STEELE COUNTY
Times

1B
BP boys win

Pastor Charlie 1C

$1 www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday, December 13, 2016

There's snow going back



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Onward to winter. Southern Minnesota isn't likely to see green again until spring. This weekend, Blooming Prairie, including St. Columbanus Catholic Church's nativity scene got a white blanket, six inches thick. In Ellendale the snow is also 6 inches deep, while Owatonna and Medford got 7 inches. In the week to come, Steele County residents can expect five to eight mo e inches this Friday, and the temperature not to peak above 20 degrees.

Top honors for Steele County in risk management

Steele County is shining with its risk management and loss control efforts.

On Dec. 5, the county received an award for outstanding performance in the Workers' Compensation Division during the 2016 Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust Annual Membership Meeting held in Minneapolis.

Each year MCIT looks for the county that has demonstrated steady improvement in its risk management and loss control efforts, its claims handling practices and its overall responsiveness to MCIT during the past five years.

Sanders was proud to present the workers' compensation division award to Steele County for consistently improving claims handling in the area of workplace injury and illnesses, being committed to reducing employee injuries and having an overall focus on loss control and risk management.

Steele County Board Chair, James "Corky" Ebeling, stated, "This award acknowledges the great work of all Steele County employees who are committed to creating a safe environment for employees and the public. The Safety Committee, comprised of employees from various services areas, is dedicated to being proactive when it comes to the workers' compensation and this award recognizes that."

The award-winning county distinguishes itself in the areas of loss control and risk management. Criteria used to identify the recipient include risk management, loss control, customer service and workers' compensation claims.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Sheriff Lon Thiele, Steele County Emergency Management Di ector Mike Johnson, and newly appointed Ellendale Emergency Management Director Jerry Ibberson. The meeting covered both Ibberson's apointment and a debriefment of the recent train derailment.

Ellendale talks emergencies

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Emergency response was the theme for the Ellendale city council meeting on Dec. 8.

Jerry Ibberson was appointed as Ellendale's local emergency management director. Ibberson has worked with the disaster warning service Skywarn in the past. He accepted the position but had questions about the council's expectations.

Ibberson is eager to update the town's emergency response management plan and wanted to know if he had the council's support to do so. The current version of the plan was designed in the early 90's. The council expressed their support.

Ibberson would also like to take a more proactive approach to disasters, such as having shelter materials lined up beforehand. He also wants to set up a place where emergency plan records can be stored.

The council will meet with him again in the future so they can discuss response plans more in depth. After his appointment, Ibberson stuck around for the sheriff's derailment debriefing.

Sheriff Lon Thiele debriefed the council on the train derailment that took place just outside Ellendale on Veteran's Day morning. A southbound train carrying chemicals derailed and led to a forced evacuation of the town. The cause of the derailment is unknown, and it will be some time before the investigation concludes.

The train was carrying propane and butane, which were in cars damaged in the derailment. Had they caught fire the combination

EMERGENCY
Continued on page 2A

Winner of the Winter Wonderland



Staff photo by Joshua Zimmer

Laura Krenke's home won first place in this year s Winter Wonderland competition. She was one of three winners voted on by Ellendale residents.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At the annual tree lighting ceremony, the city of Ellendale announced the winner of its Winter Wonderland competition.

Laura Krenke won first place with her dazzling display at 401 6th St N.

Dan and Linda Altermatt took second with their home's decorations at 5430 148th St SW.

Dan Nelson of 104 N. 6th St. recieved third place.

The winners were voted on by the residents of Ellendale. They submitted applicatiosn to have their home put on a list of competeing houses.

Votes could be submitted any time after Thanksgiving up till the lighting ceremony.

There were six entries total this year, and next year the city is hoping even more homes will get into the spirit and enter.

Let's get you movin!



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INSIDE A: 2A ..... Opinion; 3A ..... Why Cook? B: 1B ..... Sports; 4B . Outdoor Living C: 1C ..... Hometown Living; 4C . Medford Honor Roll D: 1D ... Farm Page; 4D ..... Car Care

Opinion

Our view

Merry Christmas MORON

Such a lovely holiday. Such a lovely premise. Such a Currier and Ives time of year. It brings out the best in us.

And the worst.

As human beings, we love the images that conjure warm thoughts in our minds. Puppies popping forth from a Christmas box on Christmas morning with a shout of glee from a child. A warm fire, snow falling gently outside the big bayed-out window and a 40s crooner singing holiday songs in the background. Frosty the Snowman marching across a 70" big screen with a broomstick in his hand. Kisses under mistletoe.

We live for those moments and even though they may occur sporadically, they can also put us in denial of the all-to-accurate picture of the reality of the other parts of life.

The parts that bring pressure and stress and angst. Sleepless nights wondering how in the world that credit card got maxed out even though the television was purchased on Black Friday. Fitting a vet bill for the Christmas puppy and stepping into a lesson on potty training that has gone awry. Feeling a sudden pain in your chest after having to shovel a ton of that gently fallen snow.

And when pressure comes, it can break you out of a happy place of the imagery of warm thoughts.

While rushing to get a tree this past weekend, the roads this past Sunday here in southeastern Minnesota were icy and snow-covered. The weather didn't alter the fact that Christmas is coming, there are deadlines to meet and to-do lists to accomplish.

The rush of the season can push us to the limits of our breaking points. One car that passed another in Austin obviously was angered about not getting to his destination fast enough and offered up a one finger salute as he was passing. The bumper sticker on his car reads, "The reason for the season."

One person had a window rolled down screaming at another driver who had cut her off. "Merry Christmas you moron" was heard loud and clear. Christmas music was blaring from her car radio.

Whether it is asking Santa for a tape series on controlling our anger or remembering to count to 10 and sing a Christmas carol, a "grip" is needing to be redefined this year. We must not live for the moments we imagine. Rather, we must live in the moments that life has gifted us with. Muster your strength to get through those moments and let love – not imagery be your driving force to accomplish.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Newspapers are the greatest source for news

An interesting cartoon came across my desk this week that not only gave me a chuckle, but it really hit it on the head in describing the plight of America's newspapers, including your very own Steele County Times. It's a battle newspaper journalists face every day.

In the digital age of ipads, iphones, laptops and other electronic devices, more and more people are relying on those gadgets to get their news. As the cartoon depicts, two people are having a hard time deciphering the difference between fake and real news based on what's showing up on the trendy looking devices in their hands. And all the while a news stand is next to them screaming out the answer to their problem: "Newspapers."

While newspapers may not be as sexy and appealing as they once were, I would still argue that newspapers should be the media folks rely on to get their news. The history of American newspapers begins in the early 18th century with the publication of the first colonial newspapers. The Times, which began as the Blooming Prairie Times, has been around since 1894.

Reading the local paper is a great way to know your community and, in the case of the Times, the entire county. Where else can you find a neatly put together package of hometown community news featuring your friends, neighbors and maybe even some family members?

Chances are you've probably heard the mantra in recent years that "newspapers are dying." I've written about this before, but let's just say it boils my blood to hear this phrase being thrown around so loosely. For the record, newspapers are changing, but they are not dying. I'd challenge you to find something in this society that has not changed in recent years.

The Times dead? Hardly. We have expanded and grown over the past few years in ways that nobody thought we could ever accomplish. We are a source of news in Steele County that many people are finding they can't go without.

Newspapers provide news that no other media source will be able to deliver. Not radio, television, magazine or even Facebook. I actually hesitate to include Facebook in the list because I do not consider it a reliable source of any information. Perhaps gossip, but definitely not news unless it's coming from a media source as many media outlets pump news via Facebook.

As publisher of this newspaper, I am constantly striving to put out complete and accurate information. As far as I'm concerned, there is no place for "fake news." We have high standards for the type of news we put out each week, and sometimes more often through our website and other social media. Accuracy is always first and foremost in my mind.

It's my hope that younger people, especially those in their 20s and 30s, will begin to read newspapers if they're not already. Our younger generation needs to understand that we put out information in digital formats, but it's not the complete newspaper (unless you subscribe to our e-edition, which is an option for everyone). There are many features that you won't be able to see unless you subscribe to the printed newspaper or e-edition.

Isn't it time you go in hot pursuit of picking up a printed newspaper instead of relying on digital gadgets?



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Response to derailment goes well

EMERGENCY: from page 1A

could have led to the forming of hydrogen cyanide gas. Emergency responders immediately established a hot zone and performed a forced evacuation of the town. They also instituted a no-fly zone. It was fortunate that the incident happened early on a Friday, so no responders were off-duty for the weekend yet.

Sheriff Thiele wanted to extend his thanks to United Methodist Church.

"They were awesome," Thiele said. They let emergency services take over their parking lot, and then approached emergency responders and let them know they could come inside too.

"You could see they loved what they were doing," Thiele concluded.

Gold Cross, Blooming Prairie, and Ellendale ambulances evacuated residents that weren't as able.

In addition to Steele County, Freeborn and Waseca sheriff offices responded. MNdot helped put up warning signs.

Fire departments from Ellendale, New Richland, Blooming Prairie, Geneva, and Rochester were all on scene. Rochester's team is even specially trained in chemical management. The Red Cross assisted too. The state fire marshal and the sheriff have final call in an emergency like this.

Thiele, Ibberson, and Steele County Emergency Management Director Mike Johnson all agreed that downloading the Everbridge warning system to their phones is one of the biggest precautions that residents can take to be informed in future disasters.

SCHS says goodbye to Dodie Ellingson

After 10 years as the Volunteer and Tour Coordinator of the Steele County Historical Society, Dodie Ellingson announced her plan to retire. Dodie's last day will be Friday, Dec. 16, however she has some accrued vacation to use up, so her last day in the office was Dec. 9.

"I've enjoyed my time over the years, working with our volunteers and watching the Village grow," said Dodie Ellingson. "I so love the Village of Yesteryear, it's a magical place, and one of my most favorite places on earth.

So even though I am retiring, I plan to remain involved as a volunteer tour guide and of course Mrs Claus during Christmas in the Village."

"Speaking on behalf of the board, staff and our valued volunteers, Dodie will be greatly missed" said Kim Purscell, Executive Director for the Society.

"Her knowledge of Steele County history is extensive and very impressive; she had amazing personal knowledge and connections with our members and volunteers; she was super fun to work with and had the best sense of humor. She imparted so much knowledge to me during my first year on the job, and I relied on her greatly. While I am so happy for her new life in retirement, her departure will leave an enormous hole."

Dodie declined a retirement party, however cards are appreciated. The search for Dodie's replacement will begin immediately.

The History Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission to the History Center is free for SCHS members, $5 for adults, $3 for children 7-16, and children 6 and under are FREE. For more information, please call our office at 507-451-1420.



Submitted photo

Dodie Ellingson volunteered at the Steele County Historical Society for 10 years.

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016
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7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

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

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DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

The opinions of our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor are a vital contribution to the healthy exchange of ideas on the Steele County Times opinion page. All letters must be signed by the writer/writers and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are accepted through personal delivery, by mail or by email at bptimes@frontiernet.net.

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steele County Times and the editor reserves the right to edit letters when necessary. Please limit opinions to no longer than 350 words.

The Steele County Times encourages readers to write letters to the editor as a means of communicating ideas and opinions with others, with a goal being to make the community better for all people.

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower.... $38
Elsewhere in Minnesota..... $40
Out of state..... $42

HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Event Spotlight:
Steele County Snowmobile Safety Training

On Jan. 7, Steele County will be hosting snowmobile safety training from 7:30 a.m.till 4 p.m. Training will take place at the Hope Trail House in Hope, MN.

It will conclude with a driving test that students must pass to recieve their certifcate.

Lunch will be provided. Dress for the weather.

Students must be at least 11 years-old and are required to pre-register by Jan. 1. Registration forms can be found at Sette's Sports Center or any of the schools in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, or New Richland. Parent signatures are required along with a $10 registration fee.

PHOTO MEMORY



LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

Archived staff photo by Alan Van Ormer

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) cheerleaders showed their school spirit during a girls basketball home game against Maple River at NRHEG High School.

FOR THE RECORD



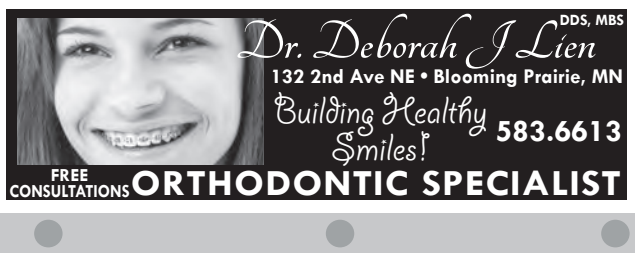
HAPPENING NOW

Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna Junior Stephanie Liebl takes a shot at a home game against Lakeville South. She and her fellow Huskies won 69-60.

Austin/Mower County

Dec. 13:
All day Lyle Vol. Fire Dept Meeting
9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show
12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters
3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym
6pm - 7pm Grand Meadow City Council Mtg
Dec. 14: (All day Lyle City Council Meeting)
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N.
11am - 2pm Austin Bruins vs Brookings Blizzards, Riverside Arena, 501 12th St NE, Austin
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
11:30am - 1pm The Christmas Show, Mower County Senior Center
2pm - 3pm Kids Fused Glass Class, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin, MN 55912
3:30pm - 5pm Public Skate, Packer Arena, 601 7th St NE, Austin
7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin
Dec. 15:
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym
6pm - 7pm Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night
6pm - 8pm Clay Wheel Throwing, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
Dec. 16:
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
12pm - 1pm Christmas Dinner Party, Mower County Senior Center
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
7:30pm - 9:30pm Christmas at Hom, Historic Paramount Theatre
Dec. 17:
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
10:30am - 12pm Kids Studio - Clay, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
1pm - 5pm Nativity House Open House, Nativity House, 606 Oakland Pl NE, Austin
2pm - 4pm Christmas at Home, Historic Paramount Theatre
4:30pm - 6:30pm Holiday Big Band Swing, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin
6pm - 9pm Driller MMA Fight, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center, 1701 4th St NW, Austin
6pm - 7:30pm Public Skate, Packer Arena
7:30pm - 9:30pm Christmas at Home
Dec. 18:
1pm - 3pm Grand Meadow Open Gym
1pm - 2:30pm Riverside Figure Skating Club - Basic Skills, Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin
2:30pm - 5pm Riverside Figure Skating Club- Power & Moves, Precision Line, Advd Ice Time, Riverside Arena
4:45pm - 6pm Stick Time, Packer Arena, 601 7th St NE, Austin
Dec. 19: (All day EDA Meeting)
10am - 4pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, Primrose Retirement Community of Austin, 1701 22nd Ave SW, Austin
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
Dec. 20:
10am - 11am Hearth and Home Series: Holiday Memories and Traditions, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave, Austin
10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office
1pm - 2pm Rosettes Just Like Mom Used to Make, Mower County Senior Center
3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym



Blooming Prairie

Dec. 13: (All day BP Card Club & Luncheon)
All day Steele Co Commission
10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
Dec. 14:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
Dec. 20:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
-BAR BINGO: MONDAY@ 6:30 PM

HOLIDAY EVENTS:
-DEC 24: OPEN 9AM-5PM (VIKINGS vs. PACKERS @ noon)

-DEC 25: CLOSED...*MERRY CHRISTMAS!*
***-DEC 31: NEW YEAR'S** EVE: MUNCHIES & CHAMPAGNE!*

***-JAN 1...CLOSED..."** HAPPY 2017 "!*

- BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB
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DATES...
JAN : 24 FEB 7 MARCH 14
APRIL 4
MAY 9 : BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT 7- 9 PM @J & H

Albert Lea/Freeborn Co

Dec. 13:
All day Family Reads, ALPL
8:30am - 9:30am Shell Rock Watershed Board Mtg, Albert Lea
12:10pm - 1pm Senior Scholarship Meeting
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea
Dec. 14:
All day Family Reads
Dec. 15:
All day Family Reads, ALPL
10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time
Dec. 16:
All day Family Reads, ALPL
6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea
Dec. 17: (All day Library Closed)
6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea
Dec. 18: (All day Family Reads)
Dec. 19:
All day Family Reads
10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time
7pm - 8pm Band and Orchestra Concert, Albert Lea Senior High School, 2000 Tiger Ln, Albert Lea
Dec.20:
All day Family Reads
10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts
5:30pm - 6:30pm Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea

Owatonna/Medford/Hope

Dec. 13:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owa, 2nd Tu**es Sept -** Jun
Dec. 14:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg
Dec. 15:
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
Dec. 19:
All day WC Study Club
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Dec. 20:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

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Ellendale/Geneva

Dec. 13:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym
Dec. 15:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Dec. 19:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center
Dec. 20:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North

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Tennis & Fitness

Tennis & Fitness Memberships are available!
Tennis & Fitness Center Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day
**2017 Brooktree Memberships are available!*
**Cottage 11: Closed January & February*

December Special:

"No Pain, No Gain": Purchase a year membership and get entered into a drawing for a free one-hour pool rental



Looking for a Christmas Gift? *Don't forget gift cards for Brooktree Golf Course, River Springs Water Park, Tennis & Fitness Center, and Parks & Recreation are available at the Parks & Recreation Office-540 West Hills Circle!*

Upcoming Events

December 14: SeniorPlace Kiwanis Holiday Lights Tour
December 17: K-2nd grade Basketball begins
December 17: Lifeguard Training December Class begins
December 23: Brooktree Winter Special ends
December 24: Tennis & Fitness Center Closed
December 25: Tennis & Fitness Center Closed
January 1: Tennis & Fitness Center Closed
January 3: Future Sports Stars Camp Session 1 Begins
January 3: Winter Swim Lessons Begin
January 7: MN Gophers Women's Basketball game
January 9: Therapeutic Rec Monday Bowling League begins
January 9: SeniorPlace Recycled Greeting Cards
January 10: Jr. Lifeguard program begins
January 10: Kid's Leisure Swim Begins
January 25: Chanhassen Dinner Theater-Church Basement Ladies
January 27: Winter Weekend Out-Sledding and a Movie at West Hills
January 28: Winter Weekend Out-Adult Ice Bocce Ball Tournament
January 28: Polar Plunge
January 29: Winter Weekend Out-Family Ice Fishing at Lake Kohlmier
January-February: Cottage 11 is closed
February 6: SeniorPlace Recycled Greeting Cards
February 7: Future Sports Stars 2nd Session begins
February 21: Spring Brochure is released
February 22: Lifeguard Training February Class begins
February 24: Spring Registration Begins
March 6: Brooktree Clubhouse hours begin
April 26: Lifeguard Training April Class begins
June 2: River Springs Water Park Opening Day
July: Summer Weekend Out

Steele County DID YOU KNOW PARKS & RECREATION

Fat Tire Bikes *have been around since the early 1900's! They looked differently, but still provided stability, traction, and optimal weight distribution on unique surfaces. Check out our Winter Weekend Out January 27-29 and try out a Fat Tire Bike for yourself!*

Volunteer Coaches Needed

Volunteer coaches play an important role in the youth sports experience. Volunteers are trained in our philosophy of youth sports, first aid, concussions and how to teach skills for their sport. All volunteers must complete a background check each year.

Registration is open for Winter activities!

Ways to Register:
• On-Line (begins at 12:01 a.m.)
www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration
• Walk-In Registration
(begins at 7:00 a.m.): Park & Recreation - 540 West Hills Circle

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.
Open:
Sunday *– 12:00 noon – 9:30 p.m.*
Saturday *– Holidays & School Vacation Days 11:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.*
Monday *– Friday: 3:00-9:00 p.m.*
Schedule is subject to change due to weather and ice conditions.
Family bonfire events are held Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Scholarship Fund

This fund helps support programs for all youth in Steele County and Adult Therapeutic Recreation Programs. Forms are available at the Park & Rec Office. Participants must pay 25% of program fees, any late fees, and must show verification of one of the qualifications:
**Current recipients of Free or Reduced Lunch Program*
**Current recipients of SSI or Social Security Benefits*
**Current recipients of Medical Assistance Program*
**Other circumstances (will need to explain)*

Now Hiring Lifeguards!

Are you looking for a job where you can make a difference and actively impact others every day? We have that opportunity for you! We are looking for self-motivated team players to join our lifeguard staff.

American Red Cross Certified Lifeguard
Minimum qualifications:
**Must be 15 years old*
**Must be able to pass ARC Lifeguard Certification Class*

Jr. Lifeguard Program

Registration for the Jr. Lifeguard program is available now
Junior Lifeguarding has a strong focus on developing the swimming skills required to successfully complete the lifeguarding course prerequisite swimming skills evaluation. This course also introduces participants to lifesaving skills, such as: in-water rescues, use of rescue tube, and First Aid, CPR and AED skills.
Fee: $20
Class Meeting Times: Tuesday 6-8pm and Wednesdays 5-7pm
Dates: January 10-February 28

Lifeguard Training Classes

The purpose of the American Red Cross Lifeguarding course is to provide entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatics emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illnesses until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel take over.
Prerequisites:
1. *Must be at least 15 years of age at time of class*
2. *Swim 300 yds continuously (crawl & breaststroke)*
3. *Swim 40 yds with a 10-pound brick, retrieving is from 10 feet of water, using only a kick, holding brick with 2 hands on the chest*
4. *You must attend all classes to pass*
5. *No refund will be issued if you do not pass*

December Class: Dec. 17-20
February Class: Feb. 22-March 4, 2017
April Class: April 26-May 6, 2017

Adult Recreation

Pilates: *This is a very beginner class. Exercises are balanced with stretches throughout. Class will leave you refreshed and relaxed. Clean mats will be provided for use or bring your own!*
Cost: *$2 per session*
Days: *Mondays & Thursdays as SeniorPlace*
Time: *9:00-10:00 am*

Weight Training for Seniors: *A therapist leads the group in a program of warm-up exercises, weight lifting exercises with hand-held weights, cool-down exercises and stretching.*
Cost: *$25 per month*
Days: *Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays*
Time: *8:30-9:30am or 3:15-4:15am*

Parks and Recreation Contact Information:

Office & Information Line 507-444-4321
Tennis & Fitness Center 507-444-4290
Fax 507-444-4299
SeniorPlace 507-444-4280
Facebook Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Brooktree Clubhouse 507-444-2467
Email Address parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
River Springs Water Park 507-774-7370

OUR MISSION:

The city of Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department provides a diverse system of green spaces, trails, facilities, programs and services to enhance the quality of life for the community.

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Community Living

Obituaries

David H. Symes, Austin



David H. Symes age 82 of Austin, Minnesota, died Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, at Cottagewood Senior Community in Rochester from complications of Lewy body dementia. David was born Oct. 5, 1934, in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, to John Harold and Hilda T. (Tollefson) Symes. He was baptized at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin, where he also was married to Donna Lysne, Nov. 2, 1957. The couple raised one daughter. David took over the family's century farm in Blooming Prairie with his brother. In addition to farming, he was also a laborer at Hormel Foods Corporation and worked as a body man at local garages in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Albert Lea. David was a member of UFCW Union Local 9, and in his younger years enjoyed stock car racing. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Survivors include his wife Donna Symes and his daughter Susan Symes, both of Austin, two brothers Richard A. (Imogene) Symes of Blooming Prairie, and Charles E. (Fran) Symes of Beaufort, South Carolina; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The visitation was from 4-7 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 8, 2016, at Worlein Funeral Home in Austin. Burial took place Friday at Red Oak Grove Lutheran cemetery in rural Austin. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to recipient of donor's choice. Worlein Funeral Home of Austin is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed online at www.worlein.com.

Elaine Harriet Klemmensen, Blooming Prairie



Elaine Harriet Klemmensen, age 86 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, at her home.

Elaine H. Jacobson, the daughter of Edmund and Anna (Nelson) Jacobson, was born Sept. 30, 1930, in Austin, Minnesota. She received her education at a country school and Blooming Prairie High School, graduating in 1948. On Aug. 12, 1951, she was united in marriage to Richard "Dick" Klemmensen at Trinity Lutheran Church near Bixby, Minnesota.

The couple made their home on the family farm and later Ellendale, before purchasing a farm in Blooming Prairie Township, Steele County, Minnesota. The couple lived and farmed there until moving into Blooming Prairie in 2009. Elaine worked alongside her husband on the family farm and enjoyed being a farm wife and mother. She also loved to do ceramics, sewing, cooking and quilting, making many baby quilts for family and friends. Dick and Elaine also served as 4-H Leaders for over 15 years. She was a life-long member of Trinity Lutheran Church and while living in Blooming Prairie attended First Lutheran Church.

Elaine is survived by her husband, Dick Klemmensen; three children, Richard "Rick" (Chris) Klemmensen, Susan (Jeff) Zwiener and Randy (Linda) Klemmensen all of Blooming Prairie; 11 grandchildren, Denny Zwiener, Jay Klemmensen, Ryan Klemmensen, Brad Klemmensen, Chad Klemmensen, Kari Forystek, Tricia Steckelberg, Lisa Bruns, Jill Lindeman, Sami Nelson and Rachel Klemmensen; 21 great-grandchildren, Ty, Bo, Grady, Jack, Cole, Jeffrey, Trig, Bergen, Taylor, Kylie, Maren, Maggie, Bobbie, Alexis, Neila, Isabel, Emmerson, Andi, Nala, Raegan and Ella and one more due in June 2017; a brother, Darrell (Ramona) Jacobson of Blooming Prairie; a brother-in-law, David Klemmensen of Woodbury, Minnesota, and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and a son in infancy, Rodney.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Wed. Dec. 14, 2016, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Rev. Stephanie Wood and Rev. Charles Leonard, officiating. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13, and for one hour before the service Wednesday at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to the donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Carolyn Marie (Anderson) David, formerly of Owatonna



On a cold and snowy day, a beloved mother, daughter, sister, grandma, great-grandma, and friend was called home to be with the lord.

Carolyn Marie (Anderson) David, age 69, formerly of Owatonna, died Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, at Colony Court Assisted Living in Waseca.

A funeral service was held Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 at Zion Lutheran Church of Lemond, 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale, MN 56026, with Rev. Patti Meyer officiating. Visitation was Sunday, Dec. 11 at Zion Lutheran Church, and will continue one hour before the service Monday.

Interment will be at Hillcrest Cemetery in Albert Lea. Bruss-Heitner Funeral Home in Wells is assisting the family. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.brussheitner.com.

Carolyn Marie was born Sept. 15, 1947, in Albert Lea, the daughter of Allen and Evelyn (Rupp) Anderson. She grew up in rural Clarks Grove, Minnesota, attended District 5 Country School, and graduated from Albert Lea Senior High in 1965.

After graduation, she worked at Owatonna Tool Company, where she met James David. They were united in marriage Dec. 2, 1967, in Clarks Grove, and to this union 3 daughters were born. After 38 years of marriage, the couple divorced.

Carolyn worked for Happy Chef, and Federated for several years, until retirement. She was a collector of many things, especially angels and cardinals.

She enjoyed her time at the lake cabin, fishing, flower gardening and shopping with her daughters. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents; father, Allen C. Anderson; and sister, Jane (Anderson) Dahle.

Carolyn is survived by her 3 daughters: Dawn David-Copp (husband Denis Copp), and Debbie David both of Owatonna, and DeeAnn David (Chris Sather) of Waseca;

3 grandchildren: Dustin David of Waseca, Tyler Van Den Hemel of Waseca, and Kaitlyn Van Den Hemel (Andre Kubat) of Owatonna;

2 great-grandchildren; mother, Evelyn Anderson of Geneva; siblings: Neil (Sandy) Anderson of Clarks Grove, and Peggy (Rodney) Sorenson of Geneva; brother-in-law Lonnie (Sherry) Dahle of Morristown; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Death Notice

Mary Kathleen Oswald, Blooming Prairie

Mary Kathleen Oswald, age 93 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, died Sunday morning, Dec. 11, 2016, at her home. Memorial services are planned for May.

Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be expressed online at www.worlein.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

14th
Harvey R. Farr
Joan McDonald
Katie Jo Alderete
Jake Ressler
Nikki Ryks

15th
Rick Hocking
Ian-Thomas Campbell
Darrell Erickson
Isaiah Toquam
Gregg Fristedt

16th
Laverne Johnson
Brennen Toquam
Keith Holman
Dwayne Paulson
Devin Zilm
Wally Wilke
Norma Henefield

17th
Mariesa Rossow
Hannah Vogt
Jessica Alwes
Jean Peterson
Tim Pirkl
Matthew Hansen
Dorothy Peterson
Violet Lane
Lauren Doyle
Holly Vogt

18th
Stephen Brandt
Kaylin Wolf
Scott Carlson
Erin Naatz
Amy Doerhoefer
Layla Coleman
Henry Post

19th
Ava Lea
Elijah Adams

20th
Kay Noble
Jared Schewe
Easton Valek

Anniversaries:

15th
Todd & Erica Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Mervin Nelson

17th
Wayne & Donna Gullickson

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SEMCAC senior menu

Dec. 14
Onion Smothered Steak
Alt: Liver & Onions
Boiled Potatoes
Broccoli
Fresh Oranges

Dec. 15
Alpine Chicken
Cass.
3 Beans Salad
Pear/Cottage Chs
Cranberry Muffin
Banana Pudding

Dec. 16
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
Corn
Dinner Roll
Yogurt Fruit Cup

Dec. 19
Goulash
Green Beans
Dinner Roll
Pickle Spear
Bushing Pears

Dec. 20
Roast Pork
Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy
Peas & Celery
Cinn. Applesauce
Pudding

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Special $10.00 Burger & Bowling
December - January
Friday & Saturday 5-8pm
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Burger • Fries • Soft drink • Bowling (1game)
311 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
507-583-2321

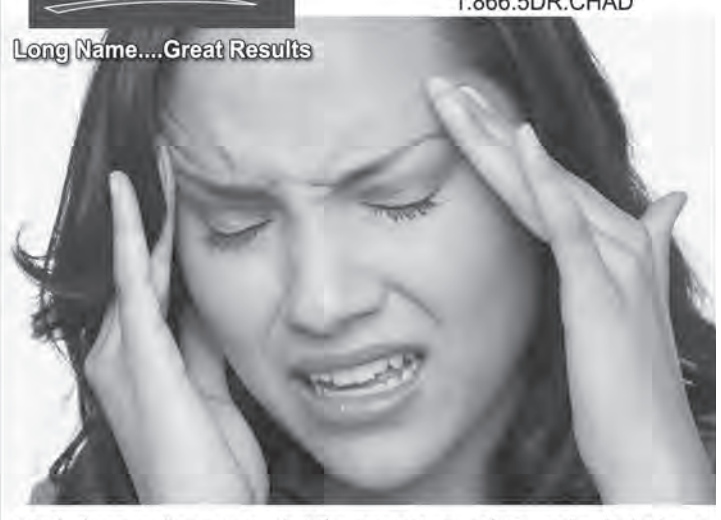
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Happy Birthday WALLY
Please join us in celebrating Wally Wilke's 80 years of love and devotion to his family!
Hosted by Jean and their children
Where: At the BP Servicemen's Club
When: December 17, 2:00 - 5:00pm
What: Appetizer's and a short program (3:30pm) by the family
We look forward to celebrating with everyone who can attend and will appreciate the gift of your presence.

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St. John Lutheran Church Claremont, MN

Pastor's corner:

Advent is a time of promise

The Lutheran church sets apart a few weeks we call Advent, which simply means "coming". We use this time to prepare to welcome the birth of our Lord and Savior. Clear the air so to speak and focus on the important meaning of Christmas.

Last week our Old Testament reading was from Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1-10. In this text written several hundred years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah prophecies that the Messiah will come from the stump of Jesse. The folks must have thought the prophet was losing it. Jesse was king David's father. A simple man, no fame, just a herder of sheep and everyone knows what a stump looks like, it looks dead. That is pretty much what Judah looked like. They had disobeyed God and we spread out all over the country side.

Then Isaiah writes about a time to come when un-natural things would happen, A new world where cows and bears graze together, children will play with very dangerous snakes, prey and predator all take naps together. In the that day the root of dead stump of Jesse, all the nations will see his resting place that is glorious.

Sounds like a lot to promise, especially when we see the reality of the world we live in. But God is always faithful to his promises and you must start somewhere so God began to fulfill his promise in very humble beginnings. In a almost appearing dead town of Bethlehem, with a long lost descendent of Jesse. God began fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy to bring peace to the created world.

The peace we have in our time is God's forgiveness that came when the baby of Bethlehem gave his life for us on his cross.

The second part of Isaiah's prophecy is also coming at the second Advent of our Lord and Savior, when peace is the reality God's plan to save the world.

Peace to you all and yours,
Reverend Alan Broadwell
St. John Lutheran Church
Claremont, MN

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau,
the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125
www.goodshephardowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507)465-8366
Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474
Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720
www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy Communion, Sunday Morning at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
Pastor Collin Duling
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248
www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272
Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
(507) 256-4288
Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165
Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Comtemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, AFLC
Ellendale, Minnesota
Pastor Richard Sliper
Saturday - 8 a.m. Men's
Bible Study Sunday - 9 a.m.
Worship: 10:10 Sunday School;
10:15 Coffee and Fellowship
Tuesday - 6 a.m. Call to Prayer, open to all Churches; 7 p.m. Call to Prayer
Wednesday - 9:30 a.m. Bible Study;
6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:15 Hands of Praise; 6:30 Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666
(Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
(June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784
stcolumbanuschurch.com
Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.
Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
with Children's Church
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Family Faith Formation and Adult Bible Study after Mass with noon potluck: 2nd Sunday of month Fairh formation for Kindertgarten thru Confirmation: every Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m.

Annual turkey bingo, Sunday, Nov. 20
7 p.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Jose Morales,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588
www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
8:30 a.m., & 10 a.m.
Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday
Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m.- 10 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH
512 S Elm, Owatonna • 507-451-4845
Fr. Kevin Connolly
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri
(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)
Adoration Chapel avail Mon-Fri
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. key fob
required after hrs or wknds

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.



Christian

Christ Community Covenant Church
540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Full Gospel

Streetfire Ministries
Blooming Prairie, MN
http://streetfireministries.net/

Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
616-788-1044
www.streetfireministries.net

Methodist

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Medford
(7 miles west of Medford on CR 23)
Pastor Cindy Kennedy
(507) 835-8726
Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale
Pastor Randy Cirksena
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first Sunday of the month through Dec. 2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. followed by the free meal at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday
Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

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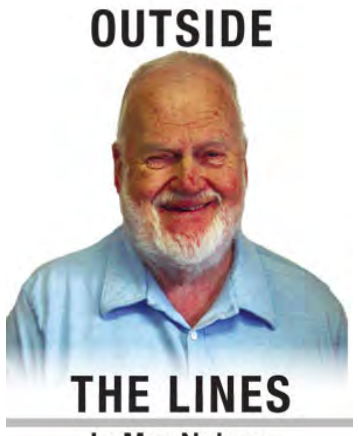
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OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Tis the season

Nobody likes giving up a particular identity in the sports world, but when few numbers for a team necessitate such a change, that change could be beneficial for both parties. Such is the case for the Blooming and Hayfield wrestling programs. Individually, neither program had enough competitors to be legitimate threats to win duals.

But put them together, and suddenly there is a team that can contend for victories in almost every match wrestled.

An entirely new team name and new nickname has made the Westfield Razorbacks a force to be reckoned. And what has been most surprising to me and most gratifying to me is how well the two teams have melded together and how well the wrestlers seem to get along with each other.

I am sure some growing pains exist and some egos get bruised with the combinations necessary in the lineup, but those have certainly produced reliable results. The team is 4-0 in dual matches and already has an invitational championship to its credit. That is pretty high praise, and a big tip of the hat this week goes to the Razorbacks and their accomplishments to date. Keep it up!

Both basketball teams managed to climb back to .500 after the week's games. After literally getting blown out early in the week by one of the state's highest ranked teams, the Blossom girls responded well against previously undefeated Medford.

The girls took the game over early and proceeded to open up a twenty-point advantage.

What has surprised me the most so far is their ability to score points. I don't think last year's team got into the fifties more than a half dozen times all season, while this year's contingent has already counted more than 60 once and had 55 in last Friday's contest. If the defense can control tempo better, this team will really be fun to watch and cheer for.

With the boys, I am sure that there have been some nervous moments for the team, as they adjust to several new players entering the varsity. That is why it is encouraging to note that the team was improving, and it was able to even the record at 2-2 following the victory over Medford away from home.

It is also encouraging that the team play has shown good balance between offense and defense. Junior Jake Ressler has led the team in scoring, and the defense has shown signs of being able to limit or shut down the opposition. That is a good combination going forward in the season.

The team still has one more game away from home, before it has a chance for a home game finally. The Blossoms will entertain Bethlehem Academy this coming Friday, Dec. 16. Let's hope that fans will welcome to the home court for the first time this season.

Enjoy the season as we await Christmas, and we'll talk again.

Blossoms down Tigers

Blooming Prairie rebounds after 54-41 loss at Goodhue



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie senior Seth Bedenbaugh drives in for a basket in the Blossoms' 77-58 win over Medford Friday night in Medford. The senior finished with 12 points and seven rebounds in the win.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Fifty percent shooting from the field and an edge in rebounding gave the Blossom boys a 77-58 win over Medford Friday, Dec. 9 in Medford. The victory gave the locals a split for the week and a 2-2 record for the young season.

Blooming Prairie jumped to a 40-29 lead at the half on some hot shooting by the Blossoms. BP made 28 of 55 attempts for the game, including 6 of 9 from Gabe Hagen, 5 of 8 from Seth Bedenbaugh, and 7 of 12 from game-high scorer Jake Ressler.

He led the scoring with 19 points, and Max Romeo followed right behind with 18. Hagen and Bedenbaugh both counted 12 points. Hagen and Bedenbaugh led the team in rebounds with 7, but Ressler and Ben Smith both contributed 5, and Kaden Thomas added 4. Cameron Kubista had 4 assists, and Hagen helped out with 3. The team controlled the ball better, as well, turning the ball over only 15 times.

Goodhue controls Blossoms

Goodhue used a ball control game to defeatthe Blossoms 54-41 on the Goodhue court Tuesday, Dec. 6. The deliberate style of play proved very effective, especially in the second half, when the Blossoms managed just 10 points.

An evenly played first half resulted in a narrow 35-31 margin for the home team, but the control game took over for the Wildcats and stymied the Blossoms throughout. Goodhue did not do any prolific scoring in the second half either, but they went long periods without a shot, and the patience

BOYS
Continued on page 2B

Lady Huskies trounce Tigers

Junior Schultz records three double-doubles, Huskies improve 4-1

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Albert Lea - Coming off a huge conference win Thursday night, the Owatonna girls basketball team took to the road to battle Big Nine Conference for Albert Lea. For the third game in a row, the combination of Jenna Zeman and Syd Schultz powered the Huskies.

Zeman led the Huskies in scoring with a season-high 19 points and Schultz registered her third straight double-double, scoring 15 points and snagging 11 rebounds as Owatonna rolled to a 81-45 win, keeping a perfect record in the conference.

Huskies down Cougars

After Tuesday night's big conference win in Mankato, the Owatonna High School girls basketball team was at home to play host to the Lakeville South Cougars.

A win would extend the Huskies' win streak to three games. Junior forward Syd Schultz was determined that Owatonna would walk off the court with a 3-1 record.

Behind the junior's second straight double-double, the Owatonna Huskies rallied back to defeat Cougars 69-60 in Section 1AAAA action Thursday night inside the OHS gymnasium. Head coach Lindsey Hugstad-Vaa noted that the attitude her team played with tonight really set

GIRLS
Continued on page 3B



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna junior Sydney Schultz (20) leaps for a rebound as a Lakeville South player reaches in the first half of the Huskies' 69-60 win Thursday night at the OHS gymnasium. Schultz recorded a double-double in her last three games, to include Thursday's win.



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Blossom girls tame Tigers



submitted photo by Tammy Larson

Blooming Prairie junior Ayren Ingvalson (11) hauls in a rebound during the Blossoms's 57-38 win over Medford on Friday. Ingvalson and the Blossoms picked up a win Friday after dropping a contest to state-ranked Goodhue Tuesday, Dec. 6.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After a close first four minutes, the Blossom girls went on an 8-0 run to take a 13-5 lead and then go on to a 57-38 conference win on the home court Friday, Dec.9. The win evened the Blossom record at 2-2, and they defeated a Medford team that had a 2-0 mark

BP led only 7-5 after the first four minutes, but the run of points opened up the margin, and the Blossoms kept scoring points, while holding the Tigers to less than 20 percent shooting from the field. The winners had a 33-11 edge at the break.

Medford played better in the second half, and the locals let up a little, with 13 turnovers in the second half alone. BP had 24 turnovers in the game to 21 for Medford.

"We got off to a fast start," remarked coach John Bruns, "both offensively and defensively, and we built a 22-point lead at the half.

"Kylie Forystek who had 6 assists triggered the first half offense, and a solid defense marked by several steals and easy baskets from McKenna Hein.

"We let down a little in the second half, but still were able to control the game."

BP shot 41 percent for the game on 23 of 55 attempts to 19 percent for the visitors. Sam Wurst scored 16 points to lead the offense, and Marissa Larson and Hein added 12 and 10 points.

Forystek ended with 6 assists and 4 steals, and Larson finished a double-double, grabbing 14 rebounds to go along with her 12 points.

As Larson commented, "We played much better in this game by controlling the play and doing much better in rebounding. It was a better effort all the way around and a lot more fun"

Wildcats win in rout

Goodhue ran up 44 points in the first half alone, and the Wildcats tromped the Blossoms 76-29 on the Blossoms' court Tuesday, Dec. 6, in a non-conference contest.

Goodhue, one of the top-ranked teams in Class 1A dominated the floor game and shot almost 47 percent from the field in notching the one-sided victory.

"It's bad enough to have 40 turnovers in any game", commented Coach John Bruns, "but when you shoot only 20 percent and are playing one of the best teams in the state, that spells real trouble.

"I think the girls kind of gave up early in this game, but we learned some things about our team, and we will get better."

One of the reasons for the inordinate number of turnovers can be credited to the pressure basketball the Wildcats employ.

Blooming Prairie had a lot of trouble getting the ball down the floor and then had difficulty finding good shots. The Blossoms made only 10 of 49 attempts from the field.

Freshman Maya Lembke and Sam Wurst led the Blossom offense with seven points, and Marissa Larson had six.

BP outrebounded Goodhue 42 to 25, but the Wildcat shooting didn't leave many rebounds to get.

Wurst had 11 rebounds, McKenna Hein grabbed nine rebounds, and Larson and Asia Thostenson each added 5.

The Blossoms went 8-13 from the free throw line. Kylie Forystek had two assists two blocks, and a steal for the Blossoms.

Westfield off to hot star

In first year of program, Razorbacks 4-0

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Wells - Westfield wrestlers used seven forfeits, two decisions and a fall to dominate United South Central at Wells Thursday, Dec.9.

The win kept the dual record spotless at 4-0 for the young season.

In the USC match, Ethan Arett, Riley Schultz, Jackson Heydt, Colton Krell, Morgan Moreno, and Dylan Nirk all won by forfeit, and at heavyweight, Trey Chatman pinned Ethan Morales in just 1:29 of the first period. The visitors also got points from two wild bouts.

At 152 pounds, Seth Peterson scored a 21-18 verdict over Hunter Johnson in a bout that went back and forth the whole time. At 182 Tristen Reicken got involved in an even wilder bout .He outscored Masyn Elvebak 39-18 in a bout in which takedowns, reversals, and escapes happened with great regularity. Wyatt Brennan lost a major decision to USC's Blake Legend 9-0 at 113.

Konner Harpestad decisioned Joe Pirkl 5-0 at 120 pounds. Jesse Meyer won a technical fall over Razorback's Joey Myer 16-1 at 138 pounds, and Keenan Biddle pinned Jordan Sullivan in the third period at 5:20 of the 145-pound bout.

Grapplers sweep Triangluar

After starting the season with a championship at the Badger invitational, the Westfield Razorbacks opened the dual match season with three wins at the Maple River Invitational Tuesday, Dec.6. The team edged the host school 38-36, defeated Mankato West 49-24, and then trampled St. Clair-Mankato Loyola 66-6 in the final match.

Five Razorbacks - Ethan Arett, Morgan Moreno, Dylan Nirk, Mitchell Oswald, and Trey Chatman - were a perfect three wins and no losses.

Five other matmen, including Riley Schultz, Jordan Sullivan, Seth Peterson, Colton Krell, and Tristen Reicken, won two and lost one for the night.

In the three win night for the locals, Moreno, Oswald, and Chatman all won by forfeit or fall, while Arett and Nirk picked up his three wins by comfortable decisions.

Probably the most exciting match of the night came when Nirk edged David Loffler of Mankato Loyola 2-1.The three match wins marked an auspicious opening for the Razorbacks.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Tigers forward Josh O'Daffer is fouled by a Clippers defender as he goes up for a basket in the second half of Medford's 58-22 loss to Cleveland on Tuesday, Dec. 6. O-Daffer led the Tigers in socirng woth 10 points.

Tigers round up

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Boys basketball

After a tough loss in the season opener, the Medford boys basketball team was looking to rebound with a win against Cleveland Tuesday night in its home opener. As head coach Spenser Busho noted after the game, the Tigers failed to do just that.

Powered by a 21-4 run to start the second half, the Cleveland Clippers stymied the Tigers 58-22. Coach Busho said that despite the loss, it was a completely different team just a night removed from 64-29 loss at Tri-City United.

"We brought the intensity. We played hard the whole game. Total 50 percent flip from last night (Monday). We had a five minute stretch where we came out flat and we can't have that," he added.

Medford went into the half trailing 30-16. Then, the Clippers big run hit.

With the clock running for most of the second half, Cleveland finished the game with a 28-6 run. Josh O'Daffer's 10 points paced the Tigers while Bryce McCarthy's added eight.

Wrestling

Waterville - The Medford wrestling squad wrestled tough, but were unable to pick up its first dual win Thursday against WEM/JWP at Waterville High School.

Despite Johnny Meyer, Willie VonRuden, Marcus DeLeon and Nate Meixner each winning by pinfall or major decision, the Tigers dropped the Gopher Conference matchup 54-20.

Cael Kavitz and Christian Tupa each lost in decisions. Both wrestlers dropped thier match by a point.

Panther round up

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Maple River - NRHEG girls won their third game of the season and the second conference victory in a row, as they flew past the Eagles 62-37 at Maple River Thursday, Dec. 9.

Payton Berkner almost singlehandedly kept the Eagles in the game, scoring 15 of her game-high 19 points in the first half. She managed only 4 points in the second half.

"We had problems in the first half," commented Coach Onika Peterson, "but we came out the second half, moved the ball much better, and controlled the play."

Maddie Wagner led NRHEG with 17 points, and Marnie Wagner had 11. Maddie Wagner also had 12 rebounds.

Panthers maul Bulldogs

NRHEG girls scored a blowout over JWP 69-27 Tuesday, Dec. 6, on the home court.

All ten Panthers counted at least 2 points, and the home team was never threatened in this game.

NRHEG took control from the outset and never looked back. "It was a fun game for us," remarked Coach Peterson. "Everyone got in the game, everyone scored, and everyone worked hard."

Marnie Wagner and Maddie Wagner led the scoring charge with 13 and 12 points , and the two combined for 7 rebounds. Rachel Collins contributed 8 points, and Kayley Camerer added 6 points and pulled down 5 rebounds, along with 4 steals, 7 assists, and a blocked shot.

Boys basketball

In the season opener on the road at St. Clair, the NRHEG boys basketball team managed to rally back from an early first half deficit to win 56-46.

The Panthers trailed 9-2 in the opening minutes before mounting a run to take a seven point lead just before halftime.

The Panthers were led by Tyler Raimann's 20 points and seven rebounds. The center who stands 6-foot-8 scored 16 points in the game's opening 20 minutes.

Oakley Baker added 14 points and eight rebounds.

Editor's note- We apologize for not having results on the NRHEG wrestling team.

Stats were not submitted prior to press.

Blossoms split contests

BOYS: from page 1B

usually resulted in a basket.

"Actually, it was a fairly close game," remarked Blossom Coach Nate Piller.

"Especially in the first half, but after the Wildcats got a lead, they did a good job being patient and controlling the tempo the second half. We couldn't get the ball often enough," he added.

Jake Ressler scored 10 points, but no other Blossom could count more than 6 points in the game. Kaden Thomas and Cory Rafdal both had 6 points.

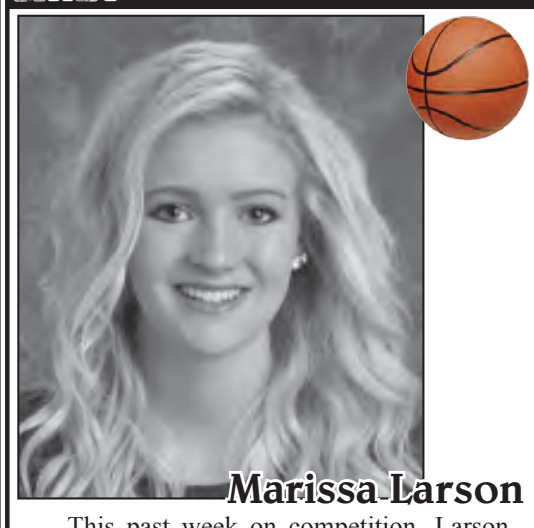
Jacob McNamara and Mitchell Hemenway scored 16 and 14 points to lead all scorers, and Tyler Buck added 7 points for the winners. The home team outrebounded the Blossoms and also had fewer turnovers.

Coach Brian Nelson's. JV team surprised Goodhue with 40-28 victory in the prelim. The locals had a little trouble with the trapping defense by the Wildcats, but the Blossoms were still able to control the game.

Trent Swenson and Gabe Hagen counted 9 and 8 points for the Blossoms. Cory Wagaman stood out on defense with his hardnosed play.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

GIRLS



Marissa Larson

This past week on competition, Larson registered a double-double, scoring 12 points while grabbing 14 rebounds against Medford Friday. On Dec. 6, The play of the Blossoms' center is a big reason why the team as climbed back to .500.



Ethan Arett

In the Razorback's two meets last week, Arett , who wrestles at 106 pounds, was undefeated, winning three matches at the Triangular in Maple River on Tuesday.

On Saturday, the grappler picked up a forfeit. So far in the young season, the 106-pounder holds an undefeated record.

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Huskies thump Albert Lea

13-2 run to open the second half lifts Owatonna to 79-48 win

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

In the season opener for the Owatonna High School boys basketball team, head coach Josh Williams noted that one of the stressors coming out of the halftime break was the first four minutes of the final half of play.

It's easy to say that the message resonated with his team.

Powered by a 13-2 run and strong defense to start the second half, the Huskies were able to down Big Nine Conference foe Albert Lea 79-48 at home Saturday night.

In fact, throughout the explosive run to start the half, the Tigers were held scoreless for the first four minutes of the half. Williams noted that the goal was to set the tone for the half.

"We came out and got some stops and convert some of our stops just to extend that lead a little bit and take the air out of the sails. I thought we did a good job doing that," he added.

It was a tale of two halves for the Huskies. In the first half, despite being propelled into the bonus, the Huskies were inconsistent on the offensive end. In fact, the largest lead of the half for Owatonna was not reached until there was just under two minutes left to play.

A mix of cold streaks, and poor shots, the Tigers were able to hang around for much of the half. After senior forward Andrew Jackson's huge block-that was reminiscent of Lebron James' block in this past summer's NBA finals-with three minutes left in the half, the floor started to slant in the Huskies favor.

Jackson was the key for the Huskies this evening, adding a monster dunk, and key rebounds to go with his block in the first half. Jackson finished with 13 points, 11 rebounds, and three blocks.

Coach Williams noted that Jackson was one player they've been excited about.

"He really kind of blossomed into his own and he had a great offseason. He's a high energy guy and it's great to have that presence down low," commented Williams.

Owatonna came out of the half with a 38-24 lead before going on the 13-2 run. Much of that run was a credit to tight defense from junior guard Alex Raichle, who scored six of his 10 points off of fast breaks after a turnover and Dalton Kubista, who recorded five steals.

After starting off hot, the Huskies would go cold for the next four minutes of the half, scoring just three times. Despite that brief cold streak, Owatonna was out to a commanding 66-37 lead in large part to great defense on the opposite end of the floor.

A timeout by Albert Lea seemed to do the trick for Owatonna, adding the game's next nine points.

To add to that, in the game's final three and a half minutes, the Huskies went on another hot streak. This time, the run was a commanding 28-4 run that ended any chance for the Tigers to battle back.

Despite the 31-point victory, the Huskies were 33 for 93 from the floor and 4 of 30 from beyond the arch. Williams noted afterward

"We didn't shoot it very well throughout the game, but the last few years we would have struggled to put up 79 points," he added.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior Andrew Jackson slams home a monster dunk in the first half of the H skies' 79-48 win over Albert Lea. Jackson finished the contest with a do ble-double, registering 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. He also added three blocks.

Husky round up



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Sydney Hunst (3) attempts a shot on Albert Lea's goaltender in the first period of Owatonna s 7-0 win Thursday. Hunst would tally a goal in the Dec. 6 10-1 win against Winona in Winona.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Girls hockey

The Owatonna High School girls hockey team faced off against Big Nine Conference for Albert Lea on Thursday at the Four Seasons Centre.

It appeared that the offensive hot streak stayed with the Huskies as Owatonna exploded for seven goals to down the Tigers 7-0.

Jenna Bogen recorded the hat trick just minutes into the second period.

Anna Herzog added her first two goals in her career and Margo Achterkirch and Jamie Daivson added goals in the third period.

Huskies 10, Winhawks 1

The Owatonna girls hockey team was on the road Tuesday to face Big Nine Conference foe Winona. Junior Margo Achterkirch registered her first hat trick of the season in Owatonna's 10-1 win.

In fact, Achterkirch had a hand on the Huskies' first six goals, adding two assists to go with the hat-trick.

Maylynn Prokopec and captain Jenna Bogen added two goals apiece while Grace Wolfe, Chloe Schmidt and Sydney Hunst all added a goal in the win.

Boys hockey

After giving up a trio of goals in the first period, the Owatonna High School boys hockey team dropped a Big Nine Conference matchup against Albert Lea 4-3 Thursday in Albert Lea.

Owatonna looked to make it a game as Adam Rehman and Nick Smith each added goals to pull the score to 3-2.

However, just minutes later, Austin Dulitz added his second goal of the night increasing the lead to 4-2. Carter Broton added a goal early in the third period to make it 4-3.

Wrestling

The Owatonna wrestling team had six grapplers reach the finals of the Ethan Herman Memorial Tournament in Chanhassen Saturday. The Huskies edged out Maple Grove for the team title 182-174.

of those six, Landon Johnson (113), Peyton Robb (145), Cade King (152), and heavyweight Goy Tut all took home the tournament title. Johnson, Robb and King remain perfect on the year at 5-0.

Griffin Thorn (220) and Joe Fox (126) finished as runner-ups. At 120, Haden Fox was the lone grappler to place third.

Kaden Nelson (106), Trevor Schroeder (132) and Parker Holton (182) placed fourth.

Huskies 54, Mayo 13

The Huskies were in Rochester Thursday for a dual against the Rochester Mayo Spartans.

Without dropping a match from 113 to 160 pounds, the Huskies walked off the mat with a convincing 54-13 win.

State-ranked Peyton Robb and Cade King each recorded wins by pin.

The Huskies will be back in Rochester Friday for the start of the Holiday Classic.

Huskies undefeated in Big Nine Conference play

GIRLS: from page 1B

the tone from the opening tip.

"Just got out and play hard every single game. We know we can play well if we go hard. Just because someone has a Lakeville South or has a certain title or had good seasons in the past doesn't mean we can't beat them every night if we played hard. The girls believed in that tonight," she added

After trailing since the Huskies 12-10 lead early in the first half, the Huskies managed to battle back from a 46-38 deficit to take the lead with just 4:15 left on the clock.

Throughout the entire game, the Huskies were always just a possession behind the Cougars. Much of that can be credited to hard-nosed defense and the play of their star junior forward.

While Schultz only managed nine points in the first half, her intensity on the boards of both ends of the floor kept the Huskies in striking distance.

A 35-32 halftime deficit was extended to 46-38 after the Cougars generated a quick 11-6 run to start the half, in large part to a blend of crisp clean passes and strong shots from the perimeter.

While Schultz was the undeniable star of the game for the Huskies, coach Hugstad-Vaa credits the entire team's effort in the second half to generate the rally.

"All the girls know they can do good things, it's just going to depend on what's open in the game and not to force things and I think we did a really good job of that tonight," she said.

The Huskies had four different players reach double figures in the contest with Kaitlyn Anderson scoring 11, Lexi Langland with 13 and Stephanie Liebel adding 14 to join Schultz's 20 points.

One of those four players who rose to the challenge in the second half was the senior in Langland. After struggling to sink shots down low in the first half, Langland was hardly missing on any opportunity in the second.

Her nine points were part of a 10-2 run that tied the score at 54-54 with under five minutes left in the game. She would finish the game with 13 points.

After a pair of Kaitlyn Anderson free-throw attempts, the Huskies took over the lead at 56-54 and never looked back.

However, the Cougars would not go down without landing shots of their own.

After Bria Wachowiak nailed a three to give the Huskies a 61-56 lead, the Cougars managed to draw a foul on the ensuing possession. After converting on just one of the attempts, Owatonna would receive their next eight points from the charity stripe giving them a commanding 67-58 lead with under two minutes left.

The free-throw shooting of each team was on full display tonight as each team would reach the bonus in the first half. The two teams combined for 41 fouls, with Owatonna committing 21 to Lakeville South's 20.

The difference in the game was that Owatonna missed just seven attempts from the line while the Cougars missed nine.

After Cougars guard Anna Harvey nailed a 13-foot jumper with just 10 seconds on the clock, senior guard Megan Peglow was fouled, giving Owatonna their final trip to the foul line.

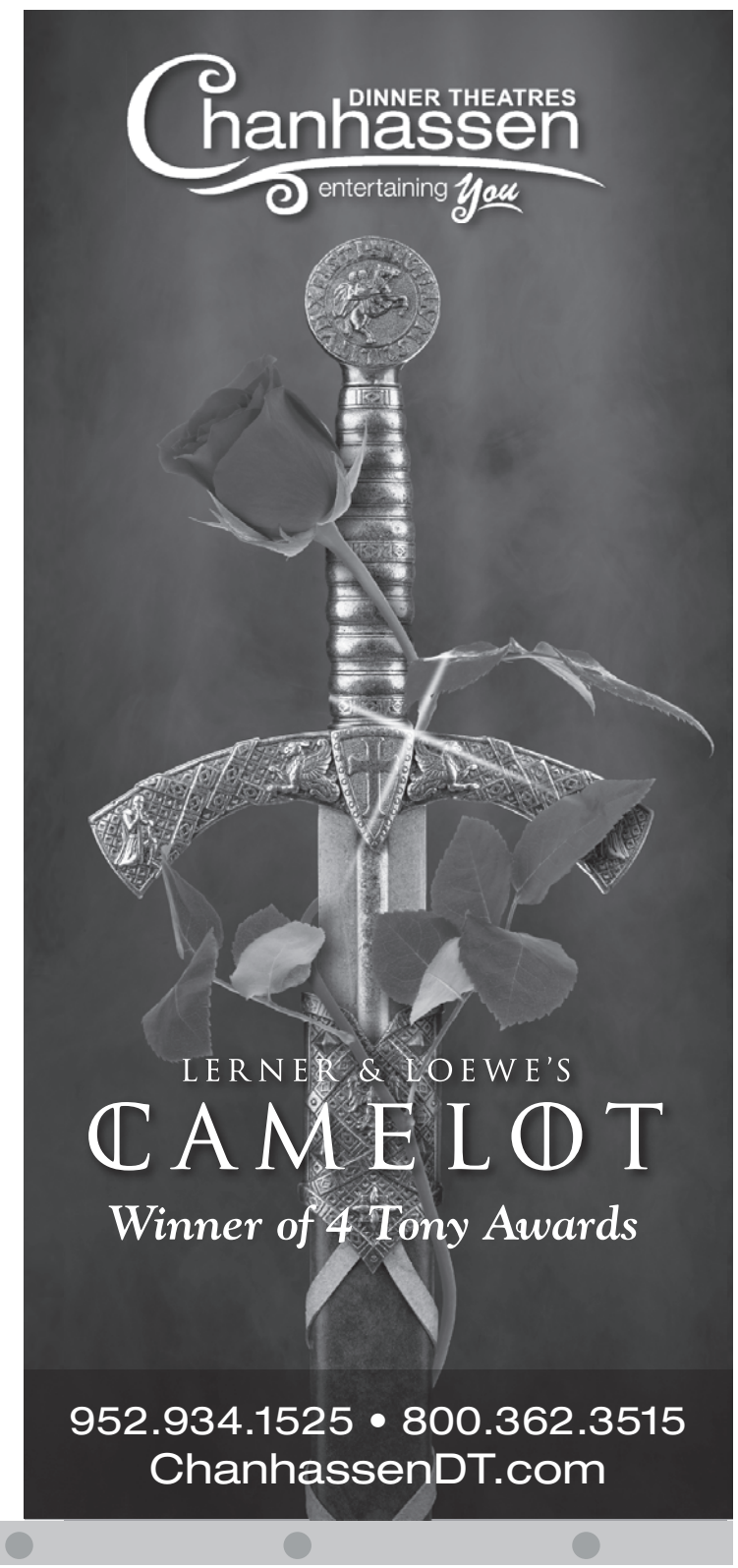
She would sink both attempts giving Owatonna the 69-60 cushion with seconds left. The Cougars were paced by Harvey's 23 points.

Owatonna scoring leaders: Schultz 20, Langland 13, Stephanie Liebel 14, Kaitlyn Anderson 11.

Huskies roll Scarlets

The Huskies were on the road to face Big Nine Conference foe Mankato West Tuesday night. Powered by junior Sydney Schultz's double-double, Owatonna was able to fend off the Scarlets 66-61 for their second straight win.

Schultz scored 32 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Owatonna. Jenna Zeman added nine points three assists and four steals.



Outdoor Living

B Section www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday, December 13, 2016



TT Motorcycles has a new product



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

(From left to right): Scott Thorpe, Grant Meany, Kevin Maday and TT Motorcycles owner Terry Trom stand in the shop portion of TT Motorcycles. Maday and Thrope are certified technicans while Meany is being certified to service th Odes UTV's.

Odes UTV's becoming a massive hit for local company

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

When it comes to motorcycles, there isn't a place better in all of Steele County than TT Motorcycles in Blooming Prairie. Owner Terry Trom moved to the new building from his farm to the current location on Main Street in 2010.

He has been in the business for nearly 30 years. However, it's a new product that has been making the footprint of the company expand.

In 2014, Trom, who noted to be in a recent interview that his father taught him to be diversified. Noting that if one entity doesn't work, the other will. Moving into a new product would not only change the future of his company, but the lives of everyone who buys one. That product was a series of UTV's from a company called Odes.

Trom noted that the reason to pick up the UTV's weren't to replace the bikes they still currently service and sell but to rather fill a void in sales that can be lost in the frigid winters of Minnesota.

"The sales on the bikes were going down and I needed something to fill the void.

"I mean, motorcycles are a seasonal product. You have six months on and six months off and it was a little weak in the sales department. So, I decided to move into power sports," he added.

Despite making the addition to fill a void, Trom mentioned that at first, the bikes were doing better in the revenue department in the beginning. However, he stated that the Odes brand has become their No.1 product.

He noted, "There is a much larger market for UTV's".

However, when asked if the market was the deciding factor in picking up the product, Trom simply added, "We're just trying to be more diverse."

Now, what separates UTV's from an ATV is that you ride in a UTV and ride on an ATV. With just that subtle, yet substantial difference, there are numerous models that can be acquired for recreational use, work use and even both. From four-doors, two-doors and sport models; Trom stated, "We have something for just about everybody."

He also noted that they have a new model called the Comrade 500. TT Motorcycles has models ranging from 54 to 64-inches wide. These units have a bulkier frame, while the Comrade 500 is a narrower unit from the rest, meaning it will fit under the 54-inch category. Despite the size, the store's new product can still be the machine of its larger companions. "It's built more for the utility end of it. It's a smaller, narrower unit. It has a bigger box, allowing it to carry nine five-gallon buckets in it. It also has a tailgate," Trom excitedly explained.

As for the color schemes that the Odes come in, Trom noted that the manufacturer has kept the selection to a minimum. Four colors are available in camouflage, carbon fiber black, white and red.

They can be selected for most of the models of the Odes that TT's has in the store, depending on if they are in stock. He continued that out of the colors that they do have in the store, carbon fiber black is their best seller. "It's probably 3 to 1 compared to the others," he said. He added that the carbon fiber is a nice look because it doesn't appear as dirty.

As for accessories for any particular model, Trom noted that the units come very well equipped with accessories. "All the accessories that you see on the units is included in the list price." he added. "These units come very well equipped with accessories included in the price."

What could you possibly use a UTV for? Well, in southern Minnesota, pretty much anything and everything. You can use them for hunting or fishing thanks to the large tailgates, being able to fit your cooler of food along with your tackle box or may even your duck or goose decoys.

Or, with the cold winter vastly approaching, the Odes' 2,200-pound towing capacity allows for even fishermen to tow their icehouse onto the lakes. Trom also said that many people who have bought them, or are potential customers, use them for trail riding or off roading.

He's even stated that they are used on the farm. "I purchased my first UTV in 2008 and I always had an ATV. It's kind of what gave me the idea to start selling them; it's the No.1 used piece of equipment on the farm. It's out every single day," Trom added.

Earlier this year, side by sides were made legal to drive on the roads in Minnesota with a DNR or Ag tag, with the exception to four lanes and state highways. "County blacktop and gravel roads are legal to drive on. That's when people started to show more interest," Trom added.

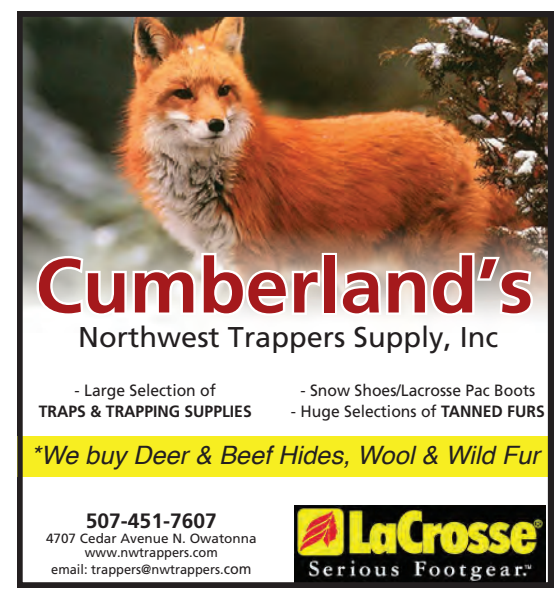
While the product has been a hit for TT Motorcycles, the company has been a hit for Odes. Trom noted that an Odes representative recently visited them and came away impressed.

The first thing he said was the presence that TT Motorcycles has on the web. "He said that we were doing a fantastic job promoting these units on the internet," Trom explained. He noted that the utilization of the website is a big use for everyone in business these days because everybody wants to see it online, then they will come to it. They were also impressed by the quality service that is given to the product.

"They were impressed by how knowledgeable our mechanics are. In a newer company, it's a big thing to make sure that they are being setup and serviced properly," Trom stated.

Trom noted that as a special promotion, anyone who reads this and sees him before Christmas about an Odes, he will throw in a snow plow attachment for the unit. "That's an $800 value," he said.

TT Motorcycles is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and Saturday 9 a.m. to noon in Blooming Prairie.











Deciding if a career change is for you

While losing weight and quitting smoking remain among the most popular New Year's resolutions each year, many more people resolve to change careers at the dawn of a new year.

Changing careers is a significant step, especially for men and women who are firmly established in their fields. A career change can be just as rewarding and life-changing as losing weight or quitting smoking, and there are some things professionals might want to consider before resolving to change careers in the new year.

Changing careers vs. switching jobs

Changing careers and switching jobs are not the same thing, and some people may want the former while others may only be in need of the latter. A full-fledged career change may require returning to school and a willingness to start from the bottom. A job change typically allows professionals to stay in their fields and move on to another position, whether it's with their existing employer or with another company.

Career trajectory

The direction of a person's career may also influence whether or not they want to make a career change. Established professionals mulling a career change should consider their willingness to start anew. Many mid-career professionals have worked for years to establish themselves in their fields and within their companies. Switching careers does not mean that experience and reputation is invaluable, but neither attribute may carry as much weight in a different line of work, and that can affect career trajectory and future earnings.

Effects on others

Established professionals must also consider the effect that a career change may have on their families. Married mid-career professionals should discuss changing careers with their spouse, and even their children if the kids are old enough to understand. Discuss the pros and cons of changing careers and the impact that making such a change may have on your family's daily life. Will the family have to move? Will the family lifestyle change dramatically, if at all? Spouses and children may feel better about the change knowing they were involved in the decision, and talking things through with family may help working professionals determine if changing careers is the best decision for them.

Long-term goals

Long-term goals are another thing to consider before making a career change. That's especially true for mid- or late-career professionals who may already have made significant progress toward achieving their long-term goals. Discuss long-term goals with your spouse or significant other and how changing careers might affect those goals. Long-term goals can change, and while the ability to realize those goals might not weigh heavily in your decision regarding a career change, understanding how such a change might affect your retirement or other late-life plans can only help you make the most informed decision possible.

Many people resolve to change careers at the dawn of a new year. But such a decision requires the careful consideration of a host of factors. TF16C642

Make the most of your entry-level job

Many top level business executives, including some CEOs, began their careers in entry-level positions. Such positions may not fulfill a post-grad's dream, but they are often great opportunities for freshly minted graduates to learn about a given industry.

Like many opportunities, entry-level jobs are often only as valuable as employees want them to be. Those who approach entry-level opportunities with a good attitude and a strong desire to learn are the ones who are most likely to someday consider their experiences as entry-level employees as invaluable. The following are a few ways entry-level workers can make the most of their opportunity.

A willingness to cooperate and work a few extra hours when help is needed is a great way for entry-level employees to get noticed. But while helping coworkers is great, make sure your own responsibilities aren't suffering because you're too quic. Once you have cleared your plate, you can then approach your boss and express your willingness to help. Such gestures will be appreciated and will help you get noticed for all the right reasons.

Learn the lay of the land. Companies vary with regard to culture at the office, so while a casual environment might have prevailed at a past internship that does not necessarily mean your new employer fosters the same environment. When starting an entry-level job, pay attention to how the staff interacts with one another, including how decisions are made. Such information can help you as you look to advance your career and build relationships within the company.

Develop your skills. No one expects you to be fully satisfied with an entry level position for your entire career, so don't be afraid to seek opportunities to further develop your skills. Such opportunities may present themselves within the company via an interesting project or outside the company via a class at the local college. Take advantage of any chance to develop your skills, and don't feel guilty about pursuing opportunities that have little to do with your current position so long as you're still doing your job to the best of your abilities.

A good company will be impressed by your desire to learn and grow your skill set, so don't hesitate to seek such opportunities.

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The right ways to update a résumé

The job market can be competitive, as new graduates flood the field each and every year. But graduation season is not the only time of year when the competition to find work gets heated

The start of the new year tends to be one of the busiest times of year for new hires. According to the employment resource Simply Hired, the first Monday after New Year's Day tends to be the busiest day for job search activity. Companies are returning to full production after the holidays, and as a result there is a flurry of new activity. This means applicants can use the last quarter of the year to prepare for job searches they will institute once the calendar turns.

Many job seekers may benefit from revamping their résumés before beginning their search. It's not uncommon for recruiters to receive thousands of résumés for each job opening they post, and the sheer volume of applicants can make it difficult for job seekers to get their résumés seen. In such instances, job seekers must take steps to tip the odds in their favor. By following these guidelines, job seekers may have a better chance of getting their résumés into the right hands.

• Put a professional purpose. Modern standards may suggest that listing a career "objective" is old fashioned. However, it is helpful to customize your résumé so that it is geared toward the position for which you are applying. A career objective may reflect how you are a strong candidate for each specifi job you apply for. Use some specifics that tie into to the particular job or company and you may catch the hiring manager's attention in the process.

• Embrace keywords. Many employers now use application tracking software to sift through the scores of résumés that are submitted for each opening they post. Keywords make it easy for employers to sort through thousands of résumés. The right keywords will fla your résumé and increase your "relevancy score" in the main HR/recruiting software programs available. Adapt your résumé for each application you submit. Use some of the words listed in the initial job posting and description. In addition, look at similar job postings and incorporate some keywords listed in those ads so that you have all the bases covered.

• Trim the fat. Less is often more regarding résumés. List all of the pertinent information, then go over the résumé again and again and cut out any irrelevant information to remove clutter. Only include information that is relevant to your career goals.

• Highlight what you have done. Rather than listing every job responsibility and position in chronological order, use a résumé to highlight specific career accomplishments. This is a time to be your biggest fan and tell the world all of the great things you have accomplished. Remember to include evidence to back up the claims. According to a 2015 survey by CareerBuilder, employers say that résumés that include links to a candidate's portfolio, website or blog garner more attention than résumés without such links.

• Put your own voice in the résumé. Rather than using standard verbiage on your résumé, personalize what you want to say. Hiring managers want to hire a human, not a machine. When speaking about yourself, be sure to use strong action words that define your skills even further. HR professionals cite terms like "managed," "achieved" and "improved" as examples of positive, assertive words.

Updating a résumé with the goal of standing out among a crowded pool of applicants is a great way for job seekers to land a new job.

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Ellendale embraces winter wonder



Submitted photo by Stephanie Kibler

On Saturday, Ellendale kicked off its winter wonderland season with severa holiday events, including the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Carolers performed at the lighting ceremony. The singers were made up of the United Methodist choir, families of Vibrant Life, and members of First Lutheran.

Pastor Charlie follows God's direction

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was a prayerful decision and a difficult one for the Rev. Charles Leonard to accept another parish call, he says, after serving seven years as senior pastor of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

He will conclude his mission at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 18 and will begin his new duties on Christmas Eve as senior pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester. He will be officially installed after his official starting date of Jan. 8, 2017

In making the decision to accept another congregation's call, Pastor Charlie said he is following God's direction.

"My whole life has been a sense of following God's direction and this is similar to my decision to leave my business career for the seminary in 1999," said Pastor Charlie.

Talking about his discernment to follow another pastoral call, Pastor Leonard said, "God does not disappoint and He surprises us in many wonderful ways." He added that First Lutheran Church will also be surprised and will see fruitful benefits, some we don't see at the present time.

Praising the First Lutheran Church congregation, Leonard said God has blessed First Lutheran Church for over 140 years with good leaders and faithful followers.

Pastor Charlie's call to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester will be his third pastoral call. His first was a four-year stay at Salem Lutheran Church in Montevideo.

He came to the Blooming Prairie church of 1,800 baptized members in 2009. First Lutheran currently has 550 families; Good Shepherd is slightly smaller.

In discerning this most recent pastoral call, Pastor Charlie said he observed a persistence in God's call.

The change in his ministry is met with excitement and sadness, Pastor Charlie admits. "Faith leads to hope and God does not disappoint," Pastor Charlie said. He emphasized that he is looking forward to engaging his gifts for the ministry in a new place that expresses a need for those gifts.

While at First Lutheran, Pastor Charlie said he has enjoyed building community partnerships and working to improve social justice.

With sadness, Pastor Charlie said he is leaving a congregation of people he and wife Cindy love, a congregation that has supported them and a day to day working relationship with the Rev. Heidi Heimgartner.

Looking back on highlights during his seven-year ministry at First Lutheran Church, Pastor Charlie said he has been greatly impressed and inspired by First Lutheran Church members and other church members who have been faithfully engaged in day to day life. Christians here "live out their faith lives in the workplace, in schools and in community service work,"



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Pastor Charlie Leonard of First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie has accepted a call to serve as lead pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rochester. He is shown outside the church he has ministered at for seven years.

Pastor Charlie observes.

Pastor Leonard said the congregation of First Lutheran walked side by side during some difficult times following the 2009 church-wide decision of recognizing the LGBT community with a welcoming into ordained ministry. "It was a challenging decision and difficult for many Christians

PASTOR
Continued on page 2C

BP high school seniors organize pet drive

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

What is a pet drive?

It is a novel idea brought forward by two Blooming Prairie High School seniors, Jordan Paulson and Rachel Peterson. They met with officials of the Steele County Humane Society and asked how they could help the Society.

Both Jordan and Rachel volunteer for the Steele County Humane Society adoption program on the third Saturday of each month.

It was suggested to Jordan and Rachel that they solicit items that could be donated to foster parents of animals in Steele County.

The drive focused on Blooming Prairie High School students and staff.

The Steele County Humane Society created a list of items that could be donated.

The list includes: any flavor of Friskies canned cat food;; scoop-able kitty litter, kitten kibble, canned kitten food, cat toys, Purina One dog food or cat food, canned dog food, grain-free dog food, dehydrated dog food, Kong brand dog toys, collars with buckles, leashes, etc.

The project started on Nov. 28 and ended Dec. 9 with a sizable amount of donations received. Teachers in each grade acted as collection points: 12th grade, Mr. Slack; 11th grade, Ms. Southworth; 10th grade, Mrs. Hendrickson; 9th grade, Mrs. Oelkers; 8th grade, Mrs. Poe and 7th grade, Mrs. Jones.

Superintendent Barry Olson donated some cat items and Principal John Worke and counselor Mary Worke donated some dog food.

"The Humane Society was really excited about how the girls could help, said teacher Mackenzie Carter who acted as an advisor on the project. Jordan made posters and circulated them at school.

"I think it is awesome that people including students and staff thought this was a worthy cause," Carter said. "There was a lot more interest than expected," she added.

Both Jordan and Rachel love animals. Jordan has dogs, cats, fish, snakes, rats and rabbits at her home. She said she also has had horses, donkeys and geese on her farm. At this time, Rachel has no pets but has had dogs and cats in the past.

Jordan and Rachel hope to sponsor a community pet drive in the near future and are also thinking of helping with a picnic adoption event next summer.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Jordan Paulson and Rachel Peterson spearheaded a pet drive in conjunction with the Steele County Humane Society by collecting animal items such as food and pet play things. Jordan and Rachel are shown with a friend, Buster, owned by John and Mary Worke.

Have a Healthier Holiday



JANE NYQUIST

It's the holiday season and although it is a season of joy and peace, sometimes it does not feel that way. You may feel lonely, miss someone you have lost or experience tough family relationships. Maybe you feel overwhelmed with all that needs to get done- shopping, baking, concerts, and travel. You may be disappointed that you did not reach your goal weight this year…once again. You may be anxious because you feel like your spending is out of control. How can you get back to the holidays being a time with family and friends, celebrating life?

Here are 5 tips for healthier holidays:

1) Mental Health: Manage stress. The holidays don't have to take a toll on your health. Keep your commitments in check. Balance home and work. Remind yourself to stay relaxed and keep a positive outlook!

2) Financial Health: Spend wisely. You don't have to overspend on the holidays. It's easy to get caught up in the material trappings of the holiday season. It's a challenge to stay focused on a spending budget, but it's essential. Without a budget, it's too easy to spend freely-especially if you are using a credit card. Start planning a couple of months before the holidays. If you do this, you can go into January feeling on track, instead of still paying off Christmas.

3) Physical Health: Eat healthy and be active. Limit fats, salt and sugary foods. Commit to staying active. Make sure you continue your exercise routine through the holiday season. You will feel better. Routine is so important!

4) Relational Health: Focus on relationships. Family relationships are complicated because of the expectation that "we are all the same" because we're part of the same family. The expectations we have of each other (because we're related) can make it difficult to "be ourselves," especially if we have different values and goals than do other family members. Expectations are elevated during the holidays because of family rituals and assumptions about "how the holidays are supposed to be." Some of the assumptions we have about the holidays include: "The bigger the gift and/or the more we spend, the better." "Everything has to be perfect." People want to belong and feel connected during the holidays. This desire can be so strong that we overextend ourselves emotionally, physically and financially. Examples of this include the following: Buying gifts one cannot afford; Preparing an elaborate, "perfect" meal or celebration. How can you make a positive change this year? Identify what it is about the holidays that get you down. Once identified, deal with it directly. Don't expect miracles; keep your expectations of others realistic. If the holidays make you feel out of control, "take control" over the holidays. Minimize over-indulging in food, spending and alcohol as way to cope with stress. Use humor; try to see the lighter side of life!

5) Spiritual Health: Be sure to take time to go to your place of worship, attend a concert and give to others in need. Stand outside for a moment and look up at the stars in the sky, see your breath in the air and be grateful for life. Herein lies the true meaning of this season of joy and peace.

This article is written by Mary Urch, RN, PHN, Steele County Public Health Nursing. Contact 507-444-7650 if you'd like more information.

Blooming Prairie Living

Mayo Health System appreciates support



Gretchen Zinsli, Nurse Practitioner



Meg Bryngelson-Lambert, Nurse Practitioner



Mark Brown, Operations Administrator



Diana Horan, Pharmacist

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

There's nothing much more important to families than health care.

And, that is so true in the Blooming Prairie community which is served by the Mayo Clinic Health Systems-Owatonna.

Mayo links Blooming Prairie to other clinics including Owatonna, Austin, Albert Lea, and if necessary to Mayo Clinic of Rochester.

Mayo provides an excellent service to the residents of Blooming Prairie, as well as to other nearby communities. The clinic is located at 405 East Main.

Well-trained family medicine providers are available to see patients two days a week and they provide a wide range of services.

The two providers, Gretchen Zinsli and Meg Bryngelson Lambert, are family nurse practitioners who care for individuals at every stage of their lives, from infants and children through those living in their later years.

The two providers at Blooming Prairie are well-supported by nursing, pharmacy and registration staff who also provide services to the patients. A significant benefit is that these providers utilize a common electronic health record. As patients move to other Mayo Clinic sites for more extensive care, including the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, all of the patients' health care information is available to the other treating providers.

The clinic is open in Blooming Prairie and has appointments with nurse practitioners from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Patients are usually able to schedule same-day visits.

In addition the pharmacy is open each week day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gretchen Zinsli serves the Blooming Prairie clinic on Tuesdays. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from Walden University in Minneapolis. Zinsli joined Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna after working as a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Meg Bryngelson-Lambert serves the Blooming Prairie clinic on Fridays. She completed her Master of Science in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Winona State University in Rochester, MN. She worked as a nurse for Mayo Clinic in Rochester and Kasson. Bryngelson-Lambert is a board-certified nurse practitioner and is a member of the Association of Southeastern Minnesota Nurse Practitioners.

Family medicine appointments at the Blooming Prairie Clinic include those that are preventive, acute and longitudinal in nature. Routine lab work (i.e. blood draws) and injections (e.g. immunizations) are performed at the clinic, as are EKGs. The staff also has contacts with other Mayo Clinic sites in Owatonna, Austin, Albert Lea and Rochester, and can refer patients to other sites if necessary.

Many prescriptions can also be filled at the pharmacy that sits inside the clinic. A pharmacy technician is on duty and can help patients with questions about medications. The pharmacy also does home delivery within the Blooming Prairie city limits.

Patients on anti-coagulation medications can have these managed at the BP clinic. Another service provided locally has Steele County Public Health conducting its Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic in BP once a month.

Mark Brown, operations administrator of Mayo Clinic Healty System-Owatonna, says any BP clinic staff member will be more than happy to answer questions, and/or resolve concerns individuals may have. Staff will help patients and community members identify other options available for them, should they require assistance outside of what can be provided in Blooming Prairie.

Mayo Clinic Health System "is thrilled" to be part of the Blooming Prairie community, Brown said. "The clinic has an excellent staff and patients are well-cared for in Blooming Prairie," he added.

"We appreciate all the community does to support the clinic, as well as the work that is done to ensure the ongoing health and well-being of the community," Brown continued. "Mayor H. Peterson and the BP Area Chamber of Commerce have been most welcoming to Mayo," he said.

The BP clinic provides patient care as close to home as possible. "We know we can't provide every service," Brown said, but some services can be provided electronically.

BP Clinic patients can call the Mayo Clinic System nurse line which is staffed by registered nurses. They can treat a number of conditions on the phone.

Patients don't have to come to the clinic in many cases, but if it is more serious, they can determine if they need to be seen in person. Patient online services include the ability to log in on the computer and access all medical reports, lab and radiology results. Patients can also view their doctor notes from their computer or smart phone.

Mayo Clinic Health System receives hundreds of messages from patients requesting medical advice. Providers work in care teams and work together to see that messages are answered, Brown said.

An Express Care Online service is also available to provide treatment for minor conditions, for example, sore throat, pink eye, etc. "Treatment can be provided without the patient coming into the clinic," Brown said.

Brown says medical care has changed considerably over the years with research and scientific advances making it so we have better and more medication and better and more therapies.

Patients can also find a wealth of information on the Mayo clinic website at mayoclinic.org.

Patients have access to much more information thanks to highly trained physicians and medical providers. This information is then made available via electronic means.

Contact Mayo Clinic Health System of Blooming Prairie at 507-583-7225.

Pastor Charlie was part of the the community

PASTOR: from page 1C

wrap their faithful minds around," Pastor Leonard said.

"In many ways, we simply depended upon the steadfast loving nature of God toward all."

Further reviewing his stay at First Lutheran, Pastor Charlie said he was pleased to see a renewal of focus on children, youth and family ministry. He said he is proud to have been a part of a vibrant confirmation program that currently includes 50 students, and a Sunday school which welcomes over 100 young students each Sunday.

A courtyard beautification project is another effort he is grateful for, especially the cooperative effort of some very talented folks working together to make it a reality.

The overall growth and ministry development at First Lutheran has been most rewarding and humbling to Pastor Charlie. Some major stewardship and finance goals have been attained and will support this ministry going forward.

Pastor Leonard has been very supportive of the Blooming Prairie Boys and Girls Club, serving on its board. "I literally observed some of our Sunday morning prayers being answered through the efforts of the Boys and Girls Club, emphasizing equality and justice," he said.

Pastor Charlie is respected for his referencing life situations with Bible verses. He often leads devotions at church meetings and has led a weekly Wednesday morning Bible study for all of his seven years.

Referring to Matthew Chapter 11, Pastor Charlie says Jesus emphasizes to the Disciples to observe not only what I say but also what you see me do; that for followers of Christ it is not just what you say about Jesus but more about what you do as a Christian. "Being a doer and not just one who says is at the core of who I am as a follower of Jesus," he said.

During his time in Blooming Prairie, Pastor Charlie said he has enjoyed supporting the Education Foundation and the BP Cancer Group to name a few. He also said he has enjoyed spending time at the Prairie Manor Care Center.

"Blooming Prairie is a strong faith community where people come together to worship God but also to support one another. A lot of that support is through providing Sunday schools for all families to bring their children. That's a high priority.

"First Lutheran is a thriving church because it gives support to young families which provides hope to older generations of faith.

"It is very rewarding to communicate the hopefulness of the Gospel to people. There are challenges, too, like stepping into a tragic family situation that people may be faced with. These challenges are met by God's love and compassion, I have been blessed to be a small part of that."

Pastor Charlie says his wife Cindy has been a "very big supporter" of his ministry in Blooming Prairie. He said the discernment to Rochester will bring Cindy closer to her work as a Registered Nurse at the Mayo Clinic, which in many ways is her ministry to people.

Good Shepherd, located in southwest Rochester, worships an average of 275 each Sunday with three services. First Lutheran has an average Sunday attendance of 320 with two services. Good Shepherd's mission emphasizes feeding the hungry and taking risks to seek social justice.

In a letter to members of First Lutheran, Pastor Charlie writes: "In our time together since God led me to you, to serve alongside Pastor Heidi, God has done marvelous things here at First Lutheran Church. My prayer now is that we create time to celebrate the many things we've done together over these seven-plus years and to bless the ministry of First Lutheran as it continues into a very bright future."

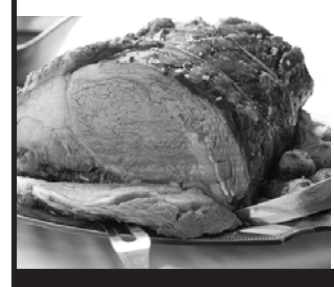
A congregational farewell has been planned for Sunday, Dec. 18.

Commenting on her working relationship with Pastor Charlie, Pastor Heidi remarks:

"I truly enjoyed the years of ministry we shared with Pastor Charlie. He is a kind leader, empathetic listener, and very willing to roll up his own sleeves in both the congregation and community. Pastors treasure the times spent with members in sorrow, in joy, in everyday life.

"Pastor Charlie expressed on many occasions over the years how privileged he felt to walk with others in faith. I have my own favorite memories and stories; I'm sure each of us do. For all he has accomplished here, we are grateful. Pastors serve knowing their tenure is always temporary; only God is eternal. I wish he and Cindy, and their family, a fond farewell, and a great new beginning in Rochester."

Calling Pastor Charlie a kind and gracious leader and teacher, Barry Olson, First Lutheran Church congregation president, said he has "a lot of respect" for Pastor Charlie's ministry which he calls "powerful, gracious and caring."

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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Medallion hunt continues

The medallion is still out there. The Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce is giving away 50 blooming bucks to whoever finds it first. This is the third week of the hunt:

Clue #3:

Got a handle on your search?
If not-don't get huffy.
Take a trek.
Maybe you'll be lukcy.



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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Domestic Assault. On Dec. 1, deputies responded to a domestic assault in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. They arrested one subject and transported him to the Steele County Jail.

Crime brief

Driver reveals being 'dusted' to police

It's not something police run into frequently, but a driver revealed being "dusted" during a recent impairment case in Steele County.

Owatonna Police responded to a citizen concern of a person slumped over the steering wheel in the Target parking lot Dec. 3. As the officer approached the vehicle, he saw the driver inhaling or huffing from a can of an aerosol dusting product.

Andrew W. Swant allegedly told the officer he was "dusted." The officer saw Swant was impaired, positioned in the driver's seat and the keys were in the ignition, giving him physical control of the vehicle.

According to police, Swant had two cans of Endust multipurpose brand duster on the seat. The chemicals for most aerosol dusting products contain Difluorethane, a colorless and odorless gas classified as a hazardous substance. When inhaled, the gas gives users an immediate high, police said, adding inhalation poses serious health risks and can be fatal.

The officer used the same set of impaired driver roadside tests as if Swant was intoxicated. He failed all tests by exhibiting poor balance, hand-eye coordination, divided attention and unusual behavior. He initially refused a blood test. As the officer applied for a search warrant, Swant complied.

Swant has been charged with third-degree DWI of a hazardous substance.



Andrew W. Swant

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
Dec. 2

Suspicion. At 12:35 a.m., police responded to suspicious activity in the 700 block of Academy St. E. They issued a citation.

Fight. Officers responded to a fight in the 300 block of School St. E. at 3:16 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 4:34 p.m.

Arrest. Police responded to the 100 block of Rose St. W. following a 9-11 hang-up call at 4:49 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Dec. 3

Drunken Driving. Police made a DWI arrest in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:11 a.m.

Crash. At 8:40 a.m., paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Bridge St. W. and Walnut Ave. N.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 200 block of 22nd St. SE at 10:54 a.m.

Restraining Order. Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 100 block of School St. W. at 11:02 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Dec. 4

DWI. Officer arrested motorists for driving while intoxicated at 14th St. SE and Lincoln Ave. S. at 1:09 a.m. and in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 2:21 p.m.

Domestic. Police responded to domestic disturbances in the 2600 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 1:18 a.m. and in the 200 block of School St. W. at 8:19 p.m. They made arrests at both incidents.

Suspicion. At 8:21 a.m., officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 1800 block of Cedar Ave. S. They arrested the subject at the scene.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 300 block of School St. W. at 11:47 a.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:20 p.m.

Drugs. Police assisted with drug activity in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. NW at 6:17 p.m.

Dec. 5

Hit and Run. A hit and run crash resulting in property damage occurred at Bridge St. W. and State Ave. NW at 6:59 a.m.

Fraud. At 11:49 a.m., officer took a fraud report in the 1900 block of Greenwood Dr. NE.

Crash. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident at Cedar Ave. S. and Park St. SE at 8:10 p.m. A citation was issued to one of the drivers.

Shoplifting. At 8:22 p.m., police made a shoplifting arrest in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Suspicion. Officers responded to a suspicious activity report in the 400 block of Pearl St. E. at 11:03 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

Dec. 8

Fraud. At 9:11 a.m., a citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 3500 block of 18th St. SW.

Theft. Officer took theft reports in the 1800 block of Mineral Springs Parkway at 12:17 p.m. and in the 300 block of Park Dr. NW at 2:34 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
Dec. 2

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4800 block of Pratt Ave. at 8:13 a.m.

Dec. 3

Crash. At 6:10 a.m., deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident in the 2000 block of 69th St. NE.

Dec. 4

Warrant. Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:06 p.m.

Dec. 5

Lost Property. At 12:03 p.m., deputies took a report of lost property in the 100 block of Main St. E.

Drunken Driving. Deputies arrested a subject for driving while intoxicated at 71st St. SW and 82nd Ave. SW at 11:36 a.m.

Dec. 6

Warrant. Deputies arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 5:35 a.m.

Court news
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 28 – Dec. 2 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jameson D. Smith, 18, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet assault. Smith was sentenced to $50,105.90 and 118 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Nov. 28 – Dec. 2:

Blooming Prairie
Police Department

Troy A. Andersen, 48, Blooming Prairie, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, $81, diversion program, no alcohol or controlled substance use, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 2 years of supervised probation; Deandre J. Forbush, 20, Blooming Prairie, invalid license, $181; Katelynn B. Hodges, 22, New Prague, speeding, $121.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Eric L. Anthony, 32, St. Paul, revoked license, $281; Nicholas G. Bartelt, 35, Waseca, seat belt, $106; Allison R. Baumgartner, 16, West Concord, speeding and cell phone use as provisional driver, $191; Falconer R. Bellefy, 21, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Jason T. Boesen, 34, Ankeny, IA, speeding, $141; Matthew S. Bunce, 28, Sioux City, IA, speeding, $141; Katherine I. Czerwinski, 22, Barrington, IL, speeding, $131;

Matthew S. Eckdahl, 22, Brooklyn Park, speeding, $121; Roger E. Ellingson, 62, Dodge Center, speeding, $281; Saieda Evans, 44, Oakley, CA, speeding, $151; Robert F. Ford, 51, Austin, tail light violation, $121; Edward J. Full, 62, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Paul R. Ganz, 45, Brooklyn Center, unsafe change of course, $131; Jessica J. Garness, 27, Dodge Center, speeding, $121; Melinda M. Gerold, 33, Lakeville, speeding, $131;

Jeremy M. Gordon, 39, Albert Lea, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Alek R. Haldorson-Struck, 23, Albert Lea, window tint violation, $131; Samantha J. Halvorson, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Jordan J. Hargis, 20, Manly, IA, speeding, $141; Russell T. Holt, 17, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $141; Isaiah N. Jibben, 29, Waseca, window tint violation and covers violation, $171; Samuel S. Johnson, 29, Le Center, speeding, $121;

Konstantinos Kalmpogkinis, 51, speeding, $281; Tori M. Keck, 17, Owatonna, following too closely, $131; Jason M. Koehler, 26, Austin, window tint violation, $131; Melissa K. Kormann, 28, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Saul Leon-Pimentel, 27, Peoria, IL, speeding, $131; Adrian M. Lewis, 34, Montrose, seat belt, $106; Katelyn E. Mauntler, 19, Glenville, speeding, $141; Patrick A. Mawolo, 19, Rochester, speeding and suspended license, $331;

Egdar Melendez Rodriguez, 35, Minneapolis, no license, $181; Robina M. Olson, 25, Albert Lea, speeding, $131; Libby A. Osmundson, 26, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Cheryl L. Ptacek, 46, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Jeffrey M. Rohl, 39, Waterville, seat belt, $106; Robert W. Schuette, 62, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Ta E. Shi, 25, St. Paul, speeding, $121; Jennifer A. Sivret, 31, Owatonna, speeding, $131;

Zachary D. Smith, 34, Austin, speeding, $121; Merisa Z. Spahic, 19, Palatine, IL, speeding, $131; Jenna E. Stangland, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, $121; Santiago O. Torres, 23, El Paso, TX, no license, $181; Logan M. Tovar, 21, Albert Lea, speeding, $141.

Owatonna Police
Department

Jordan G. Anderson, 20, St. Paul, revoked license, $281; Benjamin Arellano Jr., 20, Owatonna, no license, $181; Ashley L. Bates, 29, Glenville, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, $381, 6 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, chemical assessment, 80 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation;

Derek D. Bogenschutz, 34, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Cassandra S. Britt, 24, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Casimir J. Bugajski, 39, Owatonna, theft, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jennifer D. Eckart, 36, Faribault, revoked license, $281; Daryk R. Efta, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $181; Jeana K. Espe, 19, Owatonna, possession of paraphernalia, $131; Trey T. Foreist, 23, Owatonna, revoked license;

Charles W. Lamont, 46, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Shelly L. Malecha, 59, Owatonna, speeding, $201; Martin W. Osmund, 53, Owatonna, aid and abet theft, $81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Brian A. Paulson, 27, Owatonna, expired license, $181; Mariano Rocha, 38, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Joann R. Smith, 57, Owatonna, aid and abet theft, $81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Venus S. Smith, 37, Owatonna, suspended license, seat belt and no insurance, $506;

Anthony D. Stapleton, 31, Cedar Falls, IA, revoked license; Ricky S. Steele, 41, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, $1,131, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no contact with victim, cognitive skill training and 5 years of supervised probation;

Macy E. Vonruden, 19, Claremont, possession of paraphernalia, $131; Linda M. Williams, 46, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Rayce M. Witt, 18, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Randy J. Wolke, 39, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Donny Zapata, 37, Owatonna, cancelled license, $381, 3 days in county jail and 2 years of supervised probation.

Steele County
Sheriff's Office

Eddi E. Abrogouah, 22, Columbia, MO, speeding, $131; Paul A. Alberts, 40, Kasson, speeding, $141; Nicholas M. Balfe, 40, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Daniel Carreon, 18, St. James, speeding, $141; Juan Escudero, 97, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Stacie M. Hawkins, 32, Waseca, speeding, $121; Anthony J. Kararo, 27, Faribault, speeding, $121;

Kathryn J. Kohnert, 56, Minnetonka, speeding, $131; Gerald L. Kuntz, 58, Nerstrand, speeding, $121; J'nae L. Limberg, 18, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Sarah J. Luhman, 30, West Concord, speeding, $121; Misty Y. Milstead, 29, Owatonna, no insurance; Bridgett D. Mitchell, 42, Owatonna, revoked license, $281;

Corina D. Morales, 17, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Gavin F. Nourie, 19, Nicollet, failure to drive in single lane, $131; Ryan D. Peterson, 33, Waseca, speeding, $121; Elissa L. Rathbun, 19, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Lyle F. Sellers, 35, Waseca, speeding, $121;

Zahra F. Sheikh-Wali, 27, Waseca, speeding, $121; Ricky R. Tollefson, 47, New Richland, speeding, $121; Eddie L. Wiley, 35, Minneapolis, speeding, $221.

Police blotter
Dodge County

Nov. 30

Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center at 4:01 a.m.

Dec. 1

Civil. At 12:32 p.m., deputies assisted with a vehicle repossession in the 200 block of 3rd St. NE in Dodge Center.

Larceny. Deputy took a report of a stolen phone in the 21100 block of 601st St. in Dodge Center at 9:41 p.m.

Dec. 2

Weapons. Deputies responded to concerns over a shooting range in the 62200 block of 200th Ave. in Dodge Center at 10:56 a.m.

Harassment. Deputies responded to a harassment incident in the 300 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 9:42 p.m.

Search Warrant. At 9:57 p.m., deputies executed a search warrant in the 500 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center.

Dec. 3

Animal. Deputies received a complaint of animal neglect in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 11:02 a.m.

Weapons. Deputies responded to a weapons offense in the 62200 block of 200th Ave. in Dodge Center at 12:27 p.m.

Dec. 4

Vandalism. Deputy took a report of property damage at State Hwy. 57 and County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 9:26 a.m.

Dec. 5

Environment. At 9:39 a.m., deputies found a violation of solid waste ordinance in the 63600 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont.

Animal Neglect. Deputies began an investigation of animal neglect in the 200 block of 2nd St. SE in Hayfield at 2:11 p.m.

Dec. 6

Welfare. Deputies completed a welfare check in the 400 block of 4th St. NE in Hayfield at 9:30 p.m.

Court news
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 28 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Oscar A. Martinez, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. He was sentenced to $1,155, 38 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, anger management, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 28 – Dec. 5:

Dodge County
Sheriff's Office

Stanley C. Arendts, 65, Hayfield, speeding, $120; Taten J. Babatz, 27, Faribault, prohibited passing, $130; Chelsea A. Brown, 24, Kasson, speeding, $220; Zachary K. Finley, 23, Grand Meadow, mistreatment of animals, $380; Dylon L. Hegna, 16, Kasson, failure to stop for traffic control signal, $130;

Gregory M. Howden, 60, Austin, registration violation, stay of adjudication, $200 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Corey K. Kohn, 24, Rochester, speeding, $220; Sharon D. Lager, 61, Rochester, speeding, $220; Leah M. Oswald, 23, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Shannon M. Pflaum, 36, Northfield, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, $1,075, 88 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, psychological evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation;

Martin Rodriguez, 19, Minnetonka, possession of a controlled substance, stay of adjudication, $1,075, 82 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, maintain employment, obtain GED, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Mark L. Roles, 41, Dodge Center, speeding, $380; Torey A. Schmit, 33, Rochester, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $280; Chelsea L. Simmons, 28, Dodge Center, invalid license, speeding and no insurance, $440.

Kasson Police
Department

Travis R. Andrist, 35, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Tyler J. Bissell, 22, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $105; Michael J. Kochen, 35, Stewartville, no insurance, $380 and 30 hours of community service; Robert J. Lane IV, 25, Rochester, seat belt, $105; Paula M. Lingsweiler, 45, Hayfield, seat belt, $105; Zachary J. Meyer, 30, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Dean J. Rossi, 74, Kasson, seat belt, $105; Rindy P. Schutz, 41, Rochester, speeding, $130; Antoine S. Wilson, 40, Rochester, suspended license, $280.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Colby C. Alberts, 30, Byron, speeding, $120; Kevin J. Alwes, 61, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $140; Edward J. Bronner, 75, Dodge Center, unsecure load, $140; Jay D. Brunner, 25, Owatonna, inoperative brakes, $180; Gabriela L. Calderon, 19, Houston, speeding, $120;

Bany P. Chan, 20, Rochester, speeding, $120; Aryanna M. Deleon, 30, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $120; Manoj Deverapalli, 22, Mankato, speeding, $130; Dayton A. Fate, 45, West Concord, speeding, $130; Jerrod R. Faulhaber, 26, Hayfield, seat belt, $105; Tamara E. Goemaat, 47, Rochester, speeding, $120;

Ronald J. Heard Jr., 24, Owatonna, revoked license and giving peace officer false name, $455, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of probation; Donald R. Hooker, 44, The Colony, TX, speeding, $220; Alison M. Johnson, 44, Apple Valley, speeding, $140; Dawn R. Miller, 55, Dodge Center, speeding, $120; Jose Montoya Jr., 72, Buda, TX, speeding, $130;

Tikila S. Sinclair, 19, Kasson, speeding, $120; Jason R. Tlusty, 35, Dodge Center, speeding, $220; Robert J. Walters, 64, St. Charles, stop sign, stay of adjudication, $130 and 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without

The following individuals as they have active warrants in Steele County.
The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

ACTIVE WARRANTS
Disclosing active warrants promotes public safety and aids in the identification & apprehension of those individuals wanted on a warrant.

- Erasmo Resendez – assault - $2,000 bail
- Benjamin Restrepro – theft - $200 bail
- Juan Reyes – criminal sexual conduct - $50,000 bail
- Margarito Reyes – criminal property damage - $3,000 bail
- Maria Reyes – false name - $500 bail
- Bartolo Reyna – theft - $1,000 bail
- Kelly Reynolds – no license - $1,000 bail
- Nicholas Richards – expired registration - $500 bail
- Ross Richardson – possession of drugs - $500 bail
- John Richter – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Angel Rizo – worthless check - $5,000 bail
- Jeremiah Roberts – drugs – no bail
- Tommy Robertson Jr. – DWI - $300 bail
- Cecelia Robinson – check forgery – no bail
- Josue Rocha – disorderly conduct - $1,000 bail
- Raul Rodarte – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Abraam Rodriguez – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Antonio Rodriguez – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Carlos Rodriguez – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Carlos Rodriguez – terroristic threats (3) – no bail

conviction.

West Concord
Police Department
Charles P. Rea, 50, Kenyon, revoked license, $280; Todd A. Wenner, 41, Medford, revoked license, $280.

ARREST
Steele County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of Nov. 28 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Oscar A. Martinez, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. He was sentenced to $1,155, 38 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, anger management, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

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Chelsea A. Brown, 24, Kasson, speeding, $220; Zachary K. Finley, 23, Grand Meadow, mistreatment of animals, $380; Dylon L. Hegna, 16, Kasson, failure to stop for traffic control signal, $130;

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West Concord
Police Department
Charles P. Rea, 50, Kenyon, revoked license, $280; Todd A. Wenner, 41, Medford, revoked license, $280.

OWATONNA FIRE

Dec. 3
Assist. Fire personnel assisted police or other governmental agency on Interstate 35 at 5:41 a.m.

Dec. 4
Assist. At 1:25 p.m., fire rescue responded to the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. to assist police or other governmental agency.

Dec. 7
Smoke Removal. Fire fighters helped with smoke or odor removal in the 100 block of Pearl St. NW at 5:06 a.m.

Public safety doesn't stop on Christmas Eve

It's Christmas Eve. While you and your family celebrate the holidays together at home with relatives, we are patrolling your neighborhood tonight – checking your property, your yard, your streets, looking for anything or anyone out of place. We are the ones that venture into the dark, not knowing what if anything awaits us, often to protect many of you we have never even met.

You spend the evening with your family warm and safe indoors, many enjoying a few drinks in front of a warm fireplace. We're outside trying to stay warm, dealing with the winter elements - freezing rain, snow, sometimes dangerous road conditions, or maybe even a blizzard. We're out there waiting for our 911 dispatchers to advise us when someone else in the county needs our help.

You've got your kids with you, maybe grandkids, also grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. The whole family is together for this joyous occasion. Our families are spending another holiday without us. This was our year to work. Hopefully we make the rotation next year so we can take time off for them. They understand we make these sacrifices to help keep our communities safe, to help people in need, and to do our little part to make our communities a better place for them to live in. They understand our sacrifices are also their sacrifices.

Your Christmas Eve dinner is ready. All the family has pitched in to make a huge holiday feast for everyone there. The smell of turkey, ham, and warm pie fill the ai , those smells that make us think of Christmas's past. The house also smells of fresh pine from the real Christmas tree in the living room. We've been busy tonight so we haven't had a chance to get much for a meal - chips and a pop at the local gas station, maybe a piece of pizza or pre-made sandwich. Later we'll stop in to check on our gas station attendants who are also sacrificing on Christmas. We'll refill our co fee cups and continue our patrols through the night.

You've finally got the kids to settle down for the night, all excited about presents and that visit from Santa overnight. Everyone's tucked in for a warm night's sleep. If we are lucky enough to live in the zone we work in, we'll try and stop by to say goodnight to the kids. If we're too busy, we'll just have to call when we can. We'll wish them Merry Christmas over the phone and say goodnight to the kids. Hopefully we can call before they go to bed.

Your kids are in bed and now its adult time - you sit and play cards, games, and visit with family and loved ones reminiscing about the night you just had and memories of Christmas past. We're patrolling your neighborhoods while thinking about a crash we worked a few months ago where we pulled two kids from the wreckage, two that didn't make it. It's hard to forget that reaction we get when we have to tell parents their kids are gone – or the emotional feeling of just wanting to go home and hug our kids and tell them that we love them. We worry about those parents tonight. We hope and pray we don't get another crash like that tonight on Christmas.

Your kids wake you up early, all excited about opening Santa's presents and celebrating Christmas Day. You're rested and ready to share this amazing day with your family. We've been asleep for an hour or two before our kids are waking us up excited about opening Santa's presents and celebrating Christmas Day. We finally finished our shift a few hours earlier afte a busy evening and quietly sneaked into our homes around 5 a.m. We took off our uniforms, grabbed a quick snack from last night's big meal, and headed to bed trying not to wake up the kids or our spouse. We'll go downstairs now and see the kids open their gifts, while trying not to think about some of the things that we saw last night. Then it's back to bed for a better part of Christmas Day. We'll go back to work at 6 p.m. and do it all over again.

Inspite all of the sacrifices many of us will make this Chris - mas, and the anti-law enforcement rhetoric we endure from the main stream media and other radical groups, we remain very proud of this profession that we love. We're proud of our uniform, we're proud of our badge, and we're extremely proud of our flag. We couldn't imagine doing anything else. Helping you is our calling, it's our passion, and it's truly what motivates us.

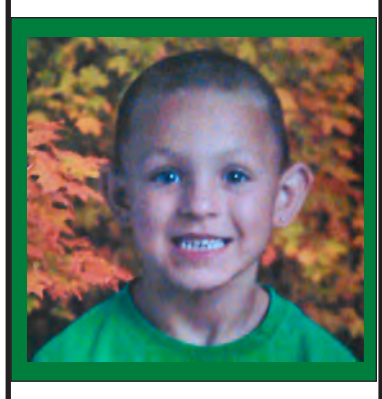
The intent of this column is not to make you feel sorry for law enforcement. It's simply to remind you of some of the sacrifices these men and women make for our communities. Hopefully it also makes you think about the sacrifices made by all our public safety partners serving our communities over the holidays – our 911 dispatchers working to keep everyone safe, our local ambulance and fire department members (many who are volunteers) working side by side with us on emergency calls, and the medical professionals saving lives at our area hospitals. Don't forget our local tow companies who are also out there helping us day and night.

This Christmas, if you see your local law enforcement or public safety professionals out working the streets, take a minute to thank them for their service and sacrifice. Your "thank you" means a lot to all of them, especially during the holidays.

Scott Rose has been the sheriff of Dodge County for two years. His column appears in this newspaper monthly and is also available on the sheriff's website.

Kids for Christmas: Logan

This Christmas season Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for "bigs" who want to brighten the lives of some "littles." Over the coming weeks, we're running profiles of children waiting for their very own big brother or sister.



Logan

Logan is a 6-year-old spunky and outgoing boy.

He enjoys rollerblading, biking, puzzles, games, coloring, going to the park and playing with his brother. Logan added that he likes to play with his cats, he loves animals, he likes watching dinosaur movies, going fishing, riding his bike really fast and eating his favorite food: pop-cycles.

Logan really wants a Big Brother or Big Couple to look up to and learn from and he really needs a positive male role model in his life.

If Logan, or a child in a similiar situation, is someone you would like to make a difference in the life of, contact Big Brothers Big Sisters: Southern Minnesota at 507-451-5922 or look them up online.

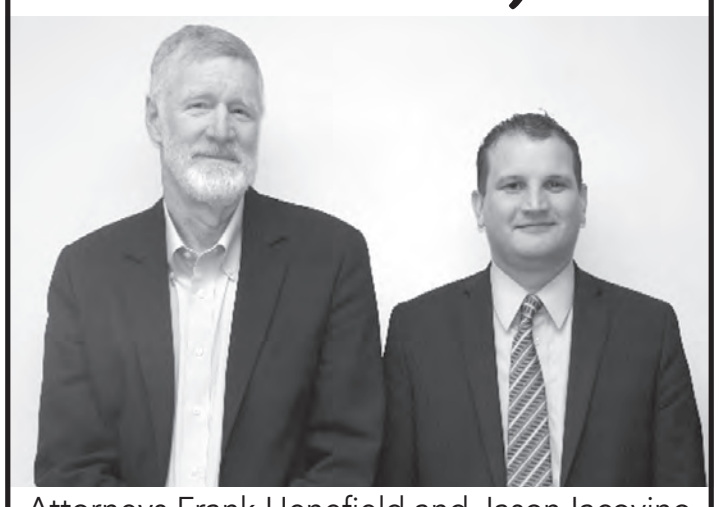


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HENEFIELD LAW OFFICE, LLC



Attorneys Frank Henefield and Jason Iacovino

General Practice
• Estate Planning • Real Estate • City Attorney

415 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN
507.583.6663
Frank.bplaw@gmail.com | Jason.bplaw@gmail.com



SMELL GAS?
GET OUT! THEN CALL OPU • 24 HRS •••• 507.451.1616 ••••

- Smell gas? (odor is like rotten eggs)
- Can't immediately find the source?
- DO NOT turn on a light switch or use the phone because the potential spark could ignite the gas and cause an explosion!
- Get out and call OPU from your mobile phone or a neighbor's house.

OWATONNA PUBLIC UTILITIES
www.OwatonnaUtilities.com

ALL ABOARD FOR GREAT GIFT IDEAS



This holiday eason May We Suggest:

- Gift Certificates to give to family and friends – in any amounts, we can mail them for you too!
  A gift certificate from Steve's says it all!!
- Order your "specialty" meats for your holiday entertaining – Perfect Prime Rib Roasts (fresh cut, never frozen), Crown Pork Roasts, Hickory Smoked Turkeys and Hams, Spiral Sliced Hickory Smoked Hams, Honey Glazed Hickory Smoked Spiral Sliced Hams (available only at Steve's). We have the recipes to go with too! Many other meats to choose from, just stop in or call us with your order.
- Meat and Cheese trays, made to order in any size using our own smoked meats, sausages and the freshest cheeses available. Please call us ahead for ordering.
- Over 125 varieties of select cheeses pre-packaged or some can even be sliced. Check out our 'burnin hot" cheese selection also. We now carry Minnesota grown cheese curds and cheese spreads too.
- Stop in to sample our huge assortment of "extra special" goodies for holiday entertaining ideas.
- Check out our in-store "specials" too good to pass up during this holiday season!
- Pick up a wide assortment of Steve's sliced summer sausages, snack sticks, or cheeses to make your own holiday trays to serve or give as gifts.
- Steve's "Famous" B.B.Q. Beans available during this holiday season.
- Choose from 6 kinds of Steve's Hickory Smoked Bacon – including our newest: Warm Bourbon
- We carry the "freshest of the season" Oysters, Herring (wine sauce & creamed), Lefse, Shrimp.
- Steve's own Salsa's, Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Mustards, Syrups. Also Noble Pickles, Wind & Willow, Rabbit Creek, Frontier Soups, Bald Eagle Salsas, Rufus Teague Sauces, Country Side Sauces, Wallenfang's, and B-Bags food products. Plus many more all really Great Gift Ideas.

Your Christmas tradition for 43+ years. We are a true family owned Minnesota business since 1973 and darn proud of it! We will be closed on Monday, December 26th and again on Monday, January 2nd so that we and our employees can enjoy these holidays with our families.

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Award Winning Smoked & Cured Sausage Products

Thank you for "shopping small" at Steve's Meat Market in Ellendale, of course!!

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- Family Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

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How Much You'll Pay for Medicare in 2017



Dear Savvy Senior,
I know there won't be much of a cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits next year but what about Medicare? How will the 0.3 percent Social Security raise affect our Part B monthly premiums in 2017?
Inquiring Beneficiary

Dear Inquiring,

Considering the rising cost of health care coverage, the news regarding your Medicare costs for 2017 is not too bad. Here's what you can expect.

Part B Premiums

Because the Social Security Administration is giving out a measly 0.3 percent cost of living increase starting in January – that equates to about a $4 to $5 increase per month on average – the 2017 Part B monthly premium for about 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries will increase only about $4 to $5.

Thanks to the Social Security Act's "hold harmless" provision, Medicare cannot pass along premium increases greater than the dollar increase in their Social Security checks.

So, if your Medicare Part B premium is currently $104.90 in 2016, you can expect it to be around $109 (on average) in 2017. And if your 2016 Part B premium is currently $121.80, it will go up to around $126 (on average) next year.

Some Will Pay More

Unfortunately, the hold harmless provision does not protect all Medicare recipients. New Medicare enrollees (those who will enroll in 2017), beneficiaries who are directly billed for their Part B premium, and current beneficiaries who have deferred claiming their Social Security will pay more.

If you fit into any of these categories, your Medicare Part B premium will be $134 per month in 2017, up from $121.80.

The hold harmless rule also does not protect high-income Medicare beneficiaries who already pay higher Part B premiums because their annual incomes are above $85,000 for an individual or $170,000 for a couple. If you fit into this category, here's what you'll pay for your Part B premium next year, based on your 2015 tax returns.

•Individuals with incomes of $85,000 to $107,000, or married couples filing joint tax returns with incomes of $170,000 to $214,000, will pay $187.50 per month.

•Individuals earning $107,000 to $160,000 (couples $214,000 to $320,000) will pay $267.90.

•Individuals with incomes of $160,000 to $214,000 (couples $320,000 to $428,000) will pay $348.30.

•Individuals with incomes over $214,000 or couples above $428,000 will pay $428.60.

Another increase high-income beneficiaries (those with incomes over $85,000, or $170,000 for joint filers) need to be aware of is the surcharge on Part D premiums. Affluent seniors that have a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan will pay an additional $13.30 to $76.20 per month, depending on their income, on top of their regular Part D premiums.

Deductibles and Co-Pays

Other changes that will affect all Medicare beneficiaries include the Part B deductible, which will increase to $183 in 2017 from $166 in 2016. The Part A (hospital insurance) annual deductible will also go up to $1,316 in 2017 (it's currently $1,288) for hospital stays up to 60 days. That increases to $329 per day for days 61-90, and to $658 a day for days 91 and beyond. And the skilled nursing facility coinsurance for days 21-100 will also increase to $164.50 per day, up from $161 in 2016.

For more information on all the Medicare costs for 2016 visit Medicare.gov and click on "Find out how much Medicare costs in 2017," or call 800-633-4227.

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
Tuesday, December 5, 2006
Marcus Zellmer, Publisher

Just because there are not active sporting events going on at the high school doesn't mean it is devoid of activity; quite the opposite.

Two big construction projects, one voluntary and one out of necessity, have kept those at the school busy working before the start of the winter sport seasons.

The first project done in the high school is the installation of the new rubber mat floors in the weight room. In previous years, the wear and tear on the carpet was getting overwhelming which caused a danger to trip on, and was inconvenient to keep clean and maintain. The addition of the rubber mat floors will make it easier to clean and will also last longer.

The second renovation occurred in the water pipes above the gym. Wednesday, November 8th, a water pipe above the gym bursts, setting off sprinklers and alarms.

The new pipe will help the basketball programs, since it has been difficult to find facilities for practices.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, December 3, 1996
Laurie Magnus, Extension Educator

Churches we the center of community and spiritual life for rural Minnesotans in the early part of this century. Religious ceremonies and celebrations bound generations of families together. KSMQ Public Television will take views into nine of these area churches in an exclusive, "History of the Heartland Special: Historic Country Churches" on Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 7 p.m.

Historic Country Churches features the history, architecture and the congregations of these nationally recognized sites. Each church featured in Historic Country Churches is listed on the National Historic Register. They were built between 1865 and 1913.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, December 1, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors

After one and one-half years of operation, Larry Hobby Shop and Model Racing Center, located in the Harold Hansen building on main street in Blooming Prairie, closed to the public on Saturday, Nov. 26.

The announcement was made by Larry Lorenzen, 16-year old junior at Blooming Prairie High School, who has operated the establishment since May of 1965.

The center has been the hub of model slot racing for the area enthusiasts with many youths participating in weekly races for ribbon and trophies.

The 1965 trophy winners were Carl Walz, John Carroll, and Tom Carroll, all of Blooming Prairie.

Larry stated that the is presently liquidating the remaining merchandise and equipment and it is with regret that extra curricular activities forces him to give up this activity that has been a needed recreation for area youths.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, December 4, 1941
Mrs. L. B. Schisler, Publisher

Donald, 19, on of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Eggleson, of Swede Grove, had the harrowing experience of being held by the uppes asm for two hours in the gears of a corn picker in motion. He was attempting the remove a cob crosswise on the husking roller.

The universal joint of the drive shaft caught his arm and tore two jackets off of him, wrapping them tightly around the drive shaft.

Practically all of the skin was burned from the arm and the muscles painfully crushed but no bones were broken.

Donald then walked a half-mile to a farm house and was taken to the hospital in Litchfield where the injury was cared for by a physician.

Lots of familiar names on Prairie Lodge past masters list

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Free Masonry has been alive and well in Blooming Prairie for over 140 years.

Now, the Lodge is dissolving and current Masons will be able to transfer membership to another lodge. The Lodge will officially affiliate with the Owatonna Masonic Lodge.

Looking over the roster of past Masters of the Lodge, one will see many community leaders.

Here's a list of the past Masters of Prairie Lodge #123:

1875, 1877-1880 -- Joseph P. Johnson
1876 -- Charles Whitton
1881-1885, 1896-1900 -- Thomas S. Morton
1886, 1895, 1901-1903 -- G.H. Johnson
1887, 1890-93 -- John C. Brainerd
1888 -- George Reynolds
1889 -- J. Palmer Johnson
1894 -- Charles W. Treat
1904-1910 -- Edwin Morton
1911-1912 -- Sam A. Rask
1913-1916 -- Benedik Melby
1917-1918 -- John Jurgerson
1919-1920 -- Christ Mortenson
1921 -- C. A. Peterson
1922 -- W.J. Daily
1923-1924 -- J.E. Price
1925-1926, 1931 -- M. A. Solberg
1927-1928 -- Arnold Peterson
1929-1930 -- Charley J. Peterson
1932 -- Palmer N. Peterson
1933-1934 --0 T.H. Folden
1935 -- Claude Grandprey
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1966 -- Frank Ruzek
1967-1968, 1990 -- Kenneth Trom
1969-1970, 1988 -- Burton G. Knutson
1972 -- Harold Brainerd
1973 -- Allen R. Brandt
1974, 1997-1998, 2005 -- Marvin Ingvaldson
1975 -- Eugene Graves
1976-1977, 1996 -- Timothy Bass
1978, 2001 -- Joe R. Wurst, Jr.
1979, 1987 -- Everett Carlsen
1980 -- Warren L. Iversen
1981 -- Philip W. Milton
1982 -- Wayne Thompson
1983 -- Edward L. Lindquist
1984 -- David P. Sponheim
1985-1986 -- Donald Yentsch
1987 -- Everett Carlson
1989 -- Henry Halstenson
1991 -- Warren L. Iverson
1992 -- Steven Houzenga
1993 -- Daniel R. Gabriel
1994 -- Ray D. Bass
1995, 2004 -- Darrell Hansen
1999-2000 -- Timothy Wurst
2002-2003 -- Steven Bunn
2006-2007, 2010 -- Davin T. Johnson
2008-2009 -- Reed T. Miller

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Shopping for an assisted living facility

The decision to move yourself or a family member to an assisted living facility can be difficult. When men and women begin to experience difficulty with everyday activities, such as bathing, dressing or getting around, families may need to explore assisted living facilities. Millions of people in North America reside in assisted living facilities. The majority of residents in senior living are those who may need assistance with one or two daily activities, but who are otherwise mobile and self-sufficient. Families faced with moving relatives into assisted living facilities can consider the following pointers to find facilities their loved ones will enjoy.

• Consider the arrangements and services offered. Some facilities offer single rooms, while others provide apartment-style living. Most assisted living facilities provide a variety of services, such as housekeeping, laundry, exercise and wellness classes, and social activities, for their residents. Investigate the offerings at each home you visit, looking for a facility that best suits your loved one's needs.

• Inquire about staff and their schedules. It is important to know how many staff members a facility has and how many people are working at any given time. Do staffing schedules differ at night? If a resident has a particular rapport with one staff member, can he or she be requested? Look for a facility that is well-staffed and adept at dealing with elderly men and women.

• Learn about individual service plans. Many assisted living facilities create individual service plans, or ISPs, for their residents to ensure individualized care is given. These plans are important for the safety and comfort of residents and also can help maximize a person's independence. Some communities offer memory care programs for those with Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive disorders.

• Consider the security in place. A good assisted living facility has a 24-hour support system in place and immediate access to care. Rooms may be equipped with emergency phones that can be accessed day or night. Many homes have check-in desks so that residents are accounted for when going on outings and for announcing guests.

• Check on licensing. In the United States, each state has its own licensing requirements for assisted living facilities. Confirm a facility is licensed and that it meets the expectations of the local regulatory agency. In addition, check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the home.

Assisted living facilities can meet the needs of people who cannot live independently but do not require the around-the-clock care of a nursing home.



Caring for grandchildren

In the not-so-distant past, it was quite common for various generations of a single family to live under one roof and for many different members of the family to play a role in raising the children.

But that dynamic slowly changed as families spread out geographically. However, when the economy faltered and parents of young children realized they needed help, many returned to the old way of doing things. Grandparents stepped up to look after their grandkids, and adults moved back home with their aging parents. Some seniors needed to move in with their children to make ends meet.

A study of data from the Rand Corporation found that, of the four million children living with their grandparents in the United States, 2.5 million live in three-generation households. Nearly 1.5 million live in split-generation households or ones in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren. The proportion of all grandchildren living in three-generation households, 3.6 percent, has been steady in recent years.

Research suggests that split-generation households are usually formed when parents are no longer able to take care of their children because of physical or mental illness, substance abuse, or economic problems. Three-generation households, on the other hand, are generally formed because of problems parents encounter living independently, such as through separation or divorce or due to unemployment or economic need.

Caring for their grandchildren can elicit many feelings in grandparents, from nervousness to excitement about a fresh face around the house. Raising grandkids can be overwhelming for elderly men and women, but the following are a few tips that can make the process easier.

• Explore your feelings. When you acknowledge your feelings, you are on the right path to making things work and recognizing possible obstacles.

• Expect mixed feelings from others. Grandchildren and your own children also may be apprehensive about this new living situation. Encourage everyone to share their thoughts and come to a consensus on how things will be done. Expect it to take some time to establish a schedule, and don't be discouraged by any initial behavioral problems.

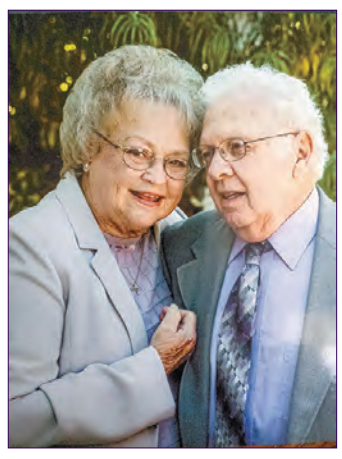
• Take care of yourself. Grandchildren, particularly young ones, can have a lot of energy and may require constant attention. Caring for such lively youngsters can be taxing on grandparents, who must make their own health and nutrition a priority. Give yourself some time for recreation and rest. Have grandchildren help out where they can. Don't feel you have to spend every moment entertaining them.

• Ask for help when needed. Reach out to friends or community members if you are feeling overwhelmed. There are a number of resources available to you, and many organizations, including AARP, have their own tips for assisting three-generation households.

Multi-generational households are common once again. Families who work together can make the most of such living arrangements.



60th Anniversary

David and Joanne Shaw celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Dec 16, 2016. David was the son of John and Ann Shaw who owned Shaws Drugs in Blooming Prairie in the 50s. His family includes Jim, William and Jack Shaw, and sister Joann O'Brian. Joanne was the daughter of Arthur and Mildred Syverud of Blooming Prairie, her family in attendance were Doris Moe, Roger Syverud and Janice Kohrusch. They were married at the First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on December 16,1956. They moved to California and raised three children, Randall Shaw who passed in 1994 of brain cancer, Ronald and wife Lonnie Shaw of Pleasanton CA , with children Amy and Reid. Renae and husband Gary Harryman, of Hayward CA and children Chris and Michael Todd.

Their families always celebrate by spending the evening together decorating the Christmas tree and make popcorn balls.

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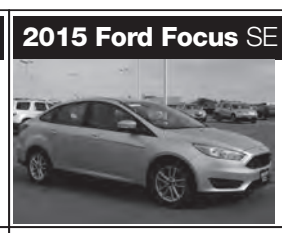
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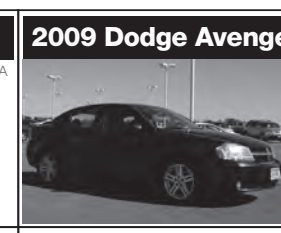
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R030962A



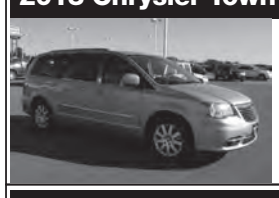
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2009 Dodge Avenger SXT
R031321A



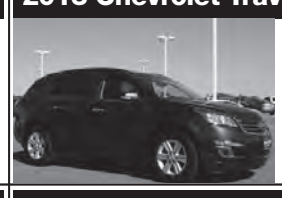
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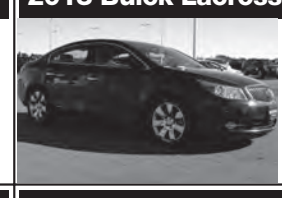
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R032417



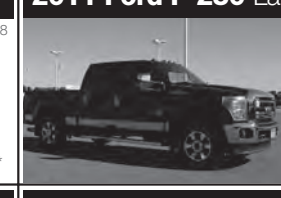
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R032418



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2011 Ford F-250 Lariat Crew Cab
V001626A



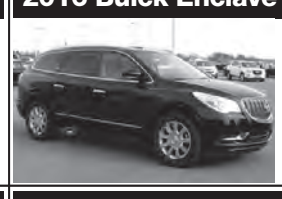
$40,993 or $556/mo 75 months*

2015 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT
R032477



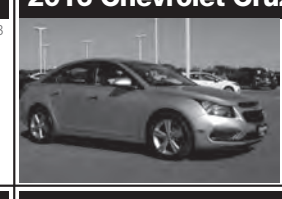
$20,493 or $278/mo 75 months*

2016 Buick Enclave Leather Group
R032503



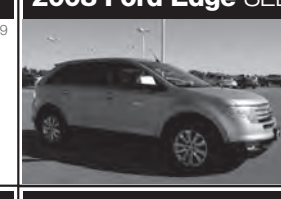
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R032579



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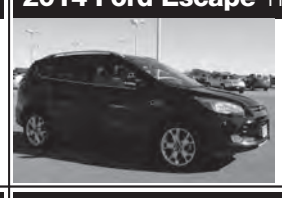
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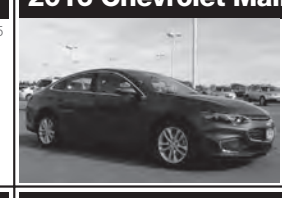
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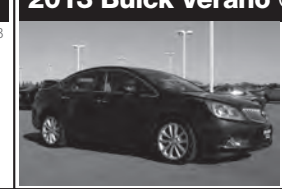
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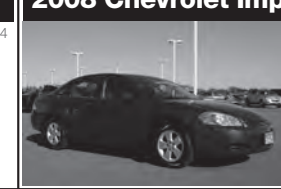
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USDA announces new conservation opportunities to improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will offer farmers and ranchers more opportunities to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The announcement includes new CRP practices to protect water quality and adds an additional 1.1 million acres targeted to benefit wildlife, pollinators and wetlands.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is an extremely popular voluntary program that offers producers and landowners a wide variety of opportunities to prevent erosion, protect wildlife habitat and reduce nutrient runoff," said Vilsack. "With the program close to the legal enrollment limit of 24 million acres, USDA has been working to use all of the tools at our disposal to maximize benefits by combining multiple soil, water and wildlife objectives in the areas where it is needed most."

Vilsack unveiled a new conservation initiative known as Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR), which will add new tools to CRP that can help to improve water quality. CLEAR will assist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filte nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. Early estimates indicate that CLEAR could help to reduce nitrate runoff by as much as 40 percent over traditional conservation methods. CLEAR may cover up to 90 percent of the cost to install these new practices through incentives and cost-share. These new methods are especially important in areas where traditional buffers have not been enough to prevent nutrients from reaching bodies of water.

USDA will also add an additional 1.1 million acres to a number of key CRP practices that are critically important to wildlife and conservation. These include 700,000 acres for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) efforts, which restore high-priority wildlife habitat tailored to a specific state's needs. In addition to SAFE, 300,000 acres will be added to target wetlands restoration that are nature's water filters and 100,000 acres for pollinator habitat that support 30 percent of agricultural production.

The continued strong demand for CRP combined with the limited acreage available for enrollment and lower land rental rates, allows USDA to modify certain program components without affecting the integrity of the program. Signing incentives are being reduced by $25 per acre on certain practices for fisca year 2018 enrollments (incentives are currently between $100 and $150 per acre) and a cap on the maximum soil rental rate is being instituted for Continuous CRP at $300 per acre. The savings from these changes are being reinvested back in CRP, including the additional acres for SAFE, pollinator habitat and wetlands restoration.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact your local FSA office To find your local FSA office visit http://offices.usda.go .

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they are working to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Since 2009, USDA has invested more than $29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide. Read more about USDA's record conservation outcomes under this Administration at Caring for our Land, Air and Water: Preserving Precious Natural Resources for Tomorrow.

2017 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) applications underway

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Minnesota reminds the public that applications for both Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) and Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) can be made to the local NRCS office. Created in the 2014 Farm Bill, the program encompasses protection and restoration of wetlands through WRE and protection of farms and ranches through ALE. Applications for funding were accepted in October and are currently being evaluated. Additional application considered for any available funding are due no later than January 4, 2017.

"The benefits of restoring, enhancing and protecting working agricultural lands and wetlands are critical in Minnesota – especially in terms of water quality. These landscape features are more critical in times of both floo and drought," said Cathee Pullman, NRCS Minnesota state conservationist. "Protecting and enhancing these lands provides sustainable benefits for Minnesota's agricultural landscape."

WRE is a voluntary easement option that provides farmers, ranchers and other private landowners compensation for land placed in wetland conservation easements, and cost-share funding for restoring degraded wetlands. WRE includes permanent easements that pay 100 percent of the easement value and restoration costs, and 30-year easements that pay up to 75 percent of the easement value and restoration costs. For 2017, Minnesota NRCS received $4,529,286 to protect and restore privately owned wetlands.

ALE funds are available to land trusts, non-governmental organizations, local and state governments, and tribes that have existing programs to purchase conservation easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of privately owned land. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forestland are all eligible land uses. Approved agricultural easements would prevent productive working lands from being converted to non-agricultural uses and maximize protection of land devoted to food production. For 2017, Minnesota NRCS received $553,280 in funding to protect farms and ranches. These funds must be matched with non-federal dollars.

Interested landowners are encouraged to contact their local NRCS service center. Learn more about ACEP by visiting www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Since its inception in 1935, NRCS has worked in partnership with private landowners and a variety of local, state and federal conservation partners to deliver conservation based on specific, local needs.

Four cornerstones of management

MAXIMIZING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING FOR PROFIT
CORN & SOYBEAN DIGEST

It is that time of year again where much of our thought is on the year ahead and beyond. As the year draws to its close, it only seems natural to reflec on the past and forecast on the future. In most places a cold chill has settled in the air, which makes this a perfect time to examine some basic foundations of management, or what some may call the four cornerstones. Specificall , the four cornerstones of management are planning, strategy, execution and monitoring.

Planning

The legendary, former UCLA basketball head coach, John Wooden, won 10 NCAA national championships with the Bruins in a 12 year period. Nicknamed the "Wizard of Westwood," Coach Wooden was also known for his life sayings. One of his "Woodenisms" was "Failing to plan is planning to fail." In today's world of extreme volatility, changing markets and challenging economic margins, planning is not an option, but a requirement. Some say that due to uncertainty in the world markets business planning is an academic exercise. Well, I contend that it is an essential tool with which to navigate economic cycles, especially challenging cycles. Scenario planning with different price, cost and market expectations provides the road map and boundaries to help avoid the ditches.

Stragegy

Strategy is where one prioritizes the priorities. Determine the most profitable parts of the business, and then, examine resources. Strategize to efficien - ly allocate labor, management and capital to your top areas of profitabilit . It is also important to consult one's goals as part of strategy development to ensure that priorities reflect the goals and vision. Strategies can be short-term (one year) or longer-term (three to five years).

Execution

If I was to survey all producers and ask about one of the biggest mistakes made in farming, they may indicate execution is among the top. Planning and strategy require time and thought, but execution requires a real commitment. Sometimes, in the execution phase, emotions will override the plan and decisions may not be made from on a logical basis. For example, if the marketing plan calls for selling corn at $4 per bushel, but $5 per bushel seems likely, it may be difficult to execute on the plan. Yet, sometimes this scenario ends up at $3.50 per bushel, which makes the $4 range much more appealing. Additionally, this is a cornerstone of management where a team of advisors can be useful and provide unbiased input.

Monitoring

In management, monitoring performance and the progression of the overall plan is critical. This cornerstone allows for tweaks and adjustments to be made, which better position the business to handle market shifts and other changing variables. In order to monitor efficien - ly and consistently, develop a dashboard of indicators in production, marketing and management. In other words, your dashboard can serve as the unit of measurement regarding your business success.

As you develop your business plan for 2017 think about the four cornerstones of management. Are planning, strategy, execution and monitoring part of your business review routine?

Remember that these broad topics are simply cornerstones that can be detailed out for the specifics of your business. Consider the elements that may go into each cornerstone for your business, and which areas will be most helpful in your current situation. Most importantly, keep looking forward and planning for a future full of opportunity.

MDA requests letters of interest for feasibility study grants

Agricultural value-added business ventures encouraged to apply

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting Letters of Interest for Value Added Feasibility Study Grants. Funds are available through the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program.

Value Added Feasibility Study Grants assist the development of profitable businesses that add value to Minnesota agricultural products. Grants may be used to fund up to 50% of the costs of a feasibility study for a new business, or for expansion or diversification of an existing business. Grant recipients must work with a third party consultant to determine whether a project or business venture is technically feasible, is feasible within the estimated cost, and will be profitable. Any Minnesota resident or business may apply, with a maximum award of $35,000.

"Feasibility studies offer valuable insights to businesses of all sizes," said David Weinand, Grants Coordinator at the MDA. "There's a real interest in creating new markets and products for Minnesota agricultural commodities, and feasibility studies can help businesses set themselves up for long-term growth."

The first step in this competitive grant process is submission of a Letter of Interest that will be reviewed by a committee. Letters of Interest will be reviewed in the order received until funding is exhausted. To learn more about the AGRI Value Added Feasibility Study Grant and to submit a Letter of Interest, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/vafeasibilitystudy.

The AGRI Program was established by the Minnesota Legislature to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. The AGRI Program focuses on creating jobs and profitable businesses in the areas of livestock investment, value-added business and market development, crop production and processing research, and renewable energy. For more information about the AGRI Program, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri.









Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

DATE: **November 9, 2016**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: **December 3, 2014**

2. Mortgagors: **Community Resource Bank**

3. Mortgagees: **Tripp Oil, LLC**

4. Recording Information: **Recorded on January 9, 2015, as Document Number A000400337** (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the Office of the **X County Recorder** Registrar of Titles **of Steele County, Minnesota**

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any: Assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number […] (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

Further assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number […] (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

For additional assignments of Mortgage, provide the relevant information below.
[…]

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 17-3260104 (Abstract Property)

• Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

All that part of Lot 3, Block 1, Matthew's Northtown Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of said Lot 3; thence S 89 degrees 57' 14" E, assumed bearing, 233.00 feet along the North line of said Lot 3; thence S 0 degrees 02' 46" W 198.00 feet; thence N 89 degrees 47' 14" W 227.47 feet to the West line of said Lot 3; thence N 1 degree 33' 16" W 198.08 feet to beginning.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens)

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: **435 26th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060.**

other foreclosure data

9. The person holding the Mortgage: [check one]
is a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.
The name(s) of the transaction agent, residential mortgage servicer, and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are […].

The transaction agent's mortgage identification number, if stated on the Mortgage, is […].

X is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.
The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are […].

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is […].

INFORMATION REGARDING Foreclosure

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was $199,302.51.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: $201,616.62.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on December 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., at 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on "NOT APPLICABLE".

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

Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A.
Attn: John Paul Martin
332 Minnesota Street, Suite W2750
St. Paul, MN 55101

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
Community Resource Bank
1605 Heritage Drive
Northfield, MN 55057

11/15, 11/22, 11/29
12/6, 12/13, 12/20

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

DATE: **November 9, 2016**

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: **April 24, 2014**

2. Mortgagors: ***Community Resource Bank***

3. Mortgagees: Tripp Oil, LLC

4. Recording Information: Recorded on April 29, 2014, as Document Number A000396801 (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the Office of the X County Recorder Registrar of Titles of Steele County, Minnesota

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any: Assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number […] (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

Further assigned to [insert name of Assignee] by written assignment recorded on [month/day/year], as Document Number […] (or in Book […] of […] Page […]), in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

For additional assignments of Mortgage, provide the relevant information below.
[…]

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 17-3260104 (Abstract Property)

• Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

All that part of Lot 3, Block 1, Matthew's Northtown Addition, Owatonna, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of said Lot 3; thence S 89 degrees 57' 14" E, assumed bearing, 233.00 feet along the North line of said Lot 3; thence S 0 degrees 02' 46" W 198.00 feet; thence N 89 degrees 47' 14" W 227.47 feet to the West line of said Lot 3; thence N 1 degree 33' 16" W 198.08 feet to beginning.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens)

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: **435 26th Street NE, Owatonna, MN 55060.**

other foreclosure data

9. The person holding the Mortgage: [check one]
is a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.
The name(s) of the transaction agent, residential mortgage servicer, and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are […].

The transaction agent's mortgage identification number, if stated on the Mortgage, is […].

X is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.
The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are […].

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is […].

INFORMATION REGARDING Foreclosure

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was $289,000.00.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: $299,674.50.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at public auction on **December 29, 2016 at 10:15 a.m., at 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060.**

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is Six (6) Months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on "NOT APPLICABLE".

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

Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
MARTIN & SQUIRES, P.A.
Attn: John Paul Martin
332 Minnesota Street, Suite W2750
St. Paul, MN 55101

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
Community Resource Bank
1605 Heritage Drive
Northfield, MN 55057

11/15, 11/22, 11/29
12/6, 12/13, 12/20

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: March 29, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $384,678.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Kevin C. Butler and Donna M. Butler, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed March 30, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000348717
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 3, Block 2, North Country Addition No. 3.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2450 Briarwood Place NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-594-0203
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $354,090.75
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: January 13, 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 July 13, 2017, or the next business day if July 13, 2017 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: November 14, 2016

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.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

12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

11/22, 11/29, 12/6
12/13, 12/20, 12/27

Just a time to say thank you

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It was a time to show gratitude and a time to say Thank You.

The stewardship committee of First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, put together a five-week Stewardship Moments of Gratitude program to recognize community members for their commitment to volunteering.

The recognition was done at both church services, 8:30 and 10:30.

Minnesota is well known for its active volunteers and Blooming Prairie is the epitome of that, says Mary Worke, chair of the First Lutheran Church Stewardship Committee. Other committee members are Pastor Charlie Leonard, Darrell Hansen, Herman Clausen, Ranell Kittelson, Eaton Miller and Janis Lueth.

The project was aimed at saluting its church volunteers but it was not limited to just the church. "We had some visitors and if we do it again, we hope more and more community members come to the volunteer recognition," Worke said.

Week No. 1 was observed on Oct. 16 and saluted all church members involved in the volunteer ministry at the church.

On Sunday, Oct. 23, the Stewardship Committee recognized public service volunteers in the community: Blooming Prairie Fire Department; Blooming Prairie Ambulance, Blooming Prairie Police Department and the Steele, Dodge, Mower and Freeborn county sheriff's departments.

The week of Oct. 30 was skipped due to confirmation services.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, military service men and women, past and present, were saluted. The branches included: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and all branches of the National Guard and Reserves.

Stewardship Moments of Gratitude continued on Week No. 4, Nov. 13. The following organizations were honored: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, all area 4-H clubs, BP Lions Club, BP Rec Association, BP Cancer Group, American Association of University Women, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, BP Education Foundation, Bikes of BP and Women of Today.

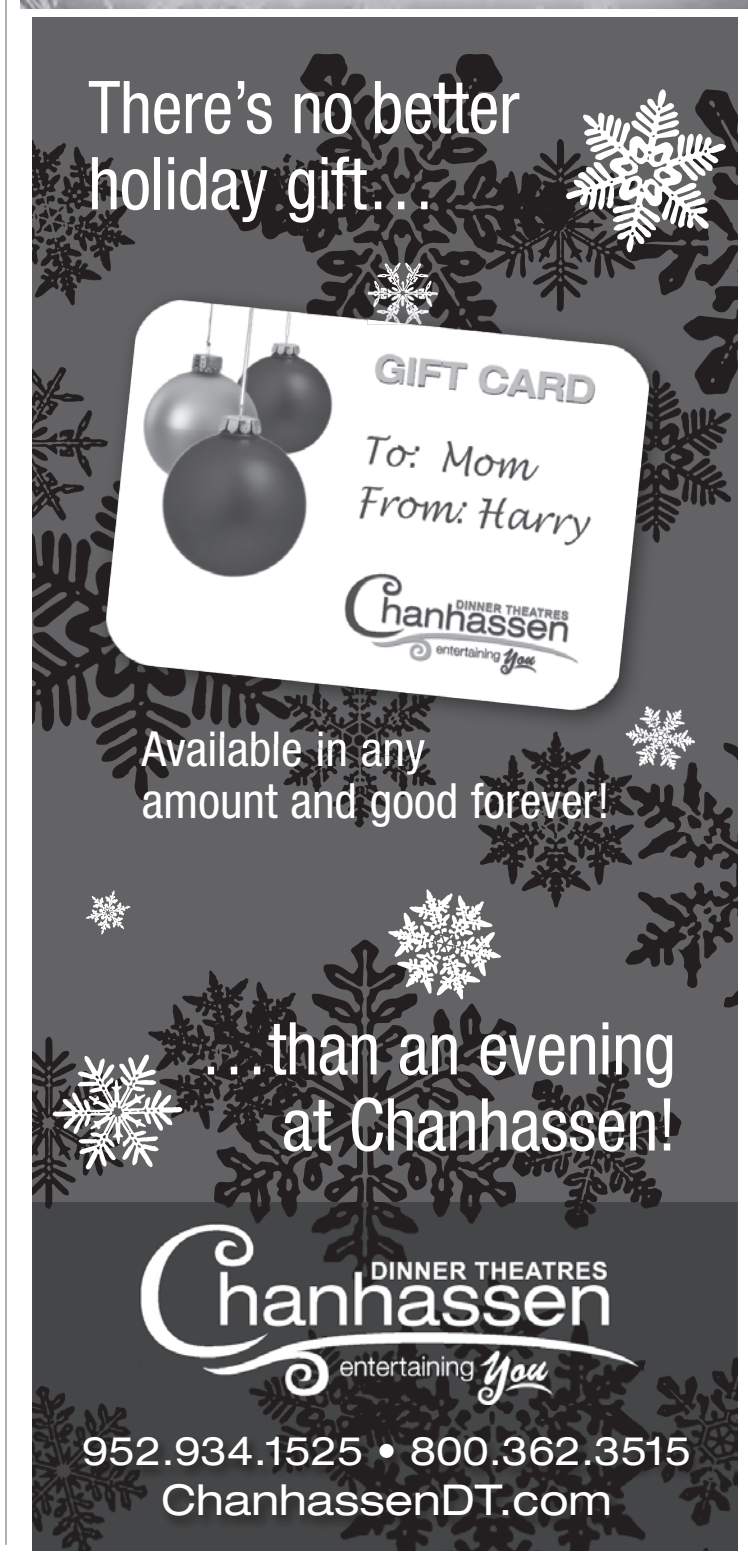
The Stewardship Moments of Gratitude concluded on Nov. 20, focusing on giving thanks go God.

Chair Worke emphasized further gratitude by stating: "Your Stewardship Team feels it is time to place our focus on God and express our thanks to God for guiding our hearts and minds as volunteers here in church and out in our community as we do these things that benefit others. Together, we have shared our expressions of care, mercy, generosity and support -- gifts of the Spirit."

Mission of the First Lutheran Stewardship Committee is: "to be constantly reminded by God's abundance, moving us to give graciously. We do this by engaging with each other in worship, study and service."









CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

INGREDIENTS:

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
6 slices Swiss cheese
4 slices cooked ham
1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Coat a 7x11 inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Pound chicken breasts to 1/4 inch thickness.
3. Sprinkle each piece of chicken on both sides with salt and pepper. Place 1 cheese slice and 1 ham slice on top of each breast. Roll up each breast, and secure with a toothpick. Place in baking dish, and sprinkle chicken evenly with bread crumbs.
4. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove from oven, and place 1/2 cheese slice on top of each breast. Return to oven for 3 to 5 minutes, or until cheese has melted. Remove toothpicks, and serve immediately.

Understanding seasonal affective disorder

The tail end of Daylight Saving Time in 2016 occurs on November 6, when millions of people will turn their clocks back one hour. Few people enjoy turning the clocks back in autumn as much as they enjoy turning them forward in spring. Turning the clocks forward affords many people, in particular working professionals who spend much of their weekdays working indoors, a chance to enjoy some sunlight when leaving their offices each day. However, once the clocks are turned back, professionals typically find themselves leaving their offices under a cover of darkness.

Some people easily adjust to less daylight, while others experience a condition known as season affective disorder, or SAD. SAD is a disorder related to changes in seasons. According to the Mayo Clinic, the majority of people with SAD begin to experience symptoms in the fall and continue battling those symptoms throughout the winter. The end of Daylight Saving Time occurs in early November, and the onset of SAD symptoms is no doubt related to the decreased exposure to daylight many people experience once clocks have been turned back. Those who suspect they might be susceptible to SAD can get a better grasp of the condition so they are capable of recognizing and responding to it should any symptoms appear.

What is SAD?

Mental Health America, a leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness, defines SAD as a mood disorder associated with depression and related to seasonal variations of light. Though many people may be saddened when the clocks are turned back and the sun sets earlier than it does in the warmer months, MHA notes that a diagnosis of SAD can only be made after the symptoms of SAD have appeared for three consecutive winters and have gone into remission once spring and summer have arrived.

What are the symptoms of SAD?

Simply feeling bummed out that winter is on the horizon does not mean a person has SAD. The following are some of the more common symptoms of the disorder:

• Depression marked by feelings of misery, guilt, hopelessness, despair, and apathy. A loss of self-esteem may also occur.

• Feelings of anxiety that include tension and an inability to tolerate stress

• Mood changes that are sometimes extreme; some SAD sufferers experience feelings of mania in spring and summer.

• Changes in sleeping habits, such as a desire to oversleep and difficulty staying awake. Some people may experience disturbed sleep and find themselves waking up in early morning when they are unaccustomed to doing so.

• Feelings of fatigue and an inability to adhere to one's normal routine

Who is most likely to suffer from SAD?

The Mayo Clinic notes that SAD is diagnosed more often in women than in men, and MHA notes that three out of four SAD sufferers are women. Young people are more likely than older people to get winter SAD, with MHA reporting that the main age of onset of SAD is between 18 and 30. Symptoms of SAD may worsen among people who have already been diagnosed with clinical depression or bipolar disorder.

More information about seasonal affective disorder is available at www.mentalhealthamerica.net.



GRIEF RELIEF



If a friend is dying, what can you do? Don't avoid your friend by staying away or changing the subject when they talk of illness or death. Follow the normal conversations that are part of your relationship. If your friend wishes to talk further allow them to; letting them know that you care and will help in anyway you can. Honest conversations are usually most welcome and your presence may be all that is needed.

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Cory Michaelson

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Cancer Corner

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

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

BP Cancer Group sponsors Jingle Bingo Dec. 15

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

By yelling BINGO at a Blooming Prairie Cancer Group fundraiser, Jingle BINGO, on Thursday night, Dec. 15, a lucky person will win a specially wrapped Christmas gift.

This is the first year Jingle BINGO has been held in Blooming Prairie. The evening starts at 7 p.m. in the Pizza Cellar Party Room. The BINGO party will be the last event of the year for the BP Cancer Group.

Twenty BINGO games will be featured with 20 wrapped gifts, great as prizes or gifts for giving. Hope butter will ask be given to some lucky BINGO fans.

"Let's give it a try," said BP Cancer Group President Collette Lea when scheduling the fundraiser. All the gifts were wrapped by BP Cancer Group board members at Cheri Krejci's home.

Not to spoil the surprise but to give BINGO lovers an incentive, some of the wrapped gifts include a pizza oven, children's wooden rocking chair and a wine basket. There will be kid and adult gifts.

BINGO cards will cost $1 each. Lindsey Krejci, using her teacher voice, will be the caller.

Random door prizes will be given and a bake sale will be held before, during and after the Jingle BINGO event. Bake sale items will include lefse (made by Connie Trom), Christmas cookies and holiday snacks. A freewill donation is asked, with the exception of the lefse (priced to sell).

The BP Cancer Group sponsored a Turkey BINGO last Nov. 17.. More than 115 attended. It was a record crowd and record for donations at a BP Cancer Group BINGO event, said Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group treasurer.

An annual BP Cancer Group Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for next Jan. 15, 20017 at the Pizza Cellar. The menu will include pancakes, eggs, sausage, orange juice, milk or coffee. A freewill offering is asked. Kids are also encouraged to bring in coins for cancer.

The Cancer Group plans to make a sizable donation to the Rochester Telethon the day before.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Little Hailey Schlichtrt of Blooming Prarie was one of the lucky winners at the Turkey BINGO party last month at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. The event was sponsored by the BP Cancer Group, which will sponsor a Jingle BINGO event on Thursday, Dec. 15.

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Steele County's WINTER CAR CARE



Protect your vehicle from snow, ice and damage from the cold

While the Canadian Automobile Association notes that winter can wreak havoc on just about every part of a vehicle, there are some parts that seem to bear the brunt of Old Man Winter's abuse. Properly servicing and caring for a car or truck can help.

Drivers should take their vehicles for a tuneup and inspection before wintry weather arrives. A mechanic will examine the car battery and check antifreeze levels and make sure that the thermostat, defroster, brakes, and even wiper blades are working effectively. Have the tires inspected for adequate tread, which can make navigating roads safer. If the treads are worn, replace the tires.

In addition to visiting their mechanics, drivers can perform some inspections and fixes themselves.

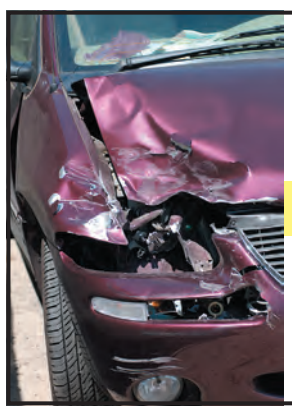
Check that all of the vehicle's lights are operational so your car can be easily seen during inclement weather. Exchange your existing windshield washer fluid with one that will not freeze in cold conditions. Check the nozzles on the windshield-washer system routinely and clear out any blockages of ice or debris. While addressing windshield washer fluid, also replace worn out windshield wiper blades with ones that can withstand snow and icy weather.

A new coating of wax can serve as a shield against road salt, snow, sleet, and rain. Try a polymer wax to protect the paint. Whenever possible, rinse off salt and grime so it does not dry on the car and gradually wear away at the paint. Some drivers mistakenly believe that salt stops being a problem once it dries simply because moisture is the active ingredient for a corrosive reaction. But humidity in the air is enough to keep the salt eating away at the car's paint, and that can contribute to rust. Be sure to rinse off the undercarriage of the vehicle as well.

Vehicles can be affected by the cold weather. Keep them running efficiently to prevent damage this winter.

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