currently serving our country in the military. Especially on Veterans Day, I reflect on our liberties and freedoms, and those who have fought to protect these since our nation formed Thank you to every veteran, and their family, for the incredible sacrifice made for the United States.

At the state level, we recognize the importance of helping veterans when they serve as well as when they return to civilian life. This session, we passed legislation to expand the Minnesota GI Bill, increase Support Our Troops grant eligibility amounts, provide more funding for the Veterans Affairs Department, and much more. We need to do what we can to support those who choose to serve our country.

Please take time to thank a veteran in your life. We're so fortunate to be free, and we owe these brave Americans so much. Thank you, veterans.

Recent Visit
I had a wonderful time at the South Central Minnesota Youth for Christ noon banquet on Nov.

9. The heartfelt stories shared by the young people there were truly inspiring. YFC has multiple quality programs that mentor youth in our area, many of whom feel hopeless and lost, and they help these young people to feel value and purpose in life.

Greg and Robin Gudal do an amazing job heading up the local YFC. Thank you to Greg and Robin for their steadfast and caring service to our local youth for all these years, and to the many local YFC staff and volunteers like them who make a difference in the lives of our young people!

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

YOUR VIEW

Looking for support of adoption from hometown

To-the-Editor:
A year ago, at a benefit for my cousin with breast cancer, my wife watched as my hometown community offered their prayers, time, and resources to support my cousin. As we walked around the Cue Company, I made a hundred introductions: "This is my neighbor from when I was five. She did Story Time at the library. I mowed his lawn in high school." With each introduction and each bid in the silent auction, the stories I had fed her over our six-year relationship about the benefits of growing up in a small town took shape into something real. It made sense that when we were approved for domestic infant adoption, she suggested we reach out to my hometown community for support.

Most domestic infant adoptions in the US are open; meaning there is a degree of contact between the birth family and the adoptive family. The spectrum of openness ranges from the birth parents supplying medical history, receiving pictures and updates, visits, or even the two families becoming part of each other's extended family. In an open adoption, the expectant mother chooses the couple or individual she will create an adoption plan with. This can be

facilitated through an adoption agency or through social connections.

My wife and I are working with an adoption agency, but we are also getting the word out through family, friends, and now the community that helped raise me. You can support us and help us connect with an expectant mother simply by spreading our story. More can be learned about us at our website, kcadapt.weebly.com, and we can be contacted at kcadapt55@gmail.com.

*Chelsie (Hansen) Hansen-Stratton
BP High School Class of 2007
Minneapolis*

Leave the right to defend with weapons

To-the-Editor:
Back when I was growing up nearly every farm kid started out with a BB gun then progressed to a .22-caliber rifle and on to a shot gun. Once out on our own we probably got a higher caliber gun. Relatives from the larger cities would come out to hunt pheasants and deer. In the winter's we hunted fox and rabbits. We often carried guns in our vehicles. We had virtually no mass shootings.

In last week's Times (Nov. 14 edition) Rick Bussler called for a ban on so called assault weapons in light of recent mass shootings. I have a couple questions. Up until recent years we

had virtually no mass shootings. What has changed? Are not all weapons assault weapons?

The gambit runs from a sharpened butter knife to nuclear bombs. Man designed all weapons to either feed themselves and family or to render harm on others. The reasons humans wish to destroy each other vary greatly, from tribal conflicts to property acquired or even in some cases to steal females. Then there are those who wish to rule their countries or even the world. It's this last group that inspired our founders to include the second amendment in our Bill of Rights. It also assured the right of people to defend themselves and their families in case of assault by others.

If all humans were good and none were evil there would be no need for self defense. Let's say we have a situation where people are starving or are unable to heat or have lost their homes. This could be caused by an economic collapse like the 30s or possibly a nuclear catastrophe. An electrical magnetic pulse from the sun is capable of knocking out huge areas of our power grid. Can anyone imagine the chaos when the grocery stores run out of food in a matter of days? We would have a massive group of people armed with various assault weapons out to survive any way possible. If any of these situations come about please allow us the ability to protect ourselves.

Rick mentioned Japan as a

country that has banned guns and has virtually no gun related deaths. He is correct. I believe it is also possible that the Japanese teach respect for life at a young age. What would happen there if they experienced catastrophe is hard to say.

In America we tend to promote violence of all sorts with our video games and entertainment in movies and television. If we were to compare our country to one that bans guns, I think Mexico is a far better example. Just as here, drug wars account for most of the gun violence. If Rick had bothered to look at recent statistics, he would have found death by mass shooting is so far down the list of "cause of death" as to be all most non existent. We are probably more likely to die of a bee sting.

All types of media today thrive on stories of the shootings. I, by no means, wish to condone any of the loss of life of loved ones. One can barely imagine the pain and suffering. What a society can do to prevent humans from killing each other has been discussed since mankind arrived on earth. So far we keep coming up with new ways to destroy life. Whatever we do please give me the right to defend my loved ones with whatever weapons are appropriate. I could go on to state many other facts that counter reasons for gun control but space is limited.

*David Nielson
Owatonna*

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A state and national award winning weekly



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

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

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Family Fun Night brings out public safety officials



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

On Thursday, Nov. 16, our monthly Family Fun Night focused on community helpers. Family Fun Nights are a collaboration of staff from the Blooming Prairie Early Childhood Education and Blooming Prairie Branch Library.

Stories were read about various jobs and then our visitors appeared: Linda Klemmensen and Michael Pape from the ambulance company; Dan Peach from the police department;

and Dan Miner and Matt Kittelson from the fire department.

Each told about what they do in their jobs, what equipment they use, and how they help our community. One of the preschoolers asked Officer Peach if they have to put people in time out like his parents do! He agreed that they do have to do that sometimes.

Thank you to our community helpers for all that they do to keep Blooming Prairie safe. Special thanks to those representatives who visited the families for our program.

If you would like to know about our future events, like Blooming Prairie Branch Library on Facebook to get notifications. Or just stop in at the library!



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie police officer Dan Peach exchanged a thumbs up with a girl who dressed up as a police officer at last week's Family Fun Night at the local library.

DEATH NOTICE

Cheryl L. Kruckeberg, 64

Cheryl L. Kruckeberg, 64, of Blooming Prairie passed away Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin. Visitation will be Monday, Nov. 27, 2017 from 4-7 p.m. at the church, and again on Tuesday one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at the Red Oak Grove Cemetery.

Mayer Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be left online at www.mayerfh.com.

SEMCAC Senior Menu

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Fresh-baked Squash, Banana Fruit Cup

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 23 & 24
CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

Monday, Nov. 27

Tater Tot Hotdish, Tossed Salad, Pickle Spear, Batter Bun, PA/Pear/Peach Cup

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Onion Smothered Beef Steak (alt. Liver & Onions), Baked Potato w/sour cream, Califlauer/Broccoli Blend, Orange Wedges, Banan Cake w/whipped topping

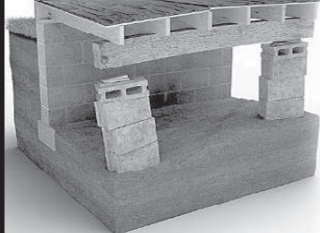
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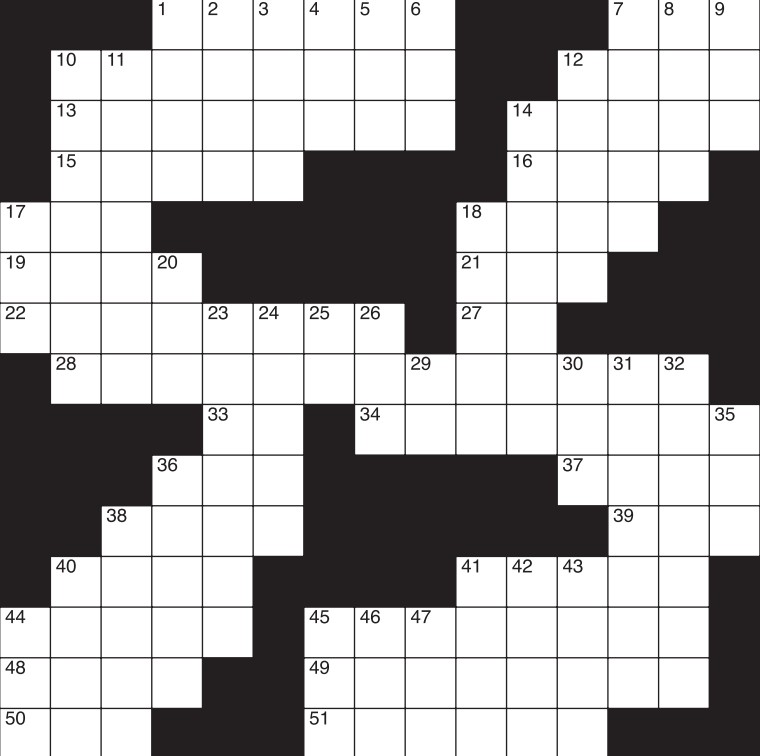
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- 9. Senior officer
- 10. Forecasts weather
- 11. Seasoned Hungarian soup
- 12. Town in Hesse, Germany
- 14. Thought to derive from meteorites
- 17. Hit lightly
- 18. Seemingly bottomless chasm
- 20. Title of respect
- 23. Warms up
- 24. Man and Wight are two
- 25. Type of scan
- 26. Atomic mass unit
- 29. Article
- 30. Incriminate
- 31. Passes by
- 32. Most nerve-inducing
- 35. David Alan Grier sitcom
- 36. Achieve
- 38. Freshwater fish
- 40. Beginner
- 41. Dark brown or black
- 42. A newlywed wears one
- 43. DiFranco and Vardanyan are two
- 44. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 45. Ancient Egyptian King
- 46. Old name (abbr.)
- 47. Brazilian city (slang)

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Holds candles
- 7. In possession of
- 10. Rodents
- 12. Type of cofactor (Brit. sp.)
- 13. Hard candy on a stick
- 14. Animal of the weasel family
- 15. Things that should not be overlooked
- 16. "Silence" author
- 17. Dried, split lentils
- 18. People native to Ghana
- 19. Barros and Gasteyer are two
- 21. British thermal unit
- 22. Large oblong hall
- 27. Ethnic group in Asia
- 28. Holiday decoration
- 33. Milliliter
- 34. Open
- 36. Health physics concept (abbr.)
- 37. Tantric meditation
- 38. Where golf games begin
- 39. Birth swine
- 40. Rip
- 41. Remove
- 44. Puts together in time
- 45. Rotary engines
- 48. Skeletal structure
- 49. Member of a labor



organization
50. Japanese classical theater
51. Undergarments

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Snake Tales" cartoonist

- 2. Religious group
- 3. Singer Redding
- 4. ___ and tuck
- 5. Head honcho
- 6. Second sight
- 7. Composer
- 8. About aviation

Solutions on page C3

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WEDDINGS

Watson-Hierlmaier

Brittany Lea Watson of Blooming Prairie and Samuel Joseph Hierlmaier of Austin were joyfully united in holy matrimony on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017.

The ceremony took place at First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie with Pastor Matt Fennell officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Melanie Watson of Blooming Prairie. The groom is the son of Richard and Carol Hierlmaier of Ellendale.

The couple will be residing in Austin.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 21

Abby Wayne
Alison Mach
Norma Hegal
Andrew Wondra
Jett Swenson

Nov. 22

Pierce Deyoung
Joe Morgan
Shawn Johnson
Carol Holmes
Damon Milton
Donna Maixner
Kathy Ryks

Nov. 22

Pierce Deyoung
Joe Morgan
Shawn Johnson

Carol Holmes
Damon Milton
Donna Maixner
Kathy Ryks

Nov. 23

Joseph Schiefert
Carissa Easton
Taylor
Christianson
Annette Lindquist
Amanda Farr

Nov. 24

Judy Lestrud
Dave Dahl
Kara Kubista
Larry Wurst

Nov. 25

Warren Winn
Jared Brown

Sharon
Christianson

Nov. 26

Gale Klinger
Maggie Bruns

Nov. 27

Olivia R. Kohn
Claire Butler
Todd Meshke
Bennett Wencil

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 21

David & Jody
Easton

Nov. 22

Les & Cathy
Shawback

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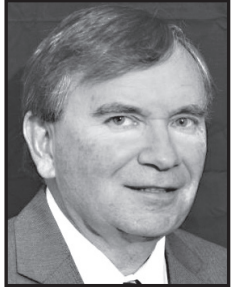
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Gratitude is the source of our happiness



PASTOR BOB BRAUER
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
OWATONNA

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” I John 4:11
This week Americans celebrate one of the most important holidays. It is not a patriotic holiday. It is not a big economic holiday. It is not a candy holiday. It does involve food as almost all holidays must. But it is one of the most important holidays for our mental and social health.
Gratitude and greed are at least somewhat mutual adversaries. Gratitude to parents, friends, siblings, neighbors, employers, and most important, God is an expression of

love. And for that reason, it promotes mental, social and emotional health. It reminds us that the true values of life cannot be counted in dollars or property or toys. The true values in life are the people whom we love and who love us. We are social beings, we thrive on positive nurturing relationships.
Thanksgiving gives all of us an opportunity to remember what matters most and to thank those who have contributed so much to our happiness and joy.
Of course, the primary person to whom we give thanks is the God who

has poured out His love in His Son, and who continues to give us His grace, His blessings and His healing love. As we partake of the varied tastes and textures of the Thanksgiving meal we should be filled with thanks to the Creator who has filled our earth with so many nutritious and tasty foods. He could have given us one standard meal. But He made us like himself to enjoy an abundant variety. Look how He has provided so very many unique flowers. Look at all the unique and beautiful people who surround us with all of their colors, heights, talents,

and temperaments. What a wonderful Creator! How much He deserves our thanks, our gratitude on Thanksgiving Day and every day.
May your thanksgiving be filled with the joy of your family and friends. May your thoughts reflect with gratitude on the lives of those who are no longer at your board. May your heart rejoice in the God who loves you with an everlasting love.
“I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.” Jeremiah 31:3

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.goodshepherdowatonna.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. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN 5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of the month) TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauff, Associate Pastor 507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School: 8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.	TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. CATHOLIC CHRIST THE KING 203 Second Ave. NW., Medford 507-451-6353 Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Monday Mass: 9 a.m. CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS 307 SW First St., New Richland Father Raul Silva Fr. Adam McMillan, Parochial Vicar 507-465-8217 Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL 9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Weekend Presider 507-451-1588 www.litomysl.webs.com Reconciliation: 8:45 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Children’s Church for Preschool – 1st Grade began Sept. 24 Faith Formation for Kindergarten – Confirmation: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays Adult Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays SACRED HEART CATHOLIC 150 NE Second St., Hayfield Father Thomas Niehaus 507-477-2256 Mass: 8 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Thursday Reconciliation: 7:30 a.m. Sun. SACRED HEART PARISH 810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday;	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 Cirksema 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.destinyc.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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PIPE: Company saves money for BP

FROM PAGE A1

Center Avenue North and in the area of 2nd St. SE and 1st St. SW. The city initially had received a bid for Center Avenue at \$21,640.

Municipal Pipe Co. was willing to add the extra work to the original bid amount per foot and thus additional problems were resolved.

Jones explained to council that Municipal Pipe video taped the sewer lines and found tree roots causing a flowage problem with the sanitary sewer. He said the videos were available for council review.

In one area, the sewer pipe was completely gone, Jones said.

Municipal Pipe then installed a lining to repair the problem.

"It's quite an invention so we don't have to tear up the streets," remarked Administrator Jones.

Council member Tara Gimbel introduced a motion to pay the \$52,307 invoice to Municipal Pipe Tool Company. Council member Brad Clark offered the second. The motion was unanimously approved.

"We seem to have fixed a problem and the video taping of sewer lines has been a godsend," Jones said.

Let's take a look at other actions taken at the Nov. 13 council meeting:

- Council approved a request by the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce to close Main Street from 2nd Ave. East to 3rd Ave. East from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 for the annual Holiday Dazzle celebration. "Now we know what date is going to be the coldest day of the winter," joked Mayor H. Peterson.
- Approval was also granted by the council to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group for a fundraising event called Jingle Bingo on Thursday, Dec. 14.
- As required by state law, city polling places must be formally designated each year. The council unanimously adopted a resolution designating the Blooming Prairie Council Chambers in the City Center at 138 Highway Avenue South as the polling place for 2018 elections.
- Motion was presented by council to approve a resolution requesting new police officer Dan Peach be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan.
- Council approved certification of Assessment Roll of Utility Services, ambulance runs and fire calls to the Steele County Auditor collectible in 2018. Blooming Prairie Public Utilities submitted two delinquent utility bills to the city. Also included in the assessment roll are two ambulance calls and three fire calls.

- Council delayed action on payment request from Ulland Brothers for 2017 street rehabilitation improvements. The project was originally bid at \$435,111.25. Administrator Jones said some additional work was added to the project, thus the final numbers may come in between \$445,000 to \$449,000. Jones is hopeful that the final numbers will be available at the Dec. 11 city council meeting.
- Jeremy Wangen will again be the city ice rink supervisor. He was given authority by the council to hire the necessary personnel to operate the ice rink and warming house for the 2017-18 seasons.
- The city is still searching for a wastewater treatment plant B operator. Sue Penkeva, who recently retired, has held that position most recently. She reportedly will be available for part-time work. "It's a specialized position," commented council member Brad Clark. "Yeah, there are not many kids who play sewer plant operator in the sandbox," Mayor Peterson chuckled.
- Dog licenses may soon be a thing of the past, according to Jones. He said 63 dogs were licensed in the city last year and said there were many more dogs who were not licensed. He said most small communities are no longer requiring dog licenses.
- City Attorney Jason Iacovino informed council of police training set for Tuesday, Nov. 21, featuring a legal update by City Attorney Iacovino and Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh.
- Council member Bill Newman offered commendation to maintenance work done at the city's compost site by Bishop Excavating, Blooming Prairie. Council member Brad Clark also handed out compliments for the local police department accelerating its coverage of patrolling during peak traffic hours.



Taste of the holidays



STAFF PHOTOS: HOWARD LESTRUD

It was holiday time at Vandal's Family Market in Blooming Prairie Nov. 11 as the store held fun activities for all ages. Left: Isabel Dickel and store owner Brandy Vandal Homberg served some gummy treats for customers. In addition, lots of goodies and prizes were given away. Right: Ava Bachelder, 10, of Blooming Prairie was one of many youngsters who decorated cookies during the open house. The store also held a best holiday dessert contest and recipe exchange for adults.

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FOOTBALL

ONTO STATE FINALS

Havelka's arm lifts Huskies to Class 5A Championship game

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

An April 19 birthday is not the only thing Owatonna senior quarterback Abe Havelka and Twins catcher Joe Mauer share after Havelka tossed seven touchdowns in Owatonna's 56-28 victory over Brainerd (9-3) in the Class 5A State Semifinals at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis Saturday.

Havelka joined Mauer and became the ninth player in Minnesota high school football history to accomplish the feat.

"It's pretty cool," Havelka said. "But I'm just happy at the end of the day if our team gets that win."

Havelka was one touchdown shy of tying the state record of eight, which Minneapolis Southwest's Elliott Mathieu set in 2008.

Havelka was on fire from the start. He connected with senior receiver Dalton Kubista on a 52-yard touchdown just four plays into the game.

Havelka said he saw the mismatch between the 6-foot-5-inch Kubista and the 5-foot-10-inch defensive back right away.

"It got the team fired up and ready to go," Kubista said. "It helped get the nerves out of the way."

The Warriors' defense stiffened and stopped the Huskies on their next three drives.

However, Owatonna would go on to score touchdowns on its next seven possessions.

"I think that we executed perfectly," said Alex Raichle, senior receiver and defensive back. "We came in there with a game plan. We just have such a good receiving corps that it is

"Our kids were pretty fatigued and gassed at the end. Until you actually experience this environment, it's really hard to prepare for."

Coach Jeff Williams
Owatonna Huskies

tough to guard all of us, and our quarterback does a great job of getting us the ball."

Shortly into the second quarter, Havelka again found Kubista streaking down the left sideline for 85-yard touchdown to put the Huskies up 14-0.

"That's my specialty, running down the sideline and going to get jump balls," Kubista said. "Coming in, I didn't expect this many, but it was nice."

Brainerd marched down the field on a 9-play 71-yard drive that was finish off with a 2-yard touchdown run on fourth down by senior running back Charlie Geraets. The Huskies maintained a 14-6 advantage after Raichle stormed around the edge and blocked the extra point.

Raichle caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from Havelka on Owatonna's ensuing drive to give the Huskies a 21-6 lead with 3:01 remaining in the first half.

Owatonna's defense continued to control the line scrimmage and forced Brainerd to go three-and-out on its next drive. The Huskies quickly moved the ball down the field and Havelka threw his fourth touchdown of the first half, a 12-yarder to senior receiver Noah Budach.

"I thought that was a big one," Owatonna coach Jeff Williams said. "To go up three

scores at halftime and score on a 50-yard drive in about a minute without using a timeout, that was big."

Brainerd's defense did a good job of bottling up Owatonna star running back Jason Williamson in the first half, but Williamson broke free on an inside carrier for a 52-yard touchdown on the Huskies' first drive of the third quarter.

"If they want to take away the pass than [Williamson] is going to get the ball and he's going to show them what he can do," Havelka said.

The Warriors' senior running back Max Zimmerman answered with a 2-yard touchdown run with 5:14 left in the third quarter



Safety Parker Westphal (12) sprawls out in attempts to take down a Brainerd player carrying the ball, as linebacker Cole Rocha comes from behind. The Huskies won the semifinal game 56-28 over Brainerd to advance to the State 5A Championship game.



Left: Offensive lineman Zach Wiese (63) blocks a Brainerd player to allow running back Jason Williamson (22) to dart past with the ball. Right: Quarterback Abe Havelka (3) pushes back on a Brainerd defender, as he attempts to run with the ball. Havelka became the ninth player in MSHSL football history to throw seven touchdowns in a game. Bottom left cutout: Wide receiver Dalton Kubista (88) runs the ball to score a 52-yard touchdown in the game.

and Brainerd narrowed Owatonna's lead to 35-14 after converting the two-point conversion.

Kubista caught his third score of the night on the Huskies' next drive.

"It's tough to cover our wide receivers in space," Havelka said. "They can make any catch on the field."

Brainerd refused to go away and Geraets scored on a 40-yard run making the score 42-21 with 1:28 remaining in the third quarter.

Three plays later, Raichle caught a pass on a crossing route and outran the entire Warriors' defense 64 yards to the end zone.

Brainerd's junior running back Joe Kland ran for a 6-yard score to start the fourth quarter.

Raichle scored the final touchdown of the game when he caught a 35-yard reception with 8:14 left.

With the win Owatonna (11-1) advanced to play Elk River (11-1) at U.S. Bank Stadium in the Class 5A State Championship on Saturday at 4 p.m.

The Elks ended the Huskies season, 19-7, this past year in the state semifinals.

"We are going to have to get healthy," Williams said. "We lost a couple of kids on defense tonight and Brainerd was able to exploited our perimeter a little bit."

Williams said the Huskies also have to improve their hydration and nutrition heading in the state championship game.

"Our kids were pretty fatigued and gassed at the end," he said. "Until you actually experience this environment, it's really hard to prepare for. We don't have a lot of two-way players and we were able to cycle some kids through, but I think we're going to hit the Pedialyte, Gatorade and that stuff a little bit harder this week."

Elk River's offense is average 47 points a game, almost all by rushing.

The Elk have rushed for 5,661 yards and 66 touchdowns on 647 carries this season.

They are led by two 1,000 rushers in junior

Adam Nelson and senior Sherrod Kpahn. Nelson has ran for 1,705 yards and 21 scores on 160 touches, while Kpahn has carried the ball 127 times for 1,025 yards and 12 touchdowns. Senior quarterback Mitchell Stroh has nearly eclipsed the 1,000 yard mark himself. He's rushed 97 times for 979 yards and 15 touchdowns.

"We saw Elk River 365 days ago and they are a good football team," Williams said. "It's going to take every ounces of what we have defensively to stay in the football game with those guys."

BOX SCORE

OWATONNA	7	21	21	7	—	56
BRAINERD	0	6	15	7	—	28

FIRST QUARTER

O-Kubista 52 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 10:47

SECOND QUARTER

O-Kubista 85 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 10:42

B-Geraets 2 run (kick blocked), 6:15

O-Raichle 25 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 3:01

O-Budach 12 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 1:03

THIRD QUARTER

O-Williamson 52 run (Nelson kick), 7:55

B-Zimmerman 2 run (Stoiski pass), 5:14

O-Kubista 14 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 3:30

B-Geraets 40 run (Henke kick), 1:28

O-Raichle 64 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), :43

Fourth Quarter

B-Klang 6 run (Henke kick), 10:45

O-Raichle 35 pass from Havelka (Nelson kick), 8:14

	O	B
First Downs	24	17
Rushes-yards	36-184	57-358
Passing	451	9
Punt Returns	4-20	0-0
Kickoff Returns	5-87	4-61
Interception Returns	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-25	03-14-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-5	1-3
Punts	1-25	7-266
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	3-28	3-25

Individual Statistics
RUSHING—Owatonna, Williams 22-135, Havelka 8-31, Budach 1-19, Wiese 1-6, Walter 1-4. Brainerd, Geraets 39-314, Klang 8-50, Zimmerman 5-12, Stolski 4-4, McConville 1-0.
PASSING—Owatonna, Havelka 21-25-0-451. Brainerd, Stolski 3-14-0-9.
RECEIVING—Owatonna, Budach 7-63, Raichle 5-157, Kubista 4-192, Williamson 3-25, Malo 1-13, Wiese 1-1. Brainerd, Boran 2-5, Gervanek 1-4.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



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Area athletes named All-Stars

Nine area athletes, including Awesome Blossom Mitchell Oswald, will be on the South team at the Football Coaches Association's All-Star game at US Bank stadium in Minneapolis Dec. 3. The team will square off against a similar squad from the north side of the state.

Besides BP's Oswald in the defensive line, the area players include Noah Budach and Zach Mensink from Owatonna, Zach Myhre (Grand Meadow), Mike Coble (Byron), Andrew Goergen (Caledonia), Ryan Schoenfelder (Goodhue), Connor McKern (Kasson-Mantorville), and Levi Smith (Triton). All of the players are seniors at their respective schools.

AREA GRADS SHINE

In our continuing quest for news of former BPHS students, this week brings items from several former students. Macaela Jensen plays rugby at Gustavus College, and her club team won the regional tournament week ago in Delaware, Ohio, by defeating Delaware on Saturday and Rochester, N.Y., on Sunday.

Those victories earned the team a trip to the Final Four in Marietta, Ga., for the Nationals. They will be competing on Dec. 2 and 3. Most of us are unfamiliar with rugby, but Jensen, who is a junior at Gustavus, plays a position called lock. She is the daughter of Tim and Becky (Herdina) Jensen.

Taylor Hagen and the UNI women's basketball team just began play, and Taylor has gotten many minutes in the games

played so far, and sophomore Madison Worke has gotten into games at Winona State University. Sophomore Anthony Nelson is playing junior varsity at Bethel University.

One area athlete also made news last week, when NRHEG basketball player Betsy Schoenrock signed a letter of intent to attend Gustavus College and play basketball at that institution. We will keep track of these athletes as their seasons progress.

SPORTS ON A ROLL

Before the high school teams begin their schedules in a couple of weeks, it is fun to take a look at an unusual scene on the college and professional level with the Minnesota teams. Several teams and individuals are enjoying a rare season of great success, and we Minnesotans are a little surprised at that.

The Vikings, the Wild hockey, and the Timberwolves all have winning records, and individually, Brian Dozier and Byron Buxton won their first Golden Glove awards, and Paul Molitor was named American league Manager of the Year. I think Joe Mauer also should have won a Golden Glove at first base, as he made just one error all year at that position.

At the college level the Gopher men's basketball team is ranked 15th in the country, and the Gopher women's volleyball and hockey teams also stand in the top five rankings in the country. Minnesota State University at Mankato just won its conference title and is ranked first in the nation, St. Thomas continues to run roughshod over opponents, and Winona State football continues to carry a winning tradition.

Back at the high school level, Awesome Blossom fans can take a measure of pride in the fact that the only loss of the season for the Mayer Lutheran football came at Blooming Prairie, when BP counted two touchdowns in the last three minutes to edge the Crusaders 18-14.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Besides the traditional celebration that usually marks Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving morning is also the scene for the annual Gobble wobble at the youth club. The event was postponed for a year or two for various reasons, but this year should have fine weather in which to hold the competition.

Last year approximately 90 persons, young and hold participated in the event, and organizers are expecting a like number this year. It is a great way to greet the holiday, get a little exercise, and get the body ready to sit down for that traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The little ones will also have their Widdle Wobble, and the whole affair is great fun for all who participate. It would be nice to set a new record for participation, and a big thank you goes to the event organizers and all the folk who enjoy taking part in the friendly competition.

The other big occasion in the near future is the annual holiday dazzle celebration on Main Street in BP to usher in the Christmas season. I recall several such nights, when the weather turned cold enough to persuade most people to stay inside, but last year and again this year we can expect a little better cooperation from the weatherman.

The activities go on all afternoon, and the Main Street businesses all have specials on sale and a treat for customers. Santa will be at his customary location in Farmers and Merchants Bank, the Just for Kix dancers will perform, the wooden nickel competition will take place, and Mr. Scrooge will be crowned. And those are just some of the highlights. We hope the event attracts a large crowd on Friday, Dec. 1.

A reminder that winter sports begin next week, and that the community will see nonstop activity from now until Christmas. Enjoy the season, and we'll talk again.

VOLLEYBALL

Awards given out to BP volleyball players

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Coach Ranell Kittelson and the Awesome Blossom volleyball team took a step forward, as they finished the 2017 season above .500 with a 14-11 season. That also enabled to record a 3-3 in the tough Gopher Conference standings.

Eleven Blossoms earned letters, seven players were named to the academic all-conference team, and Sam Wurst and McKenna Hein made the Coaches' Association All-State awards. Individually, Wurst earned a spot on the gopher All-conference team, and Julia Worke made an Honorable Mention.

Team MVP honors went to McKenna Hein; Wurst was named MVP on offense and Linnea Sunde on defense. Ayren Ingvalson earned Most Dedicated honor, and Worke was deemed the Most Improved player. The Awesome Blossom Team Spirit and Sportsmanship award went to Rachel Pirkel, and five players

earned team spirit honors.

Several players topped the list of individual statistics for the season. Hein pounded down 134 kills to lead the team, with Worke adding 107 and Wurst 101. Sunde finished with a dig total of 268, and Hein added 197. Worke served 19 aces, and Hein had 11. Wurst and Rachel Oswald stuffed 99 and 92 blocks respectively. Heather Pirkel had all but 41 assists in the season, as she piled up 389 of them in the 25-game schedule.

As Coach Kittelson commented in summary, "We had a few lapses where we could have won a match or two, but overall, the girls stayed aggressive played well together, and had a never-give-up philosophy all season long." Kittelson thanked the girls for some lasting memories of the season and that she had an amazing time coaching this team all season.

Jennifer Wayne and Nicole Inward provided able assistance to Kittelson throughout the year and helped make the season a winning one.

BASKETBALL

Schoenrock to reunite with former teammates at Gustavus

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The thought of playing college basketball had never really crossed NRHEG standout Betsy Schoenrock's mind until schools starting contacting her following her junior season after she help lead the Panthers to a conference championship and averaged 14.5 points, 7.6 rebounds and 2.3 blocks per game.

On Nov. 15, she signed to play women's college basketball at Gustavus Aldophus College in St. Peter.

The 6-foot-5-inch senior center provides a dominant presence on the court, but she is also known for her reliable hands, solid midrange game and soft touch around the basket.

"I liked how small and connected everything was [at Gustavus Aldophus]," Schoenrock said. "I got to meet the team and they were all very nice. It's close to home and I have the chance to play with a couple girls I played with last year."

She joins 2017 NRHEG graduates Maddie and Marnie Wagner, who are freshmen on the Golden Gusties' women's basketball team.

"We have always tried to convince her to come here because we thought it would be fun to play with her again," Maddie Wagner said. "It was fun playing with Marnie, but it will be even more fun having [Schoenrock] here because we know how each play. I've always felt like we had real good chemistry on the court."

Wagner said Schoenrock called her the day she made her college decision to let her know she would be joining her at Gustavus.

"I'm really happy for her," she said. "We are really excited because we all were really hoping that she would come."

Schoenrock and the Wagner twins lead NRHEG to a 27-6 record and berth in the Class AA State Tournament this past season.

"She has a nice jumper that you



STAFF PHOTO: DENNIS MARSHALL

NRHEG girls' basketball standout Betsy Schoenrock, along her parents Beth and Leon, signs to play college basketball at Gustavus Aldophus College in St. Peter on Nov. 15.

don't see from a lot of tall post players," Wagner said, adding that Schoenrock will fit in great at Gustavus because she makes smart decisions with the ball and has a high basketball IQ.

NRHEG girls' basketball coach Onika Bliss also thinks Gustavus is a great fit for Schoenrock.

"She should be able to be

pretty competitive in the MIAC [Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference]," Bliss said. "She obviously has a huge height advantage, so that's the first thing that works to her benefit because there's not that many post players who have her size.

"But height isn't the only thing that makes her a special player," she continued. "There's not many post players who have a shot that is as pretty as she does."

Bliss said she is looking forward

to having another year to work Schoenrock.

"I'm excited to see what she does here at New Richland her senior year," Bliss said. "But I'm also excited to see what she is going to be able to accomplish in four years at [Gustavus]. I think she can do some great things up there."

Schoenrock said she was excited to see what she could accomplish at the next level, but right now she is focused on her senior season at NRHEG.

"It will be a bit of a rebuilding year since we graduated six seniors last year," she said. " But I hope to be competitive in every game and compete for a conference championship. If we do that, I think we will have a successful season."

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL ALL-STARS

BP's Oswald thankful for one more game

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Blooming Prairie football player Mitchell Oswald is one of 97 seniors from around the state to be selected to play in the 2017 Minnesota Football Showcase on Saturday, Dec. 9 at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

Oswald said he is honored to be selected and excited for the opportunity.

"It's one more chance to enjoy the thrill of playing football," Oswald said. "It's nice to know that I get one more chance to put everything out there with some of best athletes in Minnesota."

The 6-foot-5-inch, 245-pound offensive guard and defensive end was selected to play defensive line for the South team.

"I hope to show others teams what Blooming Prairie football is all about," he said. "Hard working kids and great students on and off the field."

AREA FOOTBALL ALL-STARS

Coach John Schultz- NRHEG
Noah Budach- Owatonna
Zach Mensink- Owatonna
Mitchell Oswald- Blooming Prairie
Levi Smith- Triton
Conner McKern- K-M
Mike Coble- Byron
Zach Myhre- Grand Meadow

Oswald finished his senior campaign with 8.5 sacks, 13 tackles for loss and another 15 assisted tackles for a loss.

"It's a great opportunity to show off my football skills and work with some really hard working guys," he said. "It will be a really exciting experience. I'm looking forward to playing in U.S. Bank Stadium and getting to feel like a NFL player with everyone watching in that big stadium."

Oswald helped lead the Awesome Blossoms to a 8-3 record and berth in the section championship, where Blooming Prairie fell to Goodhue 19-14.

"That was really hard and it was horrible feeling to know that it was my last high school football game," he said. "Even though we lost, I still get to go up to where all the state championship are play and experience what it like playing there. It means a lot to me.

"I might not be like playing with your teammates," he continued. "But it will be nice to play with a talented, hard working group of players who have put a lot of effort over the years."

Oswald said he's received some interest from schools about playing college football including South Dakota State, Wisconsin-River Falls and North Dakota State.

"It would be fun experience," Oswald said. "If they give me a good offer, I would definitely think about it."

Oswald said the school having a good agriculture program would be a major factor in his decision.

"I like farming and animal science," he said. "That's sort of my background and what I grew up with. I'm looking to get into that kind of career and I'm looking for a college that can give that kind of experience."

Blooming Prairie coach Chad Gimbel said Oswald plays with a lot of heart and determination and was always one of best players on the field.

"Everything he does, he does with 100 percent effort," Gimbel said. "Obviously he is a big strong kid, but his effort is his biggest asset. But as good as a football player he is, he is a better person. You won't find him on social media. Shoot, he loses his phone for a month and it doesn't even bother him."

Gimbel, who also coaches the wrestling team, told of a story before this past season's state meet when he was surprised to find Oswald on his phone.

"He was on his phone, but he was reading the Bible," Gimbel said. "That's just the kind of kid is. He was voted homecoming king for a reason. He is role model to everybody."

Owatonna receiver Noah Budach and linebacker Zach Mensink were also selected to play in the game, and NRHEG coach John Schultz was selected as an assistant on the South team's coaching staff.

The South team leads the overall series 13-10-1 and defeated the North team 15-7 in 2016.

RECIPE CORNER

Sauerkraut Cheese Ball

- 1 can sauerkraut, drained
- 1 sm. jar diced pimentos
- 10 oz shredded cheese
- 1 tsp. diced onion
- 1 T. sugar
- 1/2 c. cracker crumbs
- 1/4 c. Miracle Whip

By Joyce Johns

Combine all ingredients and form into a ball. Chill for several hours and then frost with cream cheese. Serve with assorted crackers.



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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 bptimes@frontiernet.net. It must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. You must enter a score in the Tie-Breaker game or you will be disqualified.

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

ENTRY FORM

Name

Address

Phone

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2

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*Tie-Breaker Score

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20. Chicago at Philadelphia (tiebreaker)

Voice of Democracy winners named in BP



Winners of the Blooming Prairie VFW Voice of Democracy Contest were recently announced. They are, from left to right: Kisha Aquino, second; Viridiana Villarreal, third and Jackie Hyland, first. Teacher Cory Hendrickson assisted with the contest.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Winners of the 2017 Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 878 Voice of Democracy contest have been named. Carol Holman, VFW Auxiliary chairwoman for the competition, said the winners are Jackie Hyland, junior, first place; Kisha Aquino, sophomore, second place and Viridiana Villarreal, sophomore, third place. Cash prizes will be given in the amounts of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. The 2017 Voice of Democracy theme selected is “American History: Our Hope for the Future.” Hyland’s essay addressed the issue of standing to respect the American flag during the singing of the American National Anthem, rather than kneeling. “We must show respect for all of the veterans who have fought for us during many wars,” she explained.

Aquino wrote about not being divided because of color or race. “During the Civil War, many lost their lives for us,” she said. Villarreal wrote about hope, silence and exhaustion. She said hope drives people to the future. “Silence is what stops them and exhaustion can either make you stop or drive on more aggressively,” she said. Judges of the contest were Marilyn Witzel, Roger Sorenson and Nancy Vaillancourt. They looked at originality (30 points) during the judging process. Treatment of the theme must show imagination and human interest. Content is worth 35 points and delivery is worth 35 points. Hyland now advances to district competition. The VFW and its Auxiliary are dedicated to veterans service, legislative advocacy and military and community service programs. The VFW is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. For more information on the VFW, visit its website at www.vfw.org.



Cancer Corner

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



STAFF PHOTOS BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Julie Eischens yelled “Bingo” during the last game of the evening Thursday at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. With the win, Eischens took home a turkey, Hope butter and other Thanksgiving goodies. The Bingo night was a fundraiser for the BP Cancer Group.

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“Oh no, not again.” That was the refrain by Cheri Krejci at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie on Thursday night as she won three Bingo games and also won the first meat raffle at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group’s annual fundraiser. Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group, said 115 Bingo fans of all ages participated in this popular event. “I sure got flack but it all goes to a good cause,” Krejci said. She gave one of her turkeys to her sister, Cindy Owen and another to her friend, Rita Lutz. Last Thursday’s gathering was one of the largest BP Cancer Group Turkey Bingo crowd, said Krejci. “It’s a fun family outing,” she said. The event brought in over \$3,000. Most of the players were seated in the party room with an overflow group in the Pizza Cellar dining room. Bingo winners had their choice early in the evening to select a turkey breast, whole turkey or Hope butter. Twenty-six turkey breasts were donated by Jennie O Turkey Products. Arkema of Blooming Prairie donated six whole turkeys. Hope butter was provided by the Hope Creamery. “Blooming Prairie loves Hope butter,” Krejci said, explaining that they ran out of butter about half way through the night. Meat raffle tickets were also sold by volunteers Amy Trotman and Joanne Nielsen. Pam Folkens registered Bingo players and gave all the chance to sign up for a door prize. Connie Trom was the Bingo caller. By winning the final game, a blackout game, Julie Eischens claimed the Grand Prize, a turkey, Hope butter and other Thanksgiving goodies. Some turkeys remained after 25 games were played, therefore, organizers extended the winning string toward the end of the night. Another Bingo event, Jingo Bingo, is planned for the Pizza Cellar on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Twenty games at \$1 each will be played with winners receiving wrapped gifts. BP Cancer Group workers will wrap the gifts at a Christmas party in December. A holiday bake sale is also scheduled before, during and after Bingo. The sale will feature, lefse, Christmas cookies and snack mix. The BP Cancer Group board will meet in late December or early January to determine the donation amounts that go to the Eagles Telethon, the Hormel Institute and the BP Cancer Community Fund.



Bingo players represented all ages Nov. 16 at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. Tiny Kennedy Bishop says she is ready to play Bingo at a fundraising event for the BP Cancer Group.

Sponsored by



CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kruckebergs named citizens of the year in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

“The cat’s out of the bag.” This colloquialism could have been used to describe the news revealed at the 2017 annual meeting of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce. Greg Johnson, president of the Chamber, announced that local entrepreneur Dick Kruckeberg and his son, Craig Kruckeberg, will be honored on Thursday, Jan. 18 as Blooming Prairie’s 2017 Citizens of the Year. The Kruckebergs are linked with the origin of Minimizer and have worked to spread its image throughout the region, nation and the world. Dick founded the company and his son Craig is currently the chief executive officer and visionary of Minimizer. The recognition banquet will be held at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club. The Chamber currently has 119 members. More stories on the Kruckebergs and Minimizer will be coming in future issues of The Times. In addition to the announcement of the citizens of the year, another highlight of the annual meeting was to elect officers for the 2018 year. Greg Johnson was elected president. Dan Peach will be vice president. Both have served one year. Other officers elected include Sara Esplan, secretary and Joanne Nahlovsky, treasurer. During other business discussion, it was reported that the net profit from the 2017 Fourth of July celebration was \$3,948.82. Linda Klemmensen, chair of the Junior Entrepreneur program said a program for fifth graders will be done in early next year. President Johnson also said the Student Ambassadors program started by past President Luke Swenson, will continue with some new “twists.” The Chamber Holiday Dazzle event is planned for downtown Blooming Prairie on Friday, Dec. 1. President Johnson said fake snowballs will be distributed to guests who might win some valuable prizes. Becky Noble, executive director of the Chamber, shared her excitement about being a volunteer to promote Minnesota prior to and during the Super Bowl next Feb. 4 in Minneapolis. A Chamber After Hours Business Outing is planned for F & M State Bank on Dec. 20.

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STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

The gift of life

Judy Esplan of Blooming Prairie was one of 34 people who donated blood during the Red Cross Bloodmobile on Nov. 14. The Red Cross encourages people to give the gift of life this holiday season by donating blood as there is typically a decline in donations between Thanksgiving and New Years. There are two upcoming blood drives in Steele County on Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Medford Outlet Center and Nov. 29 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. at McKinley Elementary School in Owatonna.

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Dear Caregiving,

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

Medicaid Eligibility

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

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

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

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

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

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

You also need to be aware that your parent can't give away their

When Will Medicaid Pay for Nursing Home Care?

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

Caregiving Daughter

assets to qualify for Medicaid faster. Medicaid officials will look at their financial records going back five years to root out suspicious asset transfers. If they find one, their Medicaid coverage will be delayed a certain length of time, according to a formula that divides the transfer amount by the average monthly cost of nursing home care in their state.

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

Spousal Protection

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

What about Medicare?

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

Find Help

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

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

History from the News Archives

**10 Years Ago
Nov. 20, 2007**
Dan Evans, Publisher

BPHS Sophomore Dustin Fairbairn loves to bowl and does it exceedingly well. He recently competed in the Special Olympics regional bowling competition in Northfield and bowled his way to the first-place prize. He then went onto participate in the State Competition in Minneapolis and brought home both Silver and Bronze medals. Dustin, who started bowling when he was ten years old, has taken first place at the regional competition for the last three years. He competed with 600 other participants in Northfield this year and won his first prize by bowling 457 in two games.

**20 Years Ago
Nov. 18, 1997**
Elsie Slinger, Publisher

Last Saturday's first ever fire truck telethon was a huge success and adding to that success were firemen Darrell Hansen and Mark Symes who took the challenge of running down Main Street in their normal firemen's gear...boots, diapers and pink bras. A total of \$22,012 was raised in about two hours as KOWZ broadcast the telethon and accepted pledges in person and over the phone lines.

**50 Years Ago
Nov. 23, 1967**
Victor, Vernon & Vryle Krejci, Publishers

Robert A. Buss who has been associated with the First National Bank in Bloomington Prairie since Feb. 1, 1966, announced this week that he has accepted a position with the First National Bank of Milaca, Minn. Mr. Buss also reported that he has sold his home at 307 3rd St. NW in Bloomington Prairie to Keith Lorenzen and that he will move his family to Milaca as soon as suitable quarters are secured.

Theft of 3,000 feet of wire, owned by the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company occurred near Bloomington Prairie sometime last Friday night, according to Steele County Sheriff Bernard Coufal. The wire had been hauled from Austin to a point along Highway 218, near BP, last Friday evening and was to be laid the following morning. The wire was unwound from the two large reels, which was left behind by the thieves. The 50 point 19-gauge underground copper wire was valued at \$1 per foot, or \$3,000.

A 1965 Chevrolet, owned by Robert F. Perrier, was stolen sometime between 5:45 and 7:05 p.m. Nov. 18, from in front of his home in Bloomington Prairie. The vehicle was later found near Crosby, Minnesota, badly damaged and abandoned by a State Highway Patrolman. Mr. Perrier is an instrumental music director in the BP Public School System.

**75 Years Ago
Nov. 19, 1942**
Frank Krejci, Publisher

"Buddy" Floyd Robert Ward, son of Mrs. Pearl Ward, Bloomington Prairie, will have a hair-raising fighting story when he returns home that fade into oblivion the most exciting novel ever written by Haratio Alger. Ward, a torpedo man, third class, was one of the crew when the U.S. destroyer Smith carried out its assigned mission through an inferno of flames and exploding ammunition in the south Pacific in a naval battle with the Jap fleet. Young Ward graduated from BPHS in '36.

S.D. Mason and Lee Ord returned Monday from a deer hunting trip near Virginia. They are the first two hunters from this area to bring home two fine ten-point buck deer, two of the finest specimens seen in Bloomington Prairie for some years. Mr. Mason has hunted big game for 16 years, bagged a deer every season, but this is his first "ten-pointer." The animal weighed 183 pounds rough dressed.

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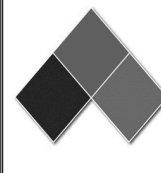


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How to cook a Thanksgiving turkey?

First, you shoot a turkey and pluck it's feathers and gut it, and cut it's head off.

2 You season it and put it in the oven

3 Then you take it out of the oven and let it cool off.

4 Then you get your family and tell them to bring food.

Mason Reeder

To make a turkey you have to go out and hunt you kill your turkey and bring it to the butcher shop and you get the part of the turkey that you eat. Then you cook it for about thirty minutes. It should be ready by then. Now you take it put it on a pan and put brown sugar on it. It's time to enjoy our turkey by eating it.

By: Aubrey Klocke

Kaylynn Nelson
36 Mrs. Johnson's class

How to cook a turkey

First i would get a turkey from hyvee in owatonna. Then, i would take the plastic off. Next, i would put it in the oven. Set the time i would check on it put some fruit and vegetables around it set the table put the turkey on the table. Last, i wait till everyone gets there and we would pay then eat the turkey and the fruit and vegetables then we would clean up go into my living room talk for a little bit then we would tell it's time to leave say good bye.



If you're not really sure how to prepare the turkey for this year's Thanksgiving feast, we set out to find some answers from the experts—third graders at Blooming Prairie Elementary School. Their responses have not been edited and are used in their original form. A special thanks to the third grade teachers—Becky Johnson, Angie Avery and Chelsea Van Roekel—for helping us with this project.

Happy Thanksgiving!

first you buy a turkey then you bring it home and you cook it. make shur you cook it the right temp or yull burn it when it is dun cooking let it coull of and eat it.

Lacey Haberman

frist you butcher a turck. Then you put it in a pan. Then you cook it in the uven for about one hour. then you let it cool off and then you eat it.

Cooper Foster

- Kate it.
- tak the Bag ote
- and Ko it
- ete it

Darontae Thomas

Frist buy a trkey. Seciht un palk the trkey. Frd coc it. For sin it.

Riley Smizolf

1. go to the grosser stower
2. git tiokey
3. put in the uvin
4. kut it git keckup
5. it a kit or ut the uvin
6. git Folne
7. et it
8. um um um um um um

Jaxon Studer

1. You buy a turkey then let it defrost.
2. ones its done defrosting you cook it.
3. you cut it in picies then you eat it.

Isabel King

To make a turkey you will need to put it in the oven For 20 min. Win it done you have to put on sail and peper on it and eat it.

Logan Beadell

frst we get the turkey. Secunt we get the turkey friyer. Thrd we get the cooking oile. fourth we cook it. Fith we eat the turkey!

Cole Lindeman

First I get the raw turkey. Second I get a pot to put the turkey in. Third I cook the turkey for one hour. Forth I get the turkey out of the oven. Fith I eat the turkey.

Maxwell Thoen

This is how I make a turkey. First thing is to get a turkey then you can cook the turkey. Then when it is done let it cool. Then when it is done cooling you can cut it up. Then you can eat it.

Bella Schiller

Kill a turkey then cut the skin off. Finaly you put it in the oven then when it is done you eat it.

Gabe Staloch

1. To make a turkey I would put come stuffing in the turkey to give the turkey a little taste.
2. Then I would cook the turkey for one hour and then the turkey is done.

Emmaleigh White

Cook the turtey in the ovre. and put soum gravey on it.

Wyatt Rafdal

I wude wosh the trcke and put it in the uven.

Amelia Buchera

Frist, ask somebody how to cook a turky. Second, you do what he told you to do. third, get the stuff next, do it last, theres your turky now. eat it.

Riley Johnson

First, I put tarkey in a pan thin i pot it in the uvier to lat it kak for an uwer. then, I ail tæk it out an tak the Gres an thin tn thin ie ui ckof it in pesis. Next, I wiel srutv it to miy faule Last, in thin ie wil ask with the ned ene theng.

Matthew Koster

First, I bue a Turkey. Then I put butter on it. Next I put it in the oven. Last I take it out let it cool off and eat it.

Gracelyn Anderson

first, I put my turkey into a pan and poor beer over it. Next, I put it in my gril. then, I smok it wait 50 min then i cook it last, I cut it up.

Hayden Miller

First, I buy a turkey Then, I put it a crookpot for a day or two Next, Put seasoning on the turkey and cut it Last, Eat up

Madisan Slowinski

first, grad a knife. Next, kill the turkey. then, peel the turkeis fethers and cut the turkeis hed off. Last, put the turkey in the oven and injoy.

Gavin Slowinski

Frst, I biye it. then, cuc it. Next, tac it out after an l ower. Last, cut it up and serve.

Eliot

Frst, I git a trke fume the stroe. Nak's, I pot it in the pot. Last I have a fest.

Willow Hageman

First, you buy the turky from the store. Then, you cook the turky in the oven. Next, cut up the turky in slices. Last, set out the turkey and enjoy.

Jayden Wencil

I buy the turkey then I take the plastic off. Then I put it in the oven. now I stuff it with stuffing. I smoke it with my grill.

David Clennon

1. grab a gun.
2. find a truky
3. shoot it.
4. cook it.

Dixie Swenson

First I buy or shoot the turkey. Then I put it I the pan and then the turkey is put in the oven. Next I take it out of the oven and put it in the smoker for 3 hours. Last I put it on the table and cut it.

Zachary H.

Frast, I get a mustroder then, I go to a grase areu Nexst, I sot the trce Last, I sesit it then I cock it

Caleb Peterson

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Hometown Living

Celebration of giving

Festival of Trees benefits developmentally disabled

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The Festival of Trees has always found a special spot in the heart of Judy Grannes of Owatonna.

After Grannes' son, Josh Barlow, was born with Down's syndrome many years ago, her other sons were given a tree from the Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser to raise awareness to those suffering from developmental disabilities. The festival also raises funds for the Advocates for Developmental Disabilities (ADD) serving Steele County.

At the time, Gopher Sport decorated her son's tree with sports memorabilia. It was a big hit for her athletic sons. "I will never forget that," Grannes said. "They gave us the tree to help our family," she added.

These days Grannes attends the Festival of Trees, which kicked off Friday night at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna, with her son, who

is now 28 years old. The trees will continue to be displayed through Saturday.

It proves to be an inspiring night for many families who deal with developmentally disabled children. The event raises more than \$30,000 to help the organization.

For Grannes, finding out she had a son with Down's syndrome was traumatic in the beginning for her family. She recalls being in the hospital and hearing other families share in happiness of newborn children just down the hall from her. "It was hard," she said. "It's like a death."

But Grannes has remained strong over the years and now looks at her disabled son with lots of joy. "He has taught us patience and compassion," she said. "He has also taught us how to love and not be judgmental. He makes us laugh and laugh all the time."

Because of the difficult times, Grannes believes it has helped make her two older sons wonderful people.

Grannes said she has a

hard time with how some people have treated her son in the past. "I hate when people stare at Josh," she said. She added she hopes to help teach and educate others about how to handle people with disabilities.

"They are kids first and disability second," Grannes said.

Barlow still lives with his mother and her husband, Paul, who has developed a special bond with him since he became part of the family 14 years ago. "I wanted to make a difference in somebody's life and I sure have with Josh," Paul said. "He means the world to me. He is why I'm here. I married the package deal. Josh is our special one," he added.

The festival is also a special time for Rian and Jennifer Copeland of Owatonna. Their 14-year-old daughter was born blind. "This gets you into the Christmas spirit," Jennifer said.

For Rian, the festival is a way for his family to give back to the group and promote



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Judy and Paul Grannes celebrated the Festival of Trees with their son Josh Barlow (left) who is developmentally disabled Friday night at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna. The fundraiser helps raise awareness to those who have developmental disabilities.

disability awareness.

The Copelands said when their daughter was born, they had no experience with handling disabilities. The ADD group has helped them to network with others who have similar experiences and needs.

Jennifer credits ADD for operating KOOL Kids on the Block, a disability awareness/ bullying prevention program offered in the school districts throughout the county. The

program gives other children insight into the challenges facing developmentally disabled people.

"You have to focus on the positives or it's going to be a very long road," said Jennifer. "As a parent you have to be their advocate."

This was the 27th annual Festival of Trees event. During the fundraiser, ADD raises money from tree sponsors, a silent auction and raffle drawings.

"Working individually and through organizations and businesses, ADD supporters and volunteers help us expand opportunities, enhance the quality of life for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families," said Laurie Running, executive director of ADD. "I am thankful for my relationship with so many remarkable individuals who have helped ADD carry out its mission."

Pick your Scrooge

Annual holiday campaign underway in BP



ALYSSA RESSLER



AARON RESSLER



NICK SCHIEFERT



RACHEL PIRKL

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The campaign is on in Blooming Prairie to determine who will be Scrooge in 2017.

Scrooge competition started in 2005 when the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of

Commerce was looking for a way to fund and replace some Christmas lights in the city.

This year's candidates are Alyssa Ressler, Bunkie's; Aaron Ressler, Bunkie's; Nick Schiefert, Dairy Queen and Rachel Pirk1, 2017 Blooming Prairie High School Homecoming Queen.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a fictional character of Charles Dickens' 1843 novella, A Christmas Carol. Scrooge is a cold-hearted miser who despises Christmas.

The first Scrooge was Jerry Ingvalson, local former. He took the title with pride as have most Scrooges, said Becky Noble, executive director of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ultimate Scrooge competition was held in 2011 with past Scrooges competing against each other. Marlin Miner was the Ultimate Scrooge.

As many as five Scrooge candidates have been in the running for this envied title. Now, the competition is limited to four candidates.

The selection of a Scrooge is done by donating money to a jar carrying the name and photo of a candidate. Jars are located at the Cue Company, Dairy Queen, J & H Liquors, Bunkie's and B to Z Hardware.

Christmas in the Village: A Timeless Tradition



Steele Talkin'
STEPHANIE
KIBLER

A tapestry of holiday traditions, Christmas in the Village offers a unique holiday experience throughout the Steele County Historical Society campus. The luminary lit Village of Yesteryear and the History Center come alive with food, crafts, music and more, with a horse drawn wagon to take you across the campus.

Sponsored by Randall's License Bureau of Owatonna, this family friendly event has a little something for everyone. Christmas in the Village is held Friday, Dec., 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We open Friday evening with the Soup Supper with your choice of homemade wild rice soup or chili, bread, a beverage, and a fancy holiday cookie. Cost is \$7 per person and proceeds benefit the SHCS hands-on educational programming and exhibitions. Hotdogs are available for purchase for children under 12. Tickets are available at the History Center and can be purchased in advance or the night of the supper. The soup supper is sponsored by Rocon.

A highlight of the event is the lavishly decorated Dunnell Mansion. The historic mansion will feature different holiday themes designed and decorated by local decorators and community groups. Enjoy holiday music in the parlor, and purchase fancy cookies in the kitchen. There will be inspiration at every turn.

Other features include cookie decorating, lefse demo, hands-on holiday crafts including Santa Lucia crowns and cocoa gift bags.

Both days offer a wide range of musical talent in the History Center, Dunnell House and Saco Church, as well as strolling carolers. Visit us on Facebook for a list of the performers. Steele Waseca Co-op Electric is sponsor of the music in the History Center.

New this year, Gingerbread House Competition, local bakers will compete for the crown! The challenge is to select a building in the Village of Yesteryear or another historic location in Steele County. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on the houses.

Be sure to visit the County Junction, A Gift Shop in Time, for unique gift items, many of which are locally crafted specialty gift items or peruse the wide range of locally authored books. You are sure to find something unique for everyone on your holiday shopping list!

The holiday fun continues on Sunday, Dec. 3 with the "Holiday Home Tour" from 12-5 p.m. The tour of beautiful Owatonna homes and historic sites decked out for the holiday season include: Dr. Megan Rogers and Tom Sarac, 438 Cherry St., Owatonna; Dave and Ruth Smith, 2445 Mossy Creek Dr., Owatonna; Denny and Kim King, 505 Braemar Place, Owatonna; Cottage #11, 540 West Hills Cir., Owatonna; Dunnell House, 1448 Austin Road, Owatonna; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 220 Cedar Ave. South, Owatonna (opens at 12:30); and, Ryan and Julia Seykora, 717 South Elm Ave., Owatonna.

Tickets available in advance for \$20 at Kottke Jewelers, Tri M Graphics, Lerberg's Foods, A Touch of Charm, the Steele County History Center and at the homes the day of the tour.

The SCHS staff and board members wish all of Steele County a happy and healthy holiday season.

Stephanie Kibler is the meetings and special events manager at the Steele County Historical Society. Steele Talkin' is a regular column written by various authors representing groups and organizations throughout Steele County.

NRHEG inducts 17 into National Honor Society



Seventeen students from NRHEG have been inducted into the National Honor Society. The school held a ceremony honoring the new inductees Nov. 14. Pictured in amongst the new inductees are the 2016 inductees. Front row (left to right): Talli Wayne, Emily Prigge, Kelly Harden, Kyra Possin, Justin Mortensen, Ben Lewer, Benji Lundberg, Evan Dobberstein, Christopher Stenzel, Makenzi Rhoades, Nikita Peterson, Lillian Bell, Betsy Schoenrock; middle row: Emily Crabtree, Michelle Katzung, Lexie Ignaszewski, Aubrey Johnson, Emma Tollefson, Alexis Anderson, Olivia Christopherson, Lawren Deml, Jayna Finseth; back row: Rachel Horejsi, Caitlin Goette, Tyler Jacobson, Aaron Olson, Cole Thompson, Karennia Strom, Hailey Westrum and Brooke Wobschall.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The outstanding work and achievements of 17 NRHEG High School students were recognized Nov. 15 at the school's annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

"I'm honestly ecstatic about being inducted into NHS," 2017 inductee Caitlin Goette said. "I remember watching the ceremony my ninth grade year and thinking how I really wanted to get on that. I've always strived for that and good grades are something that has always been a goal for me."

"Being inducted and being on that stage was so surreal for me," she continued. "I'm just glad and happy I accomplished what I was hoping for. Being a

part of NHS will help greatly with scholarships and it will look good on my resume, but most importantly, it will provide new opportunity for me in my future."

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

"Being a part of the National Honor Society is a really big honor at our school," 2016 inductee Kyra Possin said. "It's rewarding because you get to

do fun service projects that help people. We did a blood drive in the spring and last year we did Operation Christmas Child. It's really inspiring, but it also really warms the heart."

Talli Wayne, a 2016 inductee, began the ceremony with a welcome. That was followed by Principal David Bunn and counselor Tim Stoesz introducing the present members and announcing the new inductees.

All juniors and seniors who attend NRHEG High School for at least the immediately preceding semester and have at least a 3.4 cumulative GPA were eligible for consideration.

Faculty members are asked to rate each student whom they know well on a scale of 1-5 in each of the areas of character, leadership, scholarship and

service.

"Being a part of National Honor Society is really important to me," 2016 inductee Ben Lewer said. "When you put National Honor Society on your application, it showed potential employers and colleges that not only are you involved and dedicated to your community, but that the four pillars of NHS are important to you."

The entire faculty voting is tabulated so that each student who was rated is given an average score.

A committee of five to seven high school staff, including the principal and NHS advisor, forms the final selection committee.

"I'm so honored that I was chosen," 2017 inductee Hailey Westrum said. "I know there were a lot of people who were up for it. Being selected makes me feel so special."

Stoesz said all of the students selected have strong grades, but grades are not the only thing taken into consideration.

"They're kids who show leadership by being involved in the classroom and other activities," Stoesz said. "Probably one of the biggest things is that they try to be a positive influence on their peers."

The new honor society members include: seniors, Emily Crabtree, Michelle Katzung, Aaron Olson, Cole Thompson and Emma Tollefson; juniors, Alexis Anderson, Olivia Christopherson, Lawren Deml, Jayna Finseth, Caitlin Goette, Rachel Horejsi, Lexie Ignaszewski, Tyler Jacobson, Aubrey Johnson, Karennia Strom, Hailey Westrum and Brooke Wobschall.

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Nov. 22
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
Nov. 23
6th Annual Gobble Wobble, Take off from BP Youth Club
Nov. 28
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
6 p.m. – Book Club Meeting, BP Library
Dec. 1
Holiday Dazzle, BP Businesses
Dec. 2
Noon – 3 p.m. – BP Outback Bowl Dance Team Fundraiser, Bunkie's



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Nov. 22
11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donative Drive, Family Video in Owatonna
5:30 p.m. – 50+ Fit and Flex Workshop, Sollid Yoga
Nov. 24
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donation Drive, Medford Outlet Center
Nov. 25
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. – Small Business Saturday, Local Small Businesses
Nov. 27
4 p.m. – HRA Meeting, City Administration Building
Nov. 28
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, Owatonna Library
4 p.m. – Owatonna Public Utilities Commission Meeting, Morehouse Meeting Room
6 p.m. – United Way's CommUnity! Feast and Dialogue, Owatonna Middle School
6:30 p.m. – Preschool STEM Night, Owatonna Library
Nov. 30
Lighted Holiday Parade, Downtown Owatonna

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Nov. 24
4 p.m. – After Prom Meeting, NR High School Gym
Nov. 27
7 p.m. – NRHEG Elementary Holiday Concert, Ellendale Elementary Gym North
Nov. 28
6:15 p.m. – ECFE Adventures in Parenting Class, Ellendale Preschool Room
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North

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 – 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Nov. 28, Mower County Senior Citizens Center
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

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 course will be in Bloomington Prairie on Dec. 4 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the BP City Center.

The eight-hour first time course will be in Albert Lea on 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.

SNAPSHOTS: MEMORIES, MOMENTS, MUSIC COMING TO LTO

Little Theatre of Owatonna is excited to reveal its performances and many of its performers for the one-weekend-only 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 on Nov. 25. The LTO Box Office will open Nov. 27.

FAIR FARMLAND RENTAL AGREEMENT MEETING IN THE AREA

University of Minnesota Extension is hosting a Fair Farmland Rental Agreement Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m. at the Steele County Community Center, 1380 S. Elm St. in

Owatonna.

The meeting is designed to assist land owners, farmers and agri-business professionals with farm financial issues related to farmland rental rates, ownership, management, leasing agreements and related issues. It will last approximately two hours. Extension Educator Dave Bau will be presenting.

NORWEGIAN MEATBALL SUPPER COMING TO OWATONNA

The Owatonna Sons of Norway Nortonna Lodge will host a Norwegian Meatball Supper on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road.

The menu will include authentic Norwegian meatballs, parslid potatoes, mashed rutabagas, peas with pearl onions, beet pickles, lefse, Norwegian riskrem and coffee.

Cost is \$14 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under.

This is the seventh annual Norwegian Meatball Supper, held as part of the Christmas in the Village and Hometown Holiday weekend every year. Proceeds from the supper will go to scholarships for youth to attend Norwegian language camps and for lodge programs.

Tickets may be ordered ahead of time by calling DeeAnn Pettyjohn at 507-451-8644 or purchased at the door, if they are not sold out.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS ANNUAL LADIES CHRISTMAS TEA

First Baptist Church in Bloomington Prairie invites the ladies of Bloomington 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.

LEARN ABOUT CHRISTMAS AT THE STATE SCHOOL IN OWATONNA

The Steele County Historical Society invites you to join us for Jr. History Detectives and History Detectives, interactive children's programming on Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Steele County History Center.

Christmas, at least for most

people, is a very joyful time of year. This was not always true for the children of the State School here in Owatonna. Life could also be very difficult for these children. They had no parents and no real true home. Discipline could be very strict as well. But Christmas still brought some joy into their lives. We will look at Christmas at the State School and what it meant for these children. Anne Peterson, Museum Director, is our guest instructor for this session.

Jr. History Detectives will meet at 9 a.m. and is open to Pre-K children in Steele County. History Detectives will meet at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all children grades K-6 in Steele County.

These free children's programs are offered on the first Thursday of each month.

SEARCH KICKS OFF FOR MISS TEEN STEELE COUNTY

If you are female, single, never been married between the ages of 13 to 18 years, applications are being accepted for the title of 2018 Miss Teen Steele County.

Miss Teen Steele County will represent her county at the Miss Teen Minnesota pageant, which will be held at the Wellstone Center, April 28, 2018 in St. Paul.

The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Steele County will become an ambassador from the Steele County area and will receive an official title and sash.

The young lady chosen as Miss Teen Minnesota will receive a prize package and College scholarship totaling \$30,000 and the chance to represent Minnesota at the 2018 Miss Teen International pageant in Charleston, W. Va. in July. The American Heart Association's Go for Red for Women is the official Charity of the Miss Teen Minnesota Pageant.

Teens will compete in personal interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown. There is no talent or swimsuit competition. Young teen ladies living in Steele County interested in applying should write for bio-form to: Miss Teen Minnesota International Pageant, P. O. Box 240537, Apple Valley, MN, 55124-0537. Information can also be obtained by calling 952-432-6758 or email at pagunltd@frontiernet.net.

The current reigning 2017 Miss Teen Minnesota is Devika Narayan of Plymouth. As Miss Teen Minnesota, Devika speaks out on “Hope in Memories: Alzheimer's Find Hope & Find a Cure!” Entry deadline is Dec. 31.





MADISON SCHULTZ

NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Madison Schultz. Madison resides in Ellendale with her parents, Jeff and Ashley Schultz. She is in Mrs. Jensen's Kindergarten class.

Madison always has such a positive attitude. She loves helping others and is always showing Panther Pride in the hallway by walking quietly and keeping her hands to herself. She is a great example of what Panther Pride looks like.

Madison likes to jump on the trampoline, play with her brother, and help clean the house. She also loves to play at the pumpkin store at school.

Keep up the great work Madison!



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PBS





- **BAR BINGO:** Monday, 6:30 p.m.
- **BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB:** Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m. December Holiday Get-together, Jan. 30, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 8: Season Final
- **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
J&H OFF-SALE—Wine tastings and treats, holiday wine sale, register for door prizes
- **HOLIDAY DAZZLE DOWNTOWN:** Dec. 1
- **HARVEY'S HOLIDAY CHEER:** Dec. 16

CLOSED DEC. 24, 25, 31 & JAN. 1

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FFA kicks off toy drive

Annual campaign to help Ronald McDonald House

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Giving can be even more rewarding than receiving, says Bloomington Prairie FFA (Future Farmers of America) treasurer Kaiden Finley.

Finley, a sophomore at Bloomington Prairie High School, is the lead organizer on this year's toy drive, which benefits the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. He urges the Bloomington Prairie community to support the drive.

The Ronald McDonald House is a facility made available to families with youngsters visiting the clinic with life threatening diseases. Families can stay on the Ronald McDonald premises.

The drive started this past Monday and will continue to Dec. 10. FFA members and their advisor, Bill (Rink) Rinkenberger will deliver the goodies to the RMH.

Rinkenberger, who also is an agricultural education instructor at BPHS, said the project was something he thought about implementing many years ago and finally made it a reality in 2015.

Three years ago, local FFA chapter members started a collection of donations and then delivered them to the Ronald McDonald House. Items delivered include toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, cleaning supplies,

etc.

The idea came to Rinkenberger 15 years ago when he was undergoing treatment for cancer at the Mayo Clinic. During one of his first visits, he toured the clinic on his own and found himself in the children's wing.

He realized that these youngsters were fighting cancer and other critical illnesses. “It's a humbling experience,” Rinkenberger said.

Since Christmas was right around the corner, Rinkenberger thought it would be a good idea to give these kids some presents.

Chapter members are aggressively collecting donations of toys for elementary-aged children. Monetary donations can also be given.

Toys can be delivered to the high school, elementary school or the Prairie Manor Care Center, all in Bloomington Prairie.

Last year, a BP High School teacher donated a vintage John Deere tractor to the drive.

Finley said he, fellow FFA chapter member Rachel Thompson and Rinkenberger delivered the gifts last year on a very cold day, temperatures as low as 23 degrees below zero. “We were not able to see the kids open the presents but were told that the gifts were truly appreciated,” Finley commented.



Submitted Photo
Kaiden Finley, Bloomington Prairie FFA treasurer

Finley did get a chance to talk to some of the young patients. “The best thing in the world is putting smiles on kids' faces and also on workers' faces,” he added.

“It means a lot to help families you have not met before and be able to show your appreciation for what these kids are going through,” said Finley.

“It's a way of giving back to the community,” remarked Rinkenberger. He and his older brother were both treated for cancer and both are now cancer free.

Most of the Bloomington Prairie FFA chapter's 43 members are actively working on this project.

Finley has worked on the project each year it has been done. He lives on a farm near Oakland and some day hopes to take over the family farm.

Blotter spotlight: Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of State Ave. NW at 9:02 p.m.

CRIME BRIEFS

Gun incidents lead to property damage

A gun incident allegedly involving a person shooting an air-powered BB gun at others in a home has led to felony charges.



Moreno

Omar Moreno Jr. of Owatonna faces first-degree criminal damage to property for the incident on Adams Avenue on Nov. 12. No one was injured during the incident, but damages may exceed \$1,000 with cracked windows, torn screens and dents to a steel door, according to police.

During the initial incident, Moreno was named as a suspect, but not located. He allegedly returned an hour later and caused more damage, police said.

On Nov. 13, police investigated a BB gun incident in which four vehicles traveling on South Oak Avenue were all shot at and reported vehicle damage. The investigation led officers to the 400 block of South Oak Avenue. Officers located Moreno, who was wearing clothes that matched the description from the previous incident.

In the presence of the officer, a parent found a BB gun under her son's mattress, police said. Officers took Moreno into custody.

I had a citizen make the suggestion recently that law enforcement officers here in Dodge County don't deal with the same kind of threats that some of the bigger agencies deal with –



Behind the Badge
SCOTT ROSE

implying that our officers are overpaid for the work they do. The reality is the threats we deal with in a smaller community like Dodge County are very much the same as the bigger agencies. We deal with the same problems and challenges - sometimes on a smaller scale and less frequent, often times with greater risk to our officers.

I pulled calls from this past weekend and found that Dodge County (not including Kasson PD and West Concord PD) had over 100 calls for service. Some of the higher priority officer safety calls were as follows:

- Suicidal subject with weapon
- Suspicious activity call/burglary
- Suspicious activity call/burglary
- Burglary/suspect ran on foot
- Suspicious vehicle/gun shots
- Suspicious person/school playground
- Person breaking into vehicles
- Threats – suspect threatening in field armed
- Threats – suspect threatening to damage to home
- Threats— suspect threatening to kill complainant
- Warrant arrest – subject wanted in two counties for narcotics

NARCOTICS COMPLAINTS

All too often in smaller communities like ours the challenges and risks our deputies and officers take during their regular shifts go unreported, which sometimes results in a somewhat skewed sense of security. This is certainly not a reflection on our local media, it's merely a reflection of law enforcement's distrust of media in general. Many in law enforcement often feel it's a lose/lose proposition dealing with the media in some areas of the state and country. If there's a lot of crime being reported – people feel the cops aren't doing their jobs. If there is no crime being reported – people feel the cops aren't doing their jobs. Fortunately, we live in a great community here in Dodge County that generally is very supportive of law enforcement – support we also see from our local newspapers and TV stations.

Several communities that had line of duty deaths in the U.S. this year are smaller communities like ours, including the Aitkin County murder of Investigator Steve Sandberg. This doesn't even touch the issue of assaults on officers nationwide - over 48,000 officers assaulted in 2014.

The biggest difference we see with smaller rural community law enforcement is they don't have back up officers available within seconds or a few minutes like in the bigger cities. Our backup could be 15 minutes or more away – sometimes much longer with smaller rural agencies. In a force encounter where someone struggles with an officer, that officer can hit his/her personal fatigue threshold as soon as 30-60 seconds after the start of a struggle depending on the circumstances. If an officer knows he/she is nearing their fatigue threshold, they must

act quickly to control the subject(s). In this case it's often necessary for the officer to escalate to a greater level of force than may otherwise appear objectively reasonable. This is where we often see excessive use of force allegations – allegations that are often unfounded once all the facts are reviewed. Cell phone videos and short news stories rarely ever tell the “rest of the story” when it comes to the realities of a violent law enforcement confrontation.

Our deputies and officers deal with all the stresses, problems and concerns felt in the bigger agencies. They're on heightened alert daily due to the violence against law enforcement nationwide – they are on guard at work and they are on guard off-duty with their families. Their families also deal with a tremendous amount of stress with all the negative publicity towards law enforcement. They watch their loved ones walk out the door and pray each day and night that they come home safe at the end of their shift.

The men and women that serve as deputies and officers here in Dodge County and greater Southeast Minnesota do take on the same risk as any metro officers every day they come to work. The next time you see your local officer out working day and night, in good weather and in bad, on the weekends, and on holidays – remember the sacrifices they and their families make for your safety everyday they put on that badge and uniform. If anything, they are very underpaid for what they do.

Your Sheriff,
Scott

Scott Rose is in his first term as sheriff of Dodge County. He took office in January after being elected to the top spot last fall.

POLICE BLOTTER
Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Nov. 9

Burglary: Officers began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:18 a.m.
Trespassing: Police responded to a subject trespassing in the 400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 8:24 a.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 11:24 a.m.
Hit and Run: At 7:25 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:55 p.m.

Nov. 10

Medical: Police assisted with a medical emergency in the 100 block of 24th St. NE at 9:11 a.m.
Child Protection: Police took a child protection report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 10:50 a.m.
Hit and Run: At 10:51 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 600 block of 14th St. SE.

Nov. 11

Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 800 block of 14th St. SE at 12:58 a.m.
Restraining Order: Police responded to a restraining order violation in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 5:02 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:47 p.m.

Nov. 12

Runaway: At 12:23 a.m., police assisted with a runaway in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. NW. They arrested a juvenile at the scene.
Death: Police began a death investigation in the 200 block of Cedar Cove Lane NW at 10:19 a.m.
Child Protection: Officers received a child protection report from the 600 block of Hilltop Ave. SW at 10:55 a.m.
Shoplifting: Officer arrested a juvenile for shoplifting in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 11:35 p.m.

Nov. 13

Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 9:05 a.m.
Animal Bite: At 4:27 p.m., officer received a report of an animal bite in the 500 block of Main St. E.
Domestic: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of McKinley St. W. at 4:34 p.m.
Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 5:14 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 5:30 p.m. and the 400 block of Oak Ave. S. at 5:39 p.m.
Weapons: Police responded to weapons-related incidents in the 700 block of 18th St. SE at 5:46 p.m. and the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 5:47 p.m.
Theft: Officer took a theft report in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:40 p.m.
Fight: At 6:56 p.m., a fight occurred in the 300 block of Glendale Place NW.

Nov. 14

Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:53 p.m.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 100 block of Rose St. W. at 2:59 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 6:03 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred at 26th St. NE and Hemlock Ave. NE.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of State Ave. NW at 9:02 p.m.
Child Protection: Police received a child protection report from the 700 block of Truman Ave. SE at 11:02 p.m.

Nov. 15

Warrant: Officer made a warrant arrest in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 9 a.m.
Predatory Offender: At 1 p.m., officers handled a predatory offender incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.
Fraud: Officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:40 p.m.
Shoplifting: Officer issued a shoplifting incident in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 6:44 p.m.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported at Bridge St. W.

and Oak Ave. S. at 7:39 p.m. and in the 800 block of Oak Ave. S. at 11:21 p.m.

Nov. 16

Death: Officers began a death investigation in the 700 block of 17th St. NE at 4:29 a.m.
Burglary: Police responded to a burglary in the 300 block of Grove Ave. S. at 9:04 a.m.
Warrant: Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 10:50 a.m.
Property Damage: Officer took a vandalism report in the 300 block of Oak Ave. S. at 1:08 p.m.
Shoplifting: A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:39 p.m.
Hit and Run: At 2:07 p.m., a hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 1600 block of Cedar Ave. S.
Animal: Police responded to an animal bite in the 1400 block of Sunset Dr. SW at 5:13 p.m.
Thefts: Police took reports of thefts from vehicles in the 1500 block of Elm Ave. S. at 5:52 p.m. and 8:22 p.m. and the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 6:40 p.m.
Ordinance: Officer issued a citation for an ordinance violation at Mann St. SW and Linn Ave. SW at 11:46 p.m.

STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF

Nov. 9

Arrest: Deputy arrested a motorist during a traffic stop in Interstate 35 northbound in Somerset Township at 1:03 a.m.

Nov. 10

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 4600 block of County Road 45 N. in Clinton Falls Township at 2:15 p.m.
Child Protection: Deputies received a child protection report from the 700 block of 5th St. S. in Ellendale at 4:02 p.m.

Nov. 11

Hit and Run: Deputies

assisted the State Patrol with a hit and run accident with injuries at Highway 14 E. and 54th Ave. SE in Havana Township at 5:05 a.m.

Crash: Deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Interstate 35 southbound and 26th St. NW in Owatonna at 5:24 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Accident: A motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 4500 block of Dane Road in Havana Township at 5:39 p.m.

Nov. 12

DWI: Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at Interstate 35 southbound and Bridge St. W. in Owatonna at 1:42 a.m.

Nov. 13

Theft: Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 4:19 a.m.

Nov. 14

Medical: At 2:02 p.m., a medical emergency occurred in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE in Medford.
Vandalism: Property damage was reported in the 300 block of School St. in Ellendale at 4:20 p.m.

Nov. 16

Burglary: Deputies responded to a burglary in the 53000 block of 48th St. SW in Meriden Township at 11:54 a.m.

ARREST

Steele County

OWATONNA POLICE

Samuel Christian Bolton, 19, arrested at 8:33 a.m. Nov. 14, felony probation violation apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.
Omar Moreno Jr., 19, arrested at 9:41 p.m. Nov. 14, felony criminal damage to property,

FIRE

Owatonna

Nov. 10

Hazardous Condition: Fire personnel responded to a hazardous condition in the 100 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:38 p.m.

Nov. 11

Medical: At 5:07 a.m., a medical emergency occurred in the 5400 block of Hwy. 14 E.

Crossword solution

			S	C	O	N	C	E				H	A	S
	A	G	O	U	T	I	E	S				H	A	E
	L	O	L	L	I	P	O	P				T	A	Y
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B	A	S	I	L	I	C	A					Y	I	
	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	
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Attorneys Frank Henefield and Jason Iacovino

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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 PER-
SONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDI-
TORS

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@owatonna-lawyers.com

11/14, 11/21

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 pend-

ing 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.
HIVISTENDAHL, 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.
HIVISTENDAHL, 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 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.

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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-17-2085

NOTICE OF INFORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSON-
AL REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of
Dona R. Hadland,
Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated 01/23/98, codicil(s) to the will dated and separated writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 dated ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Melanie D. Cook, whose address is: 406 S. Range Rd., Springfield, MN 56087, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to the appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with Court (pursuant to Minn. Stat. 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

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

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 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.

Kim Schmitz
11/15/2017
Registrar

11/14, 11/21

FORECLOSURE

17-107494

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

OF THE NOTICE: \$103,204.26 THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: October 19, 2017, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on April 19, 2018, or the next business day if April 19, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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3-WEEK SPECIAL: \$32
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER



FOR SALE



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1 bdrm apt., NS/NP, avail. Nov. 1st \$600.00 mo. plus deposit. Call Sally @ 507-273-9244. 44tfc
Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 44tfc
Hayfield, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc
KASSON, 1 BR apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! 1bd smoke free apt in Blooming Prairie for 62+ or disabled persons. 2nd floor units, rent based on income & ALL utilities included! 507-438-7935 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704. Equal Housing Opportunity. 47-48c;49nc
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS! 1bd smoke free apt in Kasson

for 62+ disabled persons. Pets allowed with \$300 deposit. Month to month leases & deposit payment plans/ 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 47-48p; 49nc, 50c

FOR RENT: Bedroom, bathroom, & TV Room. In Kasson, female only. References required. Call 603-1196 between 5pm-7pm. 48,49,50p

FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc
GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for \$9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc
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Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation.

GARAGE SALE

314 1st St. NE, Kasson: Inside. Fri. & Sat. Garage/ Moving sale (make offers). 4' x 7' (2) piece hutch, 30 1/2" cement girl golf statue, metal detector, eagles, horse & wagon collections; 1939 John Deere model 'B' 1/8 scale, pole bird feeders, mirrors, tools, collectibles, big set of dishes, sewing cabinets, Xmas lights & much more.

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Kari Schwartz at

kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com

120 4th ST NE, Stewartville, MN

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Please send resume to:

Stewartville Care Center Attn: Administrator 120 Fourth Street NE, Stewartville MN. 55976.

Can also apply online at: www.stewartvillecarecenter.com or email resume to: kschwartz@stewartvillecarecenter.com

Affirmative Action Employer



MOWER COUNTY Public Works Equipment Operator

Starting wage is \$19.69 – \$21.85/hour based upon experience. This full-time union position is in the Highway-Public Works Department. Responsible for conducting maintenance and repair activities on assigned portions of County roads, highways and bridges. Maintains and cares for assigned pieces of equipment; blades and grades gravel roads; assists in the plowing and sanding of roads; hauling of construction and maintenance materials; and operating paving, loaders, and backhoes in the paving or maintenance/repair of roads and culverts.

Position requires a high school diploma and two years of experience operating a variety of maintenance and construction equipment. A valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class A and MNDOT health card are position requirements at entry.

Mower County offers an excellent benefit package including health, life, disability, retirement, and paid time off.



APPLICATIONS AND A JOB APPLICATION ATTACHMENT FOR THIS POSITION ARE AVAILABLE AT: **Mower County Human Resources, 201 1st Street NE, Ste. 12, Lower Level, Austin, MN 55912 (507-437.9533) or online at www.co.mower.mn.us.** Resumes will not be accepted in place of application forms. Open until filled. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by noon on November 27, 2017.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 10/24/17
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Krueger/Gnemi to approve the agenda.

A. Approve the October 10, 2017 and October 12, 2017 Special Board Minutes.

B. Approve the Bills.

C. Approve Personnel Report.

D. Accept Land Use & Records Minutes.

E. Accept Public Works Minutes

F. Accept Public Safety Minutes

G. Approve purchasing a chair and a sit/stand desktop workstation for the Treasurer's Office in the amount of \$664.75 through the Compliance fund.

H. Approve Out of State travel for Steele County Community Emergency Response Team to attend the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

2. The Steele Spotlight featured employees of the Steele County Landfill who gave a presentation on their operations.

3. Gnemi/Glynn to approve the 2016 Audit Report as presented by Sarah Utsch, Audit Engagement Manager of CliftonLarsonAllen. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady voting against.

4. Director Jane Hardwick and Finance Manager Kevin Venenga of MN Prairie County Alliance gave an update of the activities through the 2nd quarter of 2017.

5. Glynn/Gnemi to approve the Employment Contract between Steele County and the new County Administrator Scott Golberg. Ayes all.

6. Krueger/Gnemi to appoint Scott Golberg as Steele County Administrator effective October 30, 2017. Ayes all.

7. Glynn/Gnemi to amend the Independent Contract Agreement between Steele County and Fransen HR Consulting, LLC to extend the term of the agreement to November 9, 2017. Ayes all.

8. Krueger/Gnemi to reappoint Rene Gilormini as the Veterans Service Officer for a four-year term through October 4, 2021. Ayes all.

9. Gnemi/Abbe to set the date for a work session to continue discussions regarding the 2018 Budget for November 9, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Ayes all.

10. Glynn/Gnemi to award the bid to Dean Schroeder in the amount of \$5,631 for leasing approximately 77 acres of farmland located in the E ½ of Section 28, Aurora Township for the 2018-2019 season. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof and Commissioner Brady abstained.

11. Abbe/Glynn offered a Resolution to enter into a Contract with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Natural Resources to assist in maintaining stream stage gages on the Straight and Maple Rivers in Owatonna. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.

12. Krueger/Abbe to approve joining the MCCC Joint Powers Tax Court User Group to access web based software to share cross County tax court data and authorize the County Assessor to sign the service agreement effective November 1, 2017. Ayes all.

13. Krueger/Abbe to authorize the Assessor to hire an outside appraisal firm for Lowe's Tax Court Case not to exceed \$40,000. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioner voted in favor thereof and Commissioner Gnemi abstained.

LISTING OF BILLS
10/24/2017

30th Place LLC	17,412.61
AMCON	20,037.00
Axon Enterprise Inc	2,907.63
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	2,950.00
Borneke Construction Inc	123,861.95
Braun Intertec Eng Inc	9,410.00
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	9,015.00
Cerberus LLC	2,949.00
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	23,950.00
Crane Creek Asphalt	2,060.42
Erickson Engineering Co LLC	10,564.30
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	2,000.00
Kronos Incorporated	3,228.72
L & L Street Rods & Sport Trucks	2,225.00
Local Government Information Systems	29,477.00
MCCC MI 33	5,612.11

Medford Sand & Gravel LLC	2,236.11
Metro Sales Inc	2,363.92
Microsoft	8,735.89
Mike's Repair	4,956.24
Mn Counties Intergovernmental Trust	2,500.00
Motorola Solutions Inc	10,129.70
Owatonna Park and Recreation	7,220.00
RCM Specialties Inc	4,578.05
Rocon Incorporated	26,798.93
Schultz Excavating	35,720.00
SHI International Corp	53,016.00
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	27,858.07
Steele County Revenue	6,115.00
Steele County Treasurer	12,271.10
Summit Food Service Management	4,743.17
Univ of Mn Regents	44,673.46
Waste Management of Wi-Mn	51,379.49
WSB & Associates Inc	17,812.50
129 Warrants under \$2,000	65,446.18
Total:	\$ 656,214.55

Motion by Commissioner Gnemi, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 6:13 p.m. Ayes all.

11/21

STEELE COUNTY

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 10/18/2017
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Krueger/Glynn to approve the agenda for an emergency meeting. Ayes all.

2. Abbe/Gnemi to approve the quote from L&M Boilers to replace the boiler at the Annex building in the amount of \$48,567.00. Gnemi/Krueger to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 7:48 a.m. Ayes all.

11/21

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Upcoming Events

Nov. 23: City of Owatonna offices closed
Nov. 24: SeniorPlace closed
Nov. 27: Strength Circuit Training Session 11 begins
Nov. 28: Owatonna Park & Rec winter brochure released
November 30: Swim Registration Opens
Dec. 1: River Springs Water Park Family/Individual memberships and Coupon Books for the 2018 season available!
Dec. 3: Luke Jensen hosting clinics at West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center
Dec. 22: City of Owatonna offices closed
Dec. 24: West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center closed
Dec. 25: City of Owatonna offices closed

Jan. 2: Session of Learn to Skate Hockey
Future Stars Camp Session 1 begins
Jan. 15: Strength Circuit Training Session 12 begins
Jan. 15-24: Lifeguard Training Class
Jan. 26-28: Owatonna Winter Weekend Out
Jan. 27: Polar Plunge

Outdoor Public Skating

Warsinski rinks, located in Morehouse Park are the only supervised skating rinks in Owatonna. The Warsinski chalet, a large warming house complete with cross country ski and skate rentals and food concessions is located at the west end of School Street. **Will post schedule on our website as weather permits**

Pavilion Rental

Pavilions may be reserved up to one year in advance...book your graduations and family reunions today!

Contact Information:

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

River Springs Water Park 2018

2018 Season Passes
Individual
48" and taller
\$134
Under 48"
\$102
Family
*Includes 3 people
\$200 (\$20 for each additional person)
10% off Individual Season Passes if purchased before June 1, 2018

River Springs Water Park Family Pass

You've been asking for it and now we're offering it - NEW this year is family memberships to River Springs Water Park! The family membership is a great deal and would make an excellent gift!
Family Season Pass Requirements
*A household consisting of up to 2 adults and their dependents
-Membership must include at least one adult
-An adult is considering someone out of high school and older

*Family members must all live in the same household
*Only those individuals in the immediate family can be included on the family membership
*Dependents include children 22 years old and under if they are a full time student in college; otherwise *they would need to get an Individual Membership. (College ID will be needed for proof of enrollment)

Programs coming in the Spring Brochure (released February 2018)

• Youth Soccer
• Swim Lessons
• Boat & Water Safety
• Little League baseball (current grades 2-5)
• Fastpitch Softball
• Association Baseball and Fastpitch Programs
• T-ball and Squir ball programs

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A graphic with a white background and large, overlapping circles in light green and light blue. The text "BLOOMING PRAIRIE YOUTH CLUB" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, with each word on a new line. Below it, the text "WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT" is written in a smaller, bold, orange, sans-serif font, also with each word on a new line. At the bottom, the word "YOUTH." is written in a very large, bold, orange, sans-serif font, with the period at the end.

A graphic with a white background and large, overlapping circles in light green and light blue. The text "BLOOMING PRAIRIE YOUTH CLUB" is written in a bold, orange, sans-serif font, with each word on a new line. Below it, the text "WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT" is written in a smaller, bold, orange, sans-serif font, also with each word on a new line. At the bottom, the word "YOUTH." is written in a very large, bold, orange, sans-serif font, with the period at the end.

**PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT
BLOOMING PRAIRIE AND ITS KIDS**

MY PLEDGE TO THE BLOOMING PRAIRIE YOUTH CLUB

Print Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number

Signature

Date _____

☐ Check or Cash Total pledge amount enclosed _____

☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Pledge amount to be paid by credit card

☐ One-time payment ☐ Billed monthly

Card #

Expiration Date Security Code

— Blossoming Prairie —
YOUTH CLUB

Give online at: bp.youthclub.com

MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 4 BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MN 55917

Total pledge amount enclosed

Total pledge amount enclosed

Total pledge amount enclosed

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☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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Date _____

Expiration Date Security Code

Security Code

Card #

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—Blossom Prairie—
YOUTH CLUB



—Blooming Prairie —
YOUTH CLUB



—Blooming Prairie —
YOUTH CLUB

EMPOWERING Blooming Prairie's YOUTH





EMPOWERING Blooming Prairie's YOUTH!



It may be under a new name and organizational structure, but there is still a club dedicated to the youth of Blooming Prairie. This past September, the former Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie broke away from its parent club in Rochester to become an independently run club called Blooming Prairie Youth Club. The Club provides children from kindergarten to 12th grade with a safe place to go after school and on days with no school.

The club offers programming, field trips, homework assistance, promotion of healthy eating and physical exercise, and so much more for our kids.

In this day and age where kids are glued in front of screens, not eating healthy and having fewer and fewer social interactions, the Club is a true jewel especially in our small town of 2,000 people.

The Youth Club isn't possible without the support of the community. It's even more important now, as the club doesn't receive financial assistance from the Boys & Girls Club of Rochester anymore. But that also means everything that is raised by the club stays in Blooming Prairie.

Whether or not you have school-aged children, The Club is important for the future of Blooming Prairie. It's an investment in what we wish our community to be years down the road. That investment could mean donating money or supplies or volunteering a couple of hours a week to spend with the kids. Any contribution you can give will make a difference for our youth.

This special section is devoted to give you a glimpse into the world that BP Youth Club is for our community.

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- Youth Club Membership Application..... 9
- Calendar of Events..... 11
- Donation form..... Back

Meet The Board

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Craig & Robyn Kruckeberg | Lemar Nelson |
| Lisa Vaith | Orlo & Kaye Toquain |
| Andrea Kvalsten | Lori Annatt |
| Angie Carlson | Ashley Rye |

Special Thanks

Cover and Page Design - Keeley Krebsbach
Contributing Writers - Kyrie Bussler, Lemar Nelson

CALENDAR of EVENTS

2017

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

Gobble Wobble - Starting at 8 AM
Leaving from the Youth Club

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Holiday Dazzle - 5 to 7 PM
Serving hot cocoa at The Bakery
Sign up for door prizes!

2018

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Benefit Bash at the BP Servicemen's Club

TUESDAY, MAY 8

Wine Tasting at J&H Liquors - 7 to 9 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

Rib Fest - BP Servicemen's Club



STEP 2: COMPLETE CLUB APPLICATION

NAME OF MEMBER: _____

BP Youth Club will be closed Nov. 23 Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, & Dec. 25 Christmas Day

FEES: \$80 per month, \$20 per day for non-school days

DROP-INS: Drop-in fees are \$20 per day, and must be paid at the time of drop-off.

SHUTDOWN: BP Youth Club will be closed August 28 – September 4 and May 28 – June 1 for staff training.

Sliding fee scale/scholarships may be available. Please contact the Director to determine eligibility.

Marcy Sundine, Director, Blooming Prairie Youth Club 507-583-6699

OFFICE USE ONLY: Received by: _____ Date received _____
☐ Cash ☐ Credit/Debit Card ☐ Check (# _____) ☐ Scholarships

TUITION PAYMENT: _____
CLUB MEMBERSHIP: \$25
GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Application valid 9/5/17 – 05/25/18.

As a parent of a member of the Youth club, would you like to volunteer at Club? ☐ YES

STEP 3: READ & SIGN PARENT AUTHORIZATION

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW:

- I give permission for my child to participate in BP Youth Club activities and programs, knowing there is a certain amount of risk involved in all youth activities. I further understand that BP Youth Club is not responsible for the time or manner in which my child may arrive at or leave the Club.
- I give my child permission to take quarterly surveys to measure my child's involvement and success in Club activities.
- I understand BP Youth Club may use photographs and video of my child for promotional purposes.
- I give permission for my child to participate in field trips and other activities sponsored by BP Youth Club up to 5 miles from Club. This includes trips to Blooming Prairie Public Library, Swimming Pool, VBS, Golf Course, as well as other trips to community partners who are involved with BP Youth Club.
- I understand that transportation may be provided by BP Youth Club staff or volunteers in a Club van, bus, or public transportation.
- I understand the hours of operation for BP Youth Club and the parent of any member left at the facility after Club hours will be billed an additional fee.
- In the unlikely event that an accident should occur, I take full financial responsibility for any medical expenses my child may incur as a result of participating in BP Youth Club activities. In case of serious illness or injury, I give BP Youth Club staff and/or emergency personnel permission to administer any necessary treatment to my child, including contacting the doctor or ambulance at my expense.
- I have read and understand the refund, fees and cancellation procedure below.
- I agree that BP Youth Club, its employees (both paid and volunteer), Board of Directors and affiliated agencies shall not be held liable for any claims, demands, actions, or causes of action, whatsoever, for any injury caused to me or my child as a result of my child's involvement in BP Youth Club activities. I expressly relieve and discharge BP Youth Club from all acts of negligence on the part of BP Youth Club, its employees (both paid and volunteer), the corporation, agents, officers, and affiliated agencies.
- I give permission for Blooming Prairie Public Schools to communicate academic and behavioral information to BP Youth Club for the purpose of providing educational assistance and enhancement to my child. Such information is to be used only by BP Youth Club and shall not be transferred to other agencies without consent of a parent/guardian or legal authority.
- The disclosure of information is voluntary and will be kept confidential as provided by law. Refusal to provide the information will not subject the program participant to any adverse treatment (except that where the disability status is a requirement for participation in a program or activity, the program participant may be found to be ineligible if she/he does not disclose his/her status). This information will be used only in accordance with the law.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

FEES: All fees are due in full 14 days before the start of each month in order to participate.
REFUNDS: All deposits and/or payments are non-refundable. If cancellation of a session is due to a medical emergency, a Physician's note is required.
WITHDRAWALS: If a member discontinues attending the session once it has started, there will be no refunds or credits. BP Youth Club reserves the right to dismiss a member whose conduct is dangerous, illegal, or in the judgment of the Director, detrimental to the facility and/or to other members. The unused fees will not be refunded.



Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

NEW CLUB, BUT SAME SERVICE

Boys & Girls Club reinvents itself into Youth Club

In 2005, inquiries were extended to Rochester about the possibility of establishing a chapter of the Rochester Boys & Girls Club here in Blooming Prairie. A few years later, Father Halloran deeded the club building to the Boys & Girls Club. In turn, as part of the final agreement with the Rochester organization, the building became the property of the new youth club.

After visits and interviews with several influential leaders in the community, the Rochester board agreed to institute a chapter here. The club remained a Rochester chapter for 11 years until the separation last September, creating the establishment of Blooming Prairie's own autonomous club.

Board directors and community leaders are confident that the Blooming Prairie Youth Club can provide the same service and safe haven to the youth of this community just like the past 20 years.



the Rochester club thought it to be in everyone's interest that Blooming Prairie could function on its own, as it had been effectively self-sustaining for the past several years.

The local board of directors and leaders of the community agreed with that assessment, and the new Youth Club began operation.

Until the break in September, the Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club had been a chapter of the Rochester organization since 2006. However, the history of the club actually goes back much further, although under different names and ownership. The club first began in the 1990s when Father Paul Halloran, the priest at St. Columbanus Catholic Church, bought the old NAPA business on Fourth Avenue South, with the intention of establishing a place for youth to go after school in the community.

Volunteers, including Ardis Knutson, Beth Krebs and Stormy Trom, helped Father Halloran with his venture of a group called ABC, Alliance for a Better Community. That group functioned for a few years, but never became the success Father Halloran envisioned. It later became the Blooming Prairie Center and concentrated on migrant youth in the community, although any youth were welcome.

In the early 2000s Katherine Felts served as director of the club, with a board consisting of Carol Holman, Diane Rumpza, Linda Butler and Linda Kaplan.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Director's update from Marcy Sundine



Greetings from the Executive Director of the Blooming Prairie Youth Club!

Youth Club provides after school homework help, activities and games to 54 active Club members. On an average day, there are about 35 members present who ride the bus to Club after school.

When members arrive, they are greeted with a smile and provided a healthy snack. Following the snack, members receive homework help and time to complete their accelerated reader minutes. Club programming begins after homework, which includes math and reading enrichment, current events, arts, healthy habits and much more. Members also enjoy free time, computer activities, fitness rotations, food preparation and learning life skills.

During non-school days, Club is open for all day fun such as field trips, playing outside, and experiencing other fun seasonal activities. Over MEA break, members went to the JC Hormel Nature Center to see the new building, complete the scavenger hunt and climb to the top of the tower! After a picnic lunch, students and staff loaded onto the bus and headed for the Spam Museum. While at the Spam museum, Club members were excited to experience

hands-on learning about how Spam gets packaged, play in the kids' grocery store and kitchen, and learn the history of Hormel and Spam. Club members also had a fun experience bowling downtown at Bunkie's over MEA break and enjoyed lunch at our local Dairy Queen.

Holidays are always exciting at Club! This year, Club kids chose a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for lunch the day before Thanksgiving. December 1st is Holiday Dazzle, where Club kids will be serving hot cocoa and candy canes at The Bakery. Stop in and warm up, meet the members and sign up for door prizes!

Kids are really looking forward to our annual Christmas Party at Club, which includes a visit from Santa, a Christmas dinner and tree decorating.

The Youth Club is a fun, safe place for kids with great communication and an abundance of laughter. Every child who walks through Club doors will benefit from fun experiences and meaningful activities.

Marcy Sundine,
Executive Director of Blooming Prairie Youth Club



STEP 1: COMPLETE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2017-18 MEMBER INFORMATION: ☐ New member ☐ Returning Member Member #: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Middle: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ ☐ Male ☐ Female Age: ____ Grade: ____ School: ____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Member's Cell Phone: _____ Member's Email: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parent/Guardian First Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Relationship to Member: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian First Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Relationship to Member: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Employer: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS: **Please list two emergency contacts other than Parents/Guardians listed above.**

1. Full Name: _____ Relationship to Member: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

2. Full Name: _____ Relationship to Member: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Does your child have any health conditions? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If Yes, explain: _____

*If your child will need medication during Club hours, they must be able to administer it to themselves. BP Youth Club will securely store it until necessary. *Please contact Club staff for a Medication Release Form.*

COMPLETION OF SECTION BELOW IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP.

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION: Please circle what best describes your annual household income.

2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON	6 PERSON	7 PERSON	8 PERSON
\$19,600	\$22,050	\$24,500	\$28,410	\$32,57	\$36,730	\$40,890
\$32,700	\$36,800	\$40,850	\$44,150	\$47,400	\$50,700	\$53,950
\$52,300	\$58,850	\$65,350	\$70,600	\$75,850	\$81,050	\$86,300

Ethnicity: ☐ White ☐ Asian ☐ Black/African American ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐ White & Asian ☐ Hispanic ☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ☐ White & Black/African American ☐ Black/African American & American Indian/Alaskan Native

How many people live in your household? ____ How many under the age of 18? ____ Household Monthly Income _____

Is household headed by a single parent? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is anyone in the household serving in the Military? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, which branch? _____

Eligible for free or reduced school lunch? ☐ Free ☐ Reduced ☐ N/A *Please submit a copy of this form with your application.*

Primary language spoken in your household? ☐ English ☐ Other: _____

The information collected will be kept confidential. Information is used to help secure funding from government, private, and non-profit agencies, that will enable Club to maintain affordable membership/program fees for all.

CREATING CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH

Kaye Toquam on volunteering at Club



From teaching kids how to tie knots to baking holiday cookies, volunteers help make a difference in the lives of our youth. They share life skills like handling money or something as fun as creating large bubbles with soap from wide circles.

But you don't need a specific knowledge or talent to volunteer. Volunteering can be as simple as playing board games with kids or helping prepare meals on days with no school.

Kaye Toquam of Blooming Prairie found her niche with teaching the kids how to garden.

Starting in the spring, Toquam takes the youth through the process of growing vegetables, such as tomatoes, zucchini, potatoes, snap peas, onions and many others. She teaches them about what they should plant, how to weed and how to pick and cut the vegetables. Tomatoes are a big hit with the kids.

"They like looking for them, picking them, eating them, trying to figure out if they're ripe enough," said Toquam. They use the produce to cook meals and snacks, bring home to their families and share with others in the community.

Toquam says that it's important not only for the kids to learn, but also for them to take their knowledge home to their families. She sees that it's common for the kids to say that their grandparents know how to garden, but not necessarily their parents and immediate family.

The kids keep looking to learn more about gardening, as they proposed the idea of creating a compost bin. They also want to venture into growing apples next year.

Toquam loves witnessing the joy of discovery from the kids in the garden, as they get so excited when they see how a small seed turns into a big pumpkin or that snap peas come from inside a pod.

It's important to note that Toquam doesn't have any specific gardening expertise. In fact, her background is in nursing. Everything she is teaching is what she has learned from her own personal garden.

"Anybody who has some expertise or willingness to share what they know can volunteer there,"

-Kaye Toquam

She mentioned that volunteering can be as simple as reading with the kids, which is one of the first things she did at the club seven years ago. When she first started, she wasn't even sure she would like working with kids, but they've come to have a special place in her heart.

Not only do volunteers share knowledge or time, but they also create special connections between the youth and community members.

"This community is raising these kids. The families aren't alone in raising them,"

-Kaye Toquam

Toquam says that it's important that our kids aren't raised in isolation. We're creating a better community with the connections kids have with various community members.

"It [Youth Club] does benefit from having a wide variety of volunteers," Toquam said.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the club should reach out to Youth Club Director Marcy Sundine at marcy@bpyouthclub.com or (507) 583-6699.

GROWING UP IN CLUB

A Testimonial from Nicole Hansen, a Club kid



"I know this phrase is used too often but the Boys & Girls Club (now Youth Club) truly is my second home. Most importantly: my second family.

I was 13 when my brothers and I moved from Texas to Minnesota. As you can imagine, moving from state to state alone is a huge change, but moving from school to school - that was harder.

I knew no one and was settled into the only thing I really did know. That was to hide my emotions, put on a smile, hold my head up high and keep going. Easier said than done.

My parents, Tim and Kim Hansen, enrolled me into the local club where no one knew of me or my story. One after another I met new people. Amongst those people was a fun, loving, genuine lady named Mary Sherman-Ahrens.

All of my life, I had a constant, my faith, but something

about her brought me back to reality and helped me realize my full potential.

The Club helped me develop and improve my social and mental behaviors and skills, reminded me how to be a kid, and allowed me to make mistakes so that I could grow in a fun, safe, learning environment.

Blooming Prairie's Boys & Girls Club (now Youth Club) is my home from home. My second home. My roots."

Nicole, 25, now lives in Rochester. She was a member at the Blooming Prairie club from 2006 to 2010 including being a staff member during the summers of 2009 and 2010. Nicole Hansen won the Youth of the Year award for the Rochester/ Blooming Prairie Boys & Girls Club in 2010. She graduated from BPHS in 2011, and went on to being a staff member at the Rochester club from 2011 to 2013.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVE AS ROLE MODELS

Emily Krampitz on being a staff member at Club



They give youth the chance to see what they are capable of becoming in Blooming Prairie.

Emily Krampitz, 16, of Blooming Prairie first became interested in Youth Club through her parents, Robyn and Craig Kruckeberg, who are board members. As an eighth grader, she was too young to be on staff, so she started volunteering at the club. Now more than two years later, she's on staff and spends three days a week with the youth.

While doing crafts or going on field trips are her favorite days at club, she loves being able to make a connection with the youth. "I make a connection with each one," said Krampitz, as she explained that she gets to know their story and home life to make a bond with the kids.

"They come to me for advice or help if they ever need anything, which makes me feel good,"

- Emily Krampitz

She sees that Youth Club gives a safe place to kids who can't go home after school. It offers them the opportunity to go out and meet new people and experience new things in life.

The younger members aren't the only ones who benefit from this relationship, as the high school students do as well. Spending time at Youth Club has inspired Krampitz to become a kindergarten teacher one day.



THIS IS THE FUTURE OF OUR KIDS

A family experiencing the benefits of Club



until between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., there's a small window for dinner, homework and getting ready for bed. Youth Club helps out with that, as Macy, 8, and Cooper, 6, have their homework and reading done before getting home. "They keep them going and not watching TV like mom does," Marissa laughed.

Macy and Cooper listed off several of their favorite activities at club including swimming at the local pool, bowling, cooking and going on field trips. One special trip for Macy was going to the Crayola Experience at the Mall of America as part of a reading contest.

Macy said that her little brother has come up to her after getting home and said, "I want to go back to club." "When they show that much excitement they want to go, that's what we want to see," said Marissa.

Two years ago, Jason and Marissa White had a scare when their daycare lady closed up shop. With no other in-home daycares open in Blooming Prairie and the surrounding area, they were at a loss as to who was going to watch their two young children, Macy and Cooper, after school.

"It was kind of a panic," said Marissa. Luckily, the Whites found an opening at the local youth club and were able to enroll their children. "The club was perfect for us when we lost our daycare," said Marissa. Now two years later, it's a decision they haven't regretted at all.

"It's just a safe place for the kids to go to learn and to have fun," Marissa said about the Youth Club. She added she doesn't have to worry about where her kids are going after school, as the bus takes them directly to the club.

With both Jason and Marissa working outside of town and not getting home

kid. That's a cost you can't beat. "It's not killing us like daycare was," said Marissa.

Seeing the benefits the club provides, the Whites have taken an active role in giving back to Youth Club. From dressing up as the turkey for the Gobble Wobble and showing kids how plaster is used to make casts, Jason spends his days off volunteering with the kids. On the other hand, Marissa takes more of a behind the scenes role by helping to plan the Gobble Wobble and other events.

They encourage other parents and community members to become more involved in the club. "It shows your kids you're giving back to the community," Jason said. As a kid, Jason always wished his parents volunteered so he made a point to be actively involved in his own kid's activities.

Jason pointed out that a lot can be accomplished if everyone contributed even just one hour back to the club.

"This is the future of our kids," said Marissa. "And the future of our community," Jason added.

Marissa and Jason are appreciative of the interactions the kids get with various community members who volunteer at the club. "They get familiar with the people in the community and who's safe," said Marissa.

The Whites are thankful that Blooming Prairie is able to provide a safe and learning experience for their kids. "This is for the future of Blooming Prairie," said Marissa.