



3A
Huskyes win

STEELE COUNTY Times



Angels & Wisemen 1C

\$1

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Tuesday, December 20, 2016

Car fire death results in felonies

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

For nearly two months it became suspicious as to how a man ended up being burned to death in a vehicle outside of Owatonna. And now prosecutors and investigators believe they have unraveled the mystery.

What started as an afternoon of excessive drinking ended with Herman

Hernandez, 64, of Albert Lea being killed in the vehicle fire in a soybean field along 52nd Avenue Northwest. Prosecutors are holding another Albert Lea man responsible for Hernandez's tragic death.

The Steele County Attorney's Office has charged Peter Anthony Escobar, 24, with felony counts of second-degree manslaughter and criminal vehicular homicide in connection

with the case. Prosecutors allege Escobar was drunk at the time he drove the vehicle into the soybean field before it went up in flames, leaving Hernandez to die in the passenger's seat.

The manslaughter charge alleges Escobar caused the death of another by creating "an unreasonable risk, and consciously took chances of causing death to another." The criminal vehicular homicide charge specif-

ically points to Escobar being under the influence of alcohol.

Escobar has been charged via complaint summons and ordered to appear in court on Dec. 29 at 8:30 a.m. in Steele County. He is not in custody.

He faces 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine on both felony counts.

FIRE

Continued on page 1A

Kruckeberg taps aviation industry

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A local entrepreneur who has made a name for himself nationally with truck fenders is now expanding into the aviation industry.

Craig Kruckeberg, owner of Kruckeberg Industries and Minimizer, all based in Blooming Prairie, has entered into a management agreement with Stinar Corporation. The St. Paul based company is a supplier of ground support equipment for the aviation industry.

For more than 70 years, Stinar has been a global industry leader supplying quality products to both commercial and governmental agencies. Primary customers include most major airlines and airport service companies throughout the world as well as the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy.

"The Kruckeberg team is pleased to have the opportunity to work with Stinar to move the company forward," said Kruckeberg.

Under the management agreement, Kruckeberg Industries will provide management and oversight services of Stinar's day-to-day operations. This represents the first phase of cooperation leading to an eventual acquisition of Stinar, according to Kruckeberg.

The initial Stinar management team will include Jim Richards and Christopher Thorpe of Kruckeberg Industries. Richards will serve as general manager while Thorpe will be CFO. Robert Harvey and Robert Gregor of Stinar will continue as CEO and vice president of sales and marketing respectively.

AVIATION

Continued on page 6A

Ellendale students ride in style



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The top sellers in the NRHEG elementary fundraiser sale recieved pizza and a limo ride to celebrate. The second and third grade riders included: Dominic Olson, Gabby Schlaak, Shan Hansen, Savannah Farr, Madaline Schlaak, Gracie Possin, Brynn Routh, Katie Olson, Jozie Klimmik, Ezekiel Morrison, Maddison Bogue, Kayden Warke, Meela Budoch, Samantha Possin.

County commissioners set budget and levy for 2017

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff riter

The county commissioners convened for their last board meeting of the year. This also marked the last meeting for commissioners Mark Schultz, Nina Huntington, and Corky Ebeling.

The big-ticket item on the agenda for the meeting was the approval of the county budget and tax levies for 2017, but before the debate and hearing on those commenced, the council moved through several smaller pieces of business.

Having been recommended to do so by different committees, the council, without further debate, approved the hiring of a financial analyst, an arena and park recreation maintenance position, a human resources position, an assistant director position for probation services, a case manager for public health nursing, and an increase in hours for juvenile and adult probation officers.

A resolution set commissioners' salaries for 2017 at \$21,886 and per diem payments at \$70, the same as the previous five years.

County treasurer Cathy Piepho gave the 2017 Budget and Tax Levy Presentation prior to the public hearing.

Around Thanksgiving, Steele county residents received an estimation of their county taxes. The final budget and levy must be approved by December 25, 2016.

There are several goals of the 2017 budget. It continues a sustained increase in service demand. In the last few years, both the number of citizens and expectations of ser-

vices have increased.

It responds to state mandated services, where no matching funding has been given. These are times when the legislature passes a law requiring the county to take an action or provide a service but does not provide the funds for the action or service.

In the area of public safety, it shifts funds to focus more on crime prevention.

The main cost drivers of the 2017 budget are healthcare costs increasing by 12.5 percent, a three percent cost of living adjustment (COLA), and an increase in Full-time employees (FTE's) to meet service demands.

The total expenditure for the 2017 budget is \$58,362,370. The total 2016 budget expenditure was \$49,929,947. The difference is \$8,432,423, or a 16.9 percent increase.

Part of the difference is the county's capital improvement plan, which they won't know the full extent of until the new county board votes on it in 2017.

The higher expenditure is followed accordingly by a higher tax levy. Public safety is the biggest division that uses the tax levy at 41 percent of the levy. That includes the sheriff's department, correctional facilities, emergency management, etc.

The next largest is community services at 24 percent. The current levy is equal to \$1.72 a day per resident for county services.

Anyone interested in a further breakdown of the budget

BUDGET

Continued on page 6A



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Cold weekend freezes Steele

Temperatures plummeted into the negative 20's this weekend across Steele County. Travel is ill advised and residents were encouraged to stay at home and indoors. In the coming week, the temperature will do a 40-degree about-face and settle in the 20's. Residents should expect more snow with the warmer temperature.



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Vol. 125, No. 25

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Opinion

Our view

Wise men still follow the star

Driving down Highway 14 in southeastern Minnesota can be a challenge. Especially this time of year. The wind is in such a hurry to get through the vortex that we’ve temporarily borrowed from Midwest vortex, polishing the ice as it goes. The deer evidently are also in a hurry, skating across the highway with great flair and realizing the reality that hooves were not made for hockey. Drivers are caught up in the rush of the holiday season and giving way to making that Christmas song more personal. As in, “shoppers rush home with their treasures.”

And here we are as in olden days, Christmas less than a week away, the Christmas list is still raging and it’s down to eliminating the things you know you “can’t” get done. If you are a female, you live in fear of the possibility of receiving a Christmas gift that comes with a cord. If you are a male, you wonder how hideous the tie and shirt combination will be this year.

You are long past opening those credit card statements because you don’t want to lose the victory and your cheery demeanor. Gas has gone up because, evidently OPEC doesn’t celebrate Christmas, but has found greed to be the reason for the season.

And in the rush of all that tries to steal our joy this season, what to a wondering eye should appear, but a steel factory to the north side of Highway 14 that proudly proclaims the reason for this season. A business who is unafraid to proclaim the holiday and how it all stated.

A forty-foot Nativity scene, lit for all to see and boldly daring anyone to challenge not only their right to free speech, but open worship and tidings of great joy. A savior came into a world that had no room for Him and wanted no part of Him, and yet He came.

That star over that southeastern Minnesota business is shining bright on this day and it reminded all of us driving by that perhaps we need to at least take a moment and remember. A moment to just breathe. A moment to just follow the stars that appear from time to time in our lives.

We don’t search for the stars. They naturally come out when our lives are the darkest. This year, a steel factory made a difference in so many that drive the Highway 14 corridor. The proclamation lit up the night sky as a star. We would do well to follow that message to a place of peace this year.

Take the time to sip that hot chocolate a little bit slower. Hug someone you love a little longer. Offer gifts of hope to the hopeless and joy to the downtrodden. Enjoy your moments this year rather than rushing to “get it over with.”

Make a difference in someone’s life. And when you do, there is an evidence that, just as those men of wisdom in an ancient world, you’ve learned how to follow a star. This year, hitch your wagon to a star and enjoy the ride.

From all of us at Bussler Publishing, we wish you a merry Christmas and joy in your journey this holiday season.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Over this past year we have been digging into the on-going battle against impaired driving with stories, columns and editorials about the devastating effects having one too many can have on our society.

We had hoped to get through the year without an alcohol-related driving death in Steele County. But it appears our luck has run out.

Once again we’re sadly reminded of the horrible ramifications of drunken driving just as we have been so many times in the past. A grisly case out of Steele County appears to have claimed yet another life at the hands of a suspected drunk driver.

In October, we reported on a car fire west of Owatonna. After fire-fighters extinguished the flames and the smoke cleared, authorities found the charred remains of a man in the passenger’s seat. Investigators immediately began piecing together what happened.

Though not many details had been released initially, last week’s criminal complaint against the suspected driver of that vehicle, who fled before emergency work-

A grisly reminder of suspected drunk driving touches close to home

ers arrived at the scene, sheds some details on what took place in the hours leading up to the fire.

Peter Anthony Escobar, 24, has been charged in Steele County with felony counts of manslaughter and criminal vehicular homicide. Authorities allege he was drunk when he ditched his vehicle into a soybean field and left his passenger, Herman Hernandez, 64, inside the vehicle to die.

In the charging document, Escobar told authorities he had been drinking all afternoon at a watering hole in Albert Lea. He then took off for Owatonna with another bar patron and somehow they ended up in the middle of a soybean field next to a drainage ditch. Escobar took off as the vehicle started on fire with Hernandez still inside.

As is the case with most DWI deaths, this particular incident is a tragedy that was totally preventable and did not need to happen. It just sickens me that we have lost another life to what appears to be someone’s reprehensible actions.

The Hernandez family is now left grieving this holiday season the death of a loved one that should not have happened. They’re not alone. Each year about one-fourth of the fatalities on our roadways are attributed to drunk driving.

The carnage needs to stop and you could be on the front lines of helping make that happen just by taking some simple actions.

With the holidays upon us, I hope this case will serve as a stark reminder for all of us to not jump behind the wheel of any vehicle after drinking excessive amounts of alcohol. Drunk driving should never be tolerated or condoned. As a society, each one of us has an obligation to make sure nobody hops into a vehicle to operate after drinking.

The days of wink-wink when someone has had too much to drink and gets behind the wheel are long over. We need to do the right thing and prevent that person from driving. We all need to be responsible hosts by taking away the keys and providing sober cabs or giving the tipsy person a place to crash for the night. If you get on the road and suspect another driver may be intoxicated, call 911 to report the activities so an officer can check it out.

Drunk driving is one of the greatest dangers to the safety of the public.

Be responsible. And go in hot pursuit of not letting your holiday celebrations—or any gathering any time of the year—end in tragedy.

Driver consumed large quantity of alcohol

FIRE: from page 1A

He has also been charged with misdemeanor DWI.

Sheriff’s deputies responded to the area of the 2600 block of 52nd Avenue Northwest around 6:15 p.m. Oct. 23 where they found a vehicle engulfed in flames on the edge of a harvested soybean field surrounded by tall grass near a drainage ditch.

After the fire department extinguished the blaze, deputies saw what appeared to be a burned human body in the front passenger seat.

While investigators began processing the scene, dispatch received a call from a resident in the area advising a man was knocking at the door looking for directions. Deputies responded and found Escobar, who appeared to be intoxicated and did

not know where his vehicle was.

Investigators brought Escobar to the Law Enforcement Center where he admitted to drinking at the Nasty Habit Bar in Albert Lea beginning around 12:30 p.m. to watch the Vikings game. He stated the bar offered free shots for every time the Vikings scored a touchdown.

During interviews with investigators, Escobar provided conflicting stories about his whereabouts and who was with him after he left the bar. He eventually admitted that Hernandez had been drinking at the bar with him and they left together to go to Owatonna.

According to court documents, Escobar admitted to drinking a pitcher of beer, the shots and having a liter bottle of

Gin in the vehicle that “he and Hernandez were taking turns drinking from during the drive to Owatonna.” Escobar also told authorities that he blacks out when he drinks and that he did not recall where he left his car or what happened to Hernandez.

Investigators with the State Fire Marshall’s Office determined the vehicle likely remained running after it stopped traveling through the soybean field. The complaint said combustible material being packed under the vehicle while it traveled through the tall grass and the heat factor of a still running vehicle would be the ignition factor and dryer grass would be the first material ignited.

On the day after the fire, Escobar told his insurance company

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STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Bussler Publishing Inc.
USPS 058-340
Published weekly on Tuesdays
Postmaster: Send address
changes to: Steele County Times
P.O. Box 247
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Phone: (507) 583-4431
Fax: (507) 583-4445
bptimes@frontiernet.net

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016
6 National Awards
8 State Awards

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

(Awards presented by
Minnesota Newspaper
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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.

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Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower.....\$38
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Out of state.....\$42

Westfield prevails

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After falling behind 28-9, Westfield's wrestling team achieved a remarkable 33-point comeback to defeat Byron 42-28 on the Bears' mat Thursday, Dec.15. The victory kept the Razorbacks undefeated in dual matches at 5-0, with a championship in a season-opening

meet, as well.

At 106, Ethan Arett got the team off to a good start, with a pin in 1:51 of the first period, and Joe Pirkel won a 3-0 decision, but then the Bears reeled off five straight wins to take 28- 9 lead. That's when the locals took over and pulled off the victory.

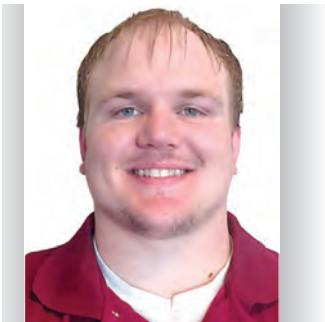
Colton Krell, Morgan Moreno, Tristen Rieken Mitchell

Oswald, and Trey Chatman all won their bouts by fall and Dylan Nirk won a 4-3 decision. Krell recorded his fall at 5: 14 of the bout, Moreno finished off his opponent in just 1:52, and Rieken finished his bout in 13 seconds. Oswald won in 26 seconds and Chatman won in 1:37. It was an eye-opening performance by the Razorbacks.

Weather cancels games

Editor's Note:Due to a severe winter storm sweeping the area, all Steele County schools who had athletic events scheduled for Friday and Saturday were cancelled as a safety measure. No official times have been set for the rescheduled games.

FOUR-POINT STANCE



JOSH ZIMMER

Scandals cloud bowl season

Well folks, a week that could have been spent drooling over Lamar Jackson's highlights to get you amped for bowl season took a back seat to a story that surfaced just this week

Louisville cheating?

Now, this isn't as touchy of a subject, but still makes you think about just how much change as overtaken the college football landscape over the past 20 years. Wake Forest played the Cardinals on Nov. 12 and prior to the matchup, they game plan a few plays that have yet to be seen by either the Wake Forest players or any opponents. The Cardinals went on the win the contest convincingly. However, what was found at the stadium after the game, propelled the Demon Deacons into launching an internal investigation.

Tuesday, they announced those findings.

Wake Forest mole Tommy Elrod reached out to his former Wake Forest coaching colleague Lonnie Galloway, now offensive coordinator at Louisville. Elrod passed along a few "special" Deacons plays. Galloway promptly passed them along to Louisville's defensive staff. Louisville AD Tom Jurich reports all this.

Now, what Jurich actually had to say on the matter is what makes this story mor humorous than what it really is.

"None of the special plays were run during the course of the game. Our defense regularly prepares for similar formations every week in their normal game plan.

I'm disappointed that this issue has brought undue attention to our football staff as we prepare for our upcoming bowl game."

This is instantly a classic. Despite the fact that he has been dealing with the situation concerning the Louisville basketball team for the last year and a half, now he states that he is disappointed not in his own program, but Wake Forest for publishing the findings.

And to the radio analyst, I get being upset that they failed to retain you after hiring Dave Clawson, but think of it this way. You played at what one time was a prominent school in the ACC. Okay, being a little generous with word usage, but competitive none the less. I've never heard of you. Most of the country hasn't heard of you until now. And, when was the last time Wake Forest had a competitive quarterback, to include Mr. Bachelor himself, Jordan Rodgers?

You perhaps weren't a very good coach. But, to sell out your alma mater the way you did, will now make everything wonder if you were doing it while you were an active coach.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Blossom girls split

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

After a fairly competitive first half, Lyle-Pacelli went on a hot streak, while the Blossom girls went cold. That resulted in a 67-34 defeat for the home-standing BP girls Thursday, Dec 15. The locals trailed by ten at the half 32-22.

"We were still in the game at the half," remarked Coach John Bruns, "but the second half was a different story. We had too many turnovers, which gave the Athletics too many extra possessions"

LP shot 40 percent from the field, including 8 treys, while the Blossoms made 35 percent on 13 of only 37 tries. Marissa Larson scored 16 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for a double double, and McKenna Hein added 12 rebounds and 6 points. Kylie Forystek counted 8points and had 2 assists and a steal. but only two other Blossoms were able to score in this contest.

The JV team lost to Lyle-

Pacelli in the prelim 40-29, after trailing 30-17 at the half. Megan Oswald had 11 points for the Blossoms, and Maya Lembke added 6 and Julia Worke 5.

As Coach Cory Hendrickson commented, 'We actually played pretty well against a good opponent. We just had to many turnovers and didn't give ourselves enough chances to score. I thought the overall effort was excellent."

The varsity is now 3-3 overall and 2-1 in the conference, while the JV team dropped to 2-4.

BP DOWN REBELS

A 7-point run with 7 minutes left in the first half erased a United South Central advantage and gave the Blossom girls a lead they would never relinquish. BP defeated the Rebels 44-39 in a low-scoring contest on the home court Tuesday, Dec. 13.

BP trailed15-10 when Sam Wurst scored a layup basket,

BLOSSOMS
Continued on page 4A



Submitted photo by Tammy Larson

The lady Blossoms had an up and down week as they defeated the USC Rebels and then fell hard to Austin's Lyle-Pacelli in second half of that game. McKenna Hein cuts too the perimeter against a Lyle-Pacelli defender. Hein had six points and 12 rebounds in the battle.

Huskies down Packers



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna hockey has many bright spots this year, including Carter Broton (5). The Owatonna Huskies defeated the Austin Packers last Thursday 4-2.

Owatonna wins a pair

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

After's Tuesday's big win over Section for Farmington on Tuesday, the Owatonna boys hockey team was back on home ice for a Big Nine Conference tilt against Austin. However, there was another opponent the Huskies were up against Thursday night... health.

Despite playing their second game in as many days, Owatonna used a three-goal first period to down the Austin Packers 4-2 Thursday night at the Four Seasons Centre. Head coach Josh Storm said the improvement in their forecheck really helped establish a presence in the offensive zone early was the key.

"The forecheck has improved in every game this season. We've been working on generating offense in practice; moving with the puck rather than standing with the puck," he added.

The Huskies had barely any hiccups while in the offensive zone, although one resulted in an early deficit. Owatonna was on the powerplay early in the first period after Austin's Hunter Guyette was assessed a five minute major for checking from behind. While trying to open up a window to shoot, Austin's defense created a turnover only to find Jack Dankert waiting at the

Owatonna blue line, giving him breakaway to net the game's first goal.

After the minor miscue, Owatonna settled in to score two unanswered even strength goals in the first period. The first coming off the blade of Braeden Meier on a nice wraparound to punch it just under the Austin goaltender's pad at the 12:05-mark of the period. The second was a nifty snipe from senior captain Adam Rehman.

The Huskies were dominant in the offensive zone, using a blend of smooth, crisp passing and timely shots to generate a rebound attempt. Owatonna outshot Austin 18-6 in the first period. In fact, Owatonna surrendered just 21 shots on net all game, holding the Packers to a high of nine shots attempted in the second period. The Huskies on the other hand, registered 36 shots on goal for the game. Aside from two breakaways, the Packers were unable to sustain any time in the offensive zone. Storm credits that to the game plan going in.

"I think going into this week, our focus was starting to battle harder, compete harder. We made the kids come in at 6:30 in the morning because I was not

HOCKEY

Continued on page 4A

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HometownLiving Community Calendar

Event Spotlight: Jean and Jessie Partridge Memorial Scholarship

The Steele County Home Economics Association is offering its Jean and Jessie Partridge Memorial Scholarship.

The \$500 scholarship is offered to individuals majoring in home economics, family consumer sciences or related fields, including textiles, food science, child development and parenting, housing and family social sciences at any accredited college or university. Students must have completed two years in the major.

For more information call Judie Buerman at 507-451-2537 or Barbara Paulson at 507-451-9686. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15.

PHOTO MEMORY



LAST YEAR AROUND THIS TIME

Archived staff photo by Anna Segner

The OHS Carolers kicked off the Owatonna High School concert last year with favorite holiday tunes old and new. The OHS Carolers were directed by students Anna Weisenburger and Luke Holzerland.

FOR THE RECORD



HAPPENING NOW

Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Members of the BP FFA chapter collected toys and donated them to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Shown with a wide assortment of gifts are: Zach Sisler, senior; Colin Nelson, senior; Jeremy Hocking, junior and Ethan Arett, junior. "We all enjoyed helping the kids at the Ronald McDonald House," said Jeremy.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Dec. 20th:

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

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, M/HS Gym

Dec. 21st:

9am - 4pm Holiday Bake Sale

Where: Mower County Senior Center

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin, MN

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House

1pm - 3pm Christmas Open House, Mower County Senior Center

6:30pm - 8pm Adult Hockey, Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin

Dec. 22nd:

9am - 4pm Holiday Bake Sale, Mower County Senior Center

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N

2pm - 3pm Historical Society Presentation: The Uncivil and Contentious History of American Presidential Elections, Mower County Senior Center

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

6pm - 7pm Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night

6pm - 8pm Clay Wheel Throwing, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N

Dec. 23rd:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

Dec. 24th:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N

Dec. 25th:

1pm - 3pm Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Room

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, Advanced Ice Time Where: Riverside Arena, 501 2nd Ave NE, Austin, MN 55912

Dec. 26th:

All day Lyle Lion's Club Meeting

11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House

3pm - 4:30pm Public Skate, Packer Arena, 601 7th St NE, Austin

5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW

Dec. 27th:

10am - 5pm Members Holiday Show, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin

12pm - 1pm Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

6:30pm - 7:30pm Lion's Club Meeting, Lyle Community Center, Lyle

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Dec. 20th:

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg

Dec. 21st:

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Dec. 27th:

All day BP Card Club & Luncheon

10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime

6pm - 7pm BPBL Book Club

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ALBERT LEA/FREEBORN Co

Dec. 20th:

(All day Family Reads)

5:30pm - 6:30pm Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea

Dec. 21st:

All day Family Reads

All day Community Ed Registrations Open

Dec. 22nd: (All day Family Reads)

All day Finals

10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time

5:30pm - 6:30pm AL Council Workshop, City Council Chambers

5:30pm - 6:30pm Council Workshop

Dec. 23rd: (All day Family Reads)

All day Finals

All day End of 2nd Quarter (43 days) | Semester 1 (82 days)

All day End of Quarter 2/Semester 1

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea

Dec. 24th: (All day Family Reads)

All day Library Closed

All day Winter Break

6pm - 9pm Rock Climbing Open Gym, 211 W Richway Dr, Albert Lea

Dec. 26th: (All day Family Reads)

All day Winter Break

10:30am - 11:30am ALPL Story time

7pm - 8pm AL City Council, Council Chambers

Dec. 27th: (All day Family Reads)

All day Winter Break

6pm - 9pm Rock Gym, 211 W Richway Dr Albert Lea

7pm - 8pm City Council

OWATONNA/MEDFORD/HOPE

Dec. 20th:

(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

10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts

3:30pm - 5pm Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym

6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters

Meeting, Medford

7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

Dec. 21st: (All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av)

4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall

7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford

Dec. 22nd:

2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time

Dec. 23rd:

7pm - 8pm Movie Night, New Beginnings Church

Dec. 26th:

2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner

4pm - 5pm Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority,

2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall

Dec. 27th:

9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!

10am - 1pm WCPL Story Time/Crafts

4pm - 5pm OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office

5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall

ELLENDALE/GENEVA

Dec. 20th:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North

Dec. 22nd:

5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm

7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm

7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm

Dec. 26th:

6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center

Dec. 27th:

7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North

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-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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JAN : 24 FEB 7 MARCH 14
APRIL 4
MAY 9 : BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
BENEFIT 7- 9 PM @J & H

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AVIATION: from page 1A

“Stinar’s brand strength and manufacturing expertise paired with Kruckeberg Industries’ strengths in leadership and marketing are a tremendous fit,” Richards said. “We will work towards elevating Stinar to a world-class level, one which positively impacts customer service, product quality and operational performance.”

Noting that Stinar’s brand is strong, Richards said: “We believe that Kruckeberg Industries philosophy on innovation, customer focus and strong marketing prowess will help enhance Stinar’s already stellar reputation.”

Kruckeberg has already sub-

mitted a purchase agreement for Stinar. The acquisition is expected to be completed after the new year.

“Any acquisition has to make sense and this opportunity fits what Kruckeberg Industries does,” Thorpe said.

Harvey said Stinar has a long and rich history of excellence dating back to 1946 when the company was founded by Frank Stinar. “We are excited to partner with the Kruckeberg Industries team and are enthusiastic about the future of the Stinar brand, the valued employees and our outstanding customers,” Harvey said.

public expressed concern
BUDGET: from page 1A

can go to <https://costeelemn.opengov.com>.

The presentation ended by opening the floor up to public comments on the budget.

Marlene Nelson expressed concern about the lack of funding to roads and bridges. “You went negative on roads and bridges. That’s a priority,” she said. The board responded that roads and bridges are being funded through other means.

Jesse Kristofferson was concerned about rising costs. “When does it stop?,” he asked the board. He said property costs are up, but the value is down.

The budget and the resolution to set the tax levy at \$22 million dollars for 2017 passed.

In final public comments, the outgoing commissioners were thanked for roughly a decade of service to Steele County.

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:
21st
Sam Esplan
Michelle Wallace
Amanda Schiefert

22nd
Sharon Lea
Lynnae Nelson
Paul Heimgartner
Gage Edward Nelson
Doreen Blome
Lisa Anderson

23rd
Jeffrey (Heifer)
Ingvalson
Morgan Jo Hagen
Amber Brandt

24th
Jolean Zilm
Kaylene Jensen
Lavon Hernandez
Marianne Grunklee

25th
Robin Shaw

Rick Klemmensen
Bob Hansen

26th
Diane Lembke
Piper Winn
Lerald Farrow
Owen Jones
Tricia Steckelberg
Leah Krell

27th
Tara Gimbel
Carsten Ingvalson
Jeffry Zimmerman
Macy Lembke
Lydia Brown
Mason Brown

Anniversaries:
21st
Tom & Chris Butler

26th
Paul & Bernice Stender
Wally & Jean Wilke

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Dec. 21
Christmas Party
Baked Ham
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Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans/
Mushrooms
Dinner Roll
Ice Cream

Dec. 22
Chicken Chow
Mein over rice
Seasoned Carrots
Fruited Coleslaw
Pumpkin Raisin Bar

Dec. 23
Closed

Dec. 26
Closed

Dec. 27
Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Mixed Green Salad
Pineapple Slices
French Bread
Hawaiian Cake

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SUGAR COOKIES

INGREDIENTS:
2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup butter, softened

1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:
1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls, and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.
2. Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden. Let stand on cookie sheet two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks.

Recipe Corner



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CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Final clue for medallion hunt

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 fourth week of the hunt and final clue:

Clue #4:
*Center your attention.
This is the last clue,
but don't be blue.
All the signs are there for you.*



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Locating Lost Life Insurance Policies

Dear Savvy Senior,
When my mom passed away we thought she had a life insurance policy, but we have no idea how to track it down. Do you know of any resources that might help?

Searching Susan

Dear Susan,
Lost or forgotten life insurance policies are very common in the U.S. It's estimated that more than \$7 billion in benefits from unclaimed life insurance policies are waiting to be claimed by their rightful beneficiaries.

While unfortunately, there isn't a national database for tracking down these policies, there are a number of strategies and a few new resources that can help your search. Here are sev-

eral to get you started.
Search her records: Check your mom's financial records or storage areas where she kept her important papers for a policy, records of premium payments, or bills from an insurer. Also contact her employer or former employer benefits administrator, insurance agents, financial planner, accountant, attorney or other adviser and ask if they know about a life insurance policy. Also check safe-deposit boxes, monitor the mail for premium invoices or whole-life dividend notices, and review old income-tax returns, looking for interest income from, and interest expenses paid, to life insurance companies.

Contact the insurer: If you suspect that a particular insurer underwrote the policy, contact

that carrier's claim office and ask. The more information you have, like your mom's date of birth and death, Social Security number and address, the easier it will be to track down. Contact information of some big insurers include: Prudential 800-778-2255; MetLife Metlife.com/policyfinder; AIG 800-888-2452; Nationwide 800-848-6331; John Hancock JohnHancock.com — click on "Contact Us" then on "Account Search Request."

Get state help: Nineteen state insurance departments have a policy locator service program that can help you locate lost life insurance, and many other states offer resources that can help you with your search. To find direct access to these resources visit the American Council of Life Insurers website at ACLI.com/

consumers — click on "Missing Policy Tips."

Search unclaimed property: If your mom died more than a few years ago, benefits may have already been turned over to the unclaimed property office of the state where the policy was purchased. Go to MissingMoney.com, a website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, to search records from 40 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The pull-down menu under Links connects you to a map and addresses for unclaimed property agencies. Or, to find links to each state's unclaimed-property division use Unclaimed.org.

If your mom's name or a potential benefactor's name produces a hit, you'll need to prove your claim. Required documen-

Steele County Times • Tuesday, December 20, 2016 • 7A



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tation, which can vary by state, is detailed in claim forms, and a death certificate might be necessary. If you need a copy of your mom's death certificate, contact the vital records office in the state where she died, or go to VitalChek.com.

Search fee-based services: There are several businesses that offer policy locator services for a fee. The MIB Group, for example, which is a data-sharing service for life and health insurance companies, offers a policy locator service at PolicyLocator.com for \$75. But it only tracks applications for individual policies made since 1996.

You can also get assistance at Policy Inspector (PolicyInspector.com) for \$99, and L-LIFE (LostLifeIns.com) for \$108.50, who will do the searching for you.



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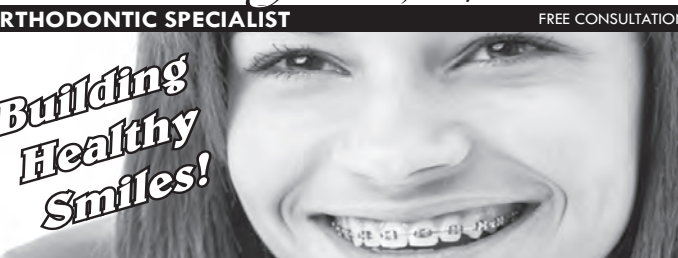


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Strategic weed management: Giant Hogweed

Giant hogweed, *Heracleum mantegazzianum*, is a stunningly tall plant with a serious public health risk. When the sap comes in contact with skin and is exposed to sunlight, it can cause painful blisters and scarring. Additionally, the sap in contact with eyes can result in blindness.

Originally brought to North America as an ornamental plant, it escaped cultivation and can be found in isolated pockets in many states. Fortunately, it has not been confirmed in the state of Minnesota, although it has been found growing in parts of Wisconsin.

Giant hogweed has many identifiable characteristics. It has deeply cut leaves up to five feet across, and the plant flowers on a 10-15 foot stalk. The plant produces large clusters of tiny white flowers that reach up to two and a half feet across. The stalks are two inches in diameter and hollow with purple mottling. Both the stems and undersides of the leaves are covered in coarse white hairs. It can be mistaken for Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), a native plant that is common throughout much

of Minnesota, has similar leaves and flowers, and reaches 3-10 feet tall with 4-8 inch flowers. However, giant hogweed has much larger, strongly dissected leaves and huge flowers

The impacts of giant hogweed are numerous. Not only is giant hogweed a serious public health



hazard, it can also negatively impact soil dynamics, fisheries, and out-compete native plants. In states where it has been confirmed, it can be found growing in yards, ditches, along stream banks, in disturbed areas, open wooded areas, and thrives in sunny loca-

tions. Giant hogweed spreads by seed that can be moved by wind, water, wildlife, and humans.

Management of giant hogweed requires careful handling. Appropriate protective clothing including gloves, goggles and long sleeve shirts should be worn and contact with the stems should be avoided. Management priorities include early detection and seed dispersal prevention. Cutting the flowers to prevent the spread of seed can be an effective management practice, in combination with applying herbicide to the foliage.

Even though this plant has not yet been discovered in Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regulates giant hogweed as a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list because of its close proximity of establishment in Wisconsin. It is also a Federal Noxious Weed regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By law, all above and below ground plant parts must be destroyed, and no transportation, propagation, or sale of the plants is allowed. If you suspect you have seen giant hogweed, please contact the MDA's Arrest the Pest voicemail at 888-545-6684 or email arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.



Nine strategies to a profitable 2017

It doesn't look like low commodity prices are going away in 2017. This means that farmers will have to be extra vigilant in their budget in order to stay in the black.

The key to remaining profitable is to stay on top of input cost.

1. Reevaluate crop production inputs such as prophylactic fungicide applications and specialty fertility products.

2. Forgo phosphorus and potassium fertilizer, if soil tests show there's enough in the ground for the coming crop.

3. Review and adjust nitrogen rates and application timing.

4. Re-evaluate seed technology. Seeds with fewer GMO traits are usually less expensive," Ward said. "But this will require more management time- you may have more weed pressure, more insect pressure. You need to weigh the pros and cons- and if you've done some on-farm evaluation, you will know what works and is worth the investment."

5. Eliminate excess equipment and re-evaluate equipment sizing.

"The secondary markets are soft, so it's not the best time to sell excess equipment. If there is a true need for equipment, this would be the time to buy," he says.

6. Renegotiate cash leases. "The economics of the past three years have cried for a lower of cash leases, but they have held up because of equity positions on behalf of farmers and landowners' property taxes," Ward says. "Landowners need to understand that margins have declined and lease prices need to come down."

7. Consider more do-it-yourself repair and services, including spraying, soil sampling and equipment repair.

8. Evaluate farm yield ratios with price ratios when determining crop mix.

9. Re-examine family living expenses. "It's not easy to do," Ward says, "but family living expenses need to ratchet back to pre-2006 levels." According to the Illinois Farm Business Farm Management data, family expenses were \$85 per acre in 2006, compared with \$110 per acre in 2015.

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Beef council seeks candidates for board

The Minnesota Beef Research and Promotion Council is seeking candidates for its board elections.

Candidates will be selected through mail ballot elections conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in March. The candidate registration deadline is Jan. 25, 2017.

These farmer/leaders will serve a three-year term directing the investment of the beef research and promotion council's check-off program. Nominees are required to reside within the area to be represented. Council members shall be residents of the State of Minnesota of legal voting age, and be participating

cattle producers or feeders.

Those interested in running for the vacant positions will need to complete the candidate registration forms, which can be found at www.mnbeef.org/boardofdirectors.aspx.

Among the open beef council board positions around the state is District 8, which includes Steele and Waseca counties.

Farmers and ranchers must be certified producers with the Minnesota Beef Council to receive a ballot. To ensure you are a certified producer, please contact the Minnesota Beef Council via email at info@mnbeef.org or by calling 763-479-1011.



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USDA sends National Agricultural Classification Survey ahead of 2017 Census of Agriculture

In preparation for the 2017 Census of Agriculture, close to one million potential farmers and ranchers will receive the National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) this month to help the U.S. Department of Agriculture identify all active farms and ranches in the United States. The result of the NACS will determine who receives a census of agriculture questionnaire next December.

The census of agriculture, conducted every five years by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the census of agriculture, producers are able to demonstrate the value and importance of agriculture, and influence decisions that will shape the future of the industry in this country.

"NACS plays an integral role in getting a complete count of U.S. agriculture," said NASS Census and Survey Division Director Barbara Rater. "We ask everyone who receives the survey to please respond by January 30, so that we can maintain an accurate and comprehensive census of agriculture mailing list. This is an important opportunity. The census of agriculture is the leading source of facts about American agriculture. Farm organizations, businesses, government decision-makers, commodity market analysts, news media, researchers and so many others use census of agriculture data. We are ensuring that every farm and ranch has a voice."

The census of agriculture defines a farm as any place, big or small, that produces and sells, or could sell, \$1,000 or more of agriculture products within a calendar year. NACS is required by law as part of the census of agriculture. By this same law, all information reported by individuals is protected.

NASS will begin data collection for the 2017 Census of Agriculture in late 2017. The census of agriculture is Your Voice, Your Future, Your Opportunity. For more information about NACS and the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov.

Minnesota Farm Bureau outlines focus areas for 2017

Voting delegates at the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) 98th Annual meeting adopted policy positions for 2017. Based on these actions, the MFBF Board of Directors have provided focus for the organization on public policy, image and leadership including food, health insurance, water, transportation, and taxes.

Food: Minnesota farmers and ranchers are committed to providing access to sustainable, safe, healthy food choices. Farmers work to continuously improve production methods, techniques and technologies. Farmers demonstrate their commitment to care for their livestock, manage and improve the quality of their environment and enhance the quality and accessibility of food and fiber they produce utilizing different production methods.

Health Insurance: The affordability and availability of

health insurance is a significant concern for Minnesota farm families and small businesses. MFBF will work towards finding solutions addressing both increases in premiums and lack of availability to individual health insurance options.

Water: Water quality and quantity are top priorities for Minnesota farm families. Agriculture's role in improving water quality can best be fulfilled through voluntary site-specific actions at the local level.

Transportation: MFBF will continue efforts to address Minnesota transportation infrastructure needs, especially rural roads and bridges. It is critical that products are able to be moved efficiently by river, rail and road.

Taxes: MFBF will continue efforts to work on education funding issues especially as it relates to improvements or construction of school buildings.



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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.
[...]

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.**

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

Foreclosure

16-105134

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 27, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$167,638.00
MORTGAGOR(S): John C. Ress, an unmarried man
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100039032239395920

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Quicken Loans, Inc.
SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 28, 2010, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000371393
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 4, Block 1, Radel's Francis Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1030 Hemlock Ln, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0104
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$155,321.59

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: February 10, 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 August 10, 2017, or the next business day if August 10, 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: December 15, 2016
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

12/20, 12/27, 1/3
1/10, 1/17, 1/24

Postponement

16-104834

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 8, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$103,647.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Mark E Zvorak and Ginger M Zvorak, 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 January 17, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000347181
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12 Block 9 Brainerd's Addition to Blooming Prairie
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 141 5th Ave SE, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-103-0912
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS

LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$96,454.49
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: December 13, 2016, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on June 13, 2017, or the next business day if June 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: October 14, 2016
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Mortgagee

Summons

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 11/29/2016
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
• Glynn/Huntington to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
2. Huntington/Schultz to approve the consent agenda items. Ayes all.
• Approve the Listing of Bills.
• Approve Personnel Report
• Brady/Huntington to approve the minutes of November 15, 2016 with changes. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Huntington offered a Resolution to accept a donation of \$150 from the Fairbault Foundation for Project Lifesaver. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Huntington/Schultz to authorize signatures on the Final Plat for Opportunity Drive.
• Schultz/Brady to set the hearing for the Highway & Bridge Capital Improvement Plan for January 24, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. Ayes all.
• Huntington/Brady offered a Resolution to authorize the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Cannon and Cedar River Watershed Plans. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Brady/Glynn to extend the current forbearance agreement for six months with no changes in the agreement. Upon the vote being taken 4 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Huntington voting against.
• Schultz/Huntington offered a Resolution authorizing signatures for the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for the South Central Human Relations Center. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Huntington/Glynn to deny the request for the PR16-024 Access Variance request –CSAH 4 for Eric Hansen in Lemond township. Ayes all.
• Schultz/Huntington to approve PR16-029 Access Variance Request CSAH 49 for Kevin O'Connor to eliminate two nonconforming access points and provide for one new nonconforming access point to provide reasonable access to the property in Medford township. Ayes all.
• Year to Date Budget Performance Report was given by Cathy Piepho.

LISTING OF BILLS 11/29/2016	
Amazon	5,422.88
A'viands LLC	9,336.45
All Systems Installation Inc	57,979.00
Christine Bluhm	3,156.25
C V S – SMART Transit	5,000.00
Dakota County Financial Svc	8,118.85
Erickson Engineering Co LLC	12,109.46
Evergreen Land Services	8,329.50
Jones Haugh & Smith Inc	3,342.35
Local Government Information Systems	27,262.00
Mayo Clinic	8,068.00
MEI Total Elevator Solutions	2,635.00
Motorola Solutions Inc	4,342.47
Rice County Solid Waste Dept	2,356.66
Rocon Inc	3,380.00
Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc	4,914.89
Steele County Treasurer	9,323.49
Stonebrooke Engineering Inc	24,057.70
Waste Management of WI-MN	50,320.77
110 Warrants under \$2,000	39,565.89
Total:	289,021.61

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Huntington to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 6:17 p.m. Ayes all.

CHAIRMAN
ATTEST: AUDITOR

12/20

Public Notice NOTICE OF FILING WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to the citizens of Westfield Township that affidavits of candidacy may be filed with John Fouarge Township Clerk at his home starting January 2nd 2017 and Closing January 16th at 5p.m. for the office one one Supervisor for a three year term and one Treasurer for a two year term and one clerk for a one year term.
Given under my hand this 16th day of December 2016

John Fouarge (Clerk)
Westfield Township
C/O 75020 118th Ave
Blooming Prairie , MN 55917

12/21,12/8

GRIEF RELIEF

What is grief like? Grief is like a series of waves that come and go, feelings that vary in intensity over a long period of time as we are constantly reminded of changes that result from the death of our loved one. We need to take time to face our emotions and feelings. Then make careful plans for our new lives without the deceased. Our feelings and grief may seem unpredictable and confused at times, but that is perfectly normal.

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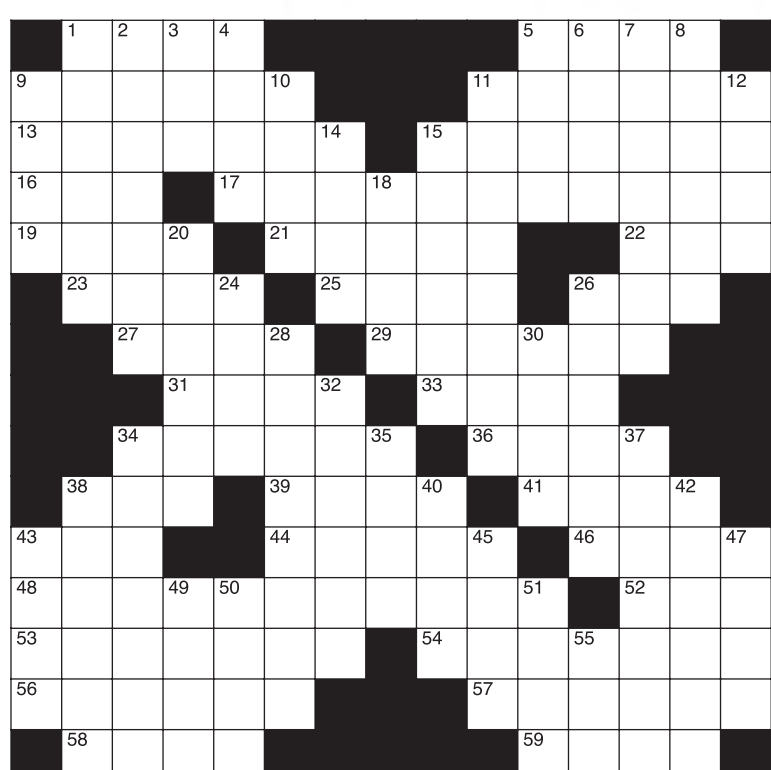


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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Nonsense (slang)
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Removes
- Streamed
- Inner ear cavity
- Where to go after high school
- Olympics host
- A day to remember fallen soldiers
- Forearm bone
- Bypass surgery pioneer F. Mason
- Judo garments
- Gentlemen
- Large wrestler
- Large integer
- Makes a soft sound
- Some claim to have six
- Sunfish
- Clan
- A form of comedy
- Defy
- More (Spanish)
- Sixteen ounces
- Adventure story
- Liquid distilled from wood or coal
- Michigan ghost town
- Fond of
- Pearl Jam frontman
- Clothes
- Flinches
- Giving the axe



CLUES DOWN

- Cooks by exposure to direct heat
- Using few words
- Wood
- Steer
- Soft drink
- Consider
- Clears from a river
- Claim again

- Beige
- Witnesses
- Spiked
- Partidge actor Susan and Marmaduke director Tom
- ___ and Andy, TV show
- Fraiche and de Men-the are two
- Burden
- Olfactory properties
- Carbon particles
- Set of four
- A sweater pulled over the head
- Relaxing places
- Gets up
- Canned fish
- ___ Blyton, children's author
- A conceited and self-centered person
- Fine-textured cotton fabric
- Turner and Kennedy
- Repents
- Smartphones, tablets, etc.
- A way to garner
- Eat them for breakfast
- Former Tigers third baseman Brandon
- Oh, God!
- Canadian flyers
- One legged Chinese mythological demon

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Jay Braaten,
Financial Advisor



Cancer Corner

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

The importance of annual health exams

Annual health exams are a key component of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. A person may not see the need to visit the doctor if he or she is feeling well, but not every disease or condition manifests itself in a way that men and women can detect. According the Unity Point Clinic, nearly one-third of the 133 million Americans living with a chronic disease are unaware of the presence of their conditions. Routine physical exams can detect serious illnesses before they do much damage.

No two physical exams will be exactly alike, but many will share some general features.

Health history
A crucial element of a physical exam will include a thorough health history if the physician doesn't already have one on file. The doctor will take time to ask questions about family history of illness, health habits, any vices (smoking, drinking alcohol, etc.), exercise schedule, and diet. If there is a possible hereditary health condition running through your family, the doctor may suggest certain testing and make note of potential signs to look for in the future.

Current ailments
After discussing a patient's history, the doctor may ask if they are having any problems they cannot explain. These can include changes in eating or sleeping patterns; aches and pains; lumps or bumps and other abnormalities. Again, the presence of symptoms may be indicative of illness or physical changes, but not all diseases produce obvious symptoms.

Vital signs
A doctor will check a patient's vital signs during the physical. Areas the doctor will look at include but are not limited to:

- Heart rate: This measures the speed at which the heart is pumping. Normal resting heart rate values range from 60 to 100 beats per minute.

- Blood pressure: A blood pressure cuff (sphygmomanometer) will measure systolic and diastolic pressure. Systolic pressure measures the force with which the blood is pushing through the arteries. The diastolic blood pressure is the pressure in the arteries between beats, when the heart rests. The systolic (top number) should be below 120, while the bottom should be less than 80, according to the Mayo Clinic.
- Respiration rate: The doctor will measure the number of breaths taken in a minute. WebMD says between 12 and 16 breaths per minute is normal for a healthy adult. Breathing more than 20 times per minute can suggest heart or lung problems.
- Pulse oximetry: Johns Hopkins School of Medicine says pulse oximetry is a test used to measure the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) of the blood. It is a measure of how well oxygen is being sent to the parts of your body furthest from your heart. Normal pulse oximeter readings usually range from 95 to 100 percent. Values under 90 percent are considered low.

Physical exam
The examination will also include physical components. The doctor will perform a visual inspection of the skin and body for any abnormalities, such as the presence of skin cancer. The physician may feel the abdomen to check that internal organs are not distended. Females' physical examinations may include breast and pelvic exams.

Comprehensive testing
In addition to the exam at the office, the physical may include an electrocardiogram, or EKG, to check electrical activity of the heart; blood count and cholesterol checks through bloodwork; body mass index testing; X-rays or MRIs and bone-density tests.

Physical exams remain an important part of staying healthy. Consult with a doctor for more preventative maintenance tips.

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Theft. Officer took theft reports in the 600 block of 15th St. NE at 3:36 p.m. and in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W at 5:07 p.m.

CRIME BRIEF

Man accused of sexually attacking woman in BP

A 34-year-old Blooming Prairie man faces felony criminal sexual conduct charges for allegedly sexually attacking a woman while providing her with alcohol.

Gregory Mark Huntley has been charged with two felony counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with force or coercion and mental impairment. He also has been charged with a gross misdemeanor of providing alcohol to a minor.

If convicted of the charges, Huntley faces 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine.

Huntley made his initial appearance in court last week. He has since bailed out of jail. He has another court appearance set for Thursday.

Blooming Prairie Police received a report of the attack Dec. 13 at about 2:30 p.m. The 18-year-old victim came to the police station to report Huntley attacked her earlier that morning. She told police she went to his apartment to find a place to stay for the night. She indicated she went to Huntley's place be-

cause her boyfriend had blocked her out of the house when she arrived home from work.

According to the complaint filed against Huntley, the victim said he provided her with mixed alcoholic drinks. A short time later she blacked out for about an hour. During that time, he became sexually aggressive with her and fondled her.

At one point, the victim told Huntley he needed to calm down, but he continued sexual moves on her.

Police took the victim to the Mayo Hospital emergency room in Rochester where a medical exam was done.

At about 6:30 p.m., police executed a search warrant on Huntley's apartment. During an interview with police, Huntley denied having sexual intercourse with the victim. He told police he had "a lot to drink and could not remember." However, he admitted to knowing she was 18 or 19 and that they had drinks together. He said he knew he should not have given the victim alcohol.

Help police identify suspected shoplifter

Owatonna Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a suspected shoplifter.

Investigators are looking into a shoplifting case at the Walmart Store in Owatonna involving the unidentified man pictured in this story.

According to police, the suspect fled the store with merchandise before jumping into a blue Chevy pick-up truck that registered out of Faribault.

From the beginning of the year until Nov. 30, there have been 122 reported shoplifting incidents in Owatonna.

If anyone knows the identity of the person involved in this shoplifting, call Owatonna Police at 507-451-8232.



MN Dept. of Natural Resources
Kendrick S. Steuck, 21, Owatonna, take migratory birds in closed hours, \$131.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Farhan M. Abdi, 21, Owatonna, speeding and permit violation, \$181; Drew D. Alderman, 19, Grantsburg, WI, speeding, \$121; Patrick R. Batin, 54, Plymouth, speeding, \$121; Zachary J. Benson, 28, Farmington, expired registration, \$111; Hailey A. Black, 19, Shinglehouse, PA, speeding, \$121; Benjamin J. Bogart, 20, Edina, speeding, \$121; Can Chen, 32, Pembroke Pines, FL, speeding, \$221; Derek A. Clement, 20, Owatonna, speeding, \$100; Evan W. Clifford, 18, Morristown, speeding, \$281; Kassa B. Dadhi, 59, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Mathew T. Delfs, 29, Burnsville, speeding, \$131; Gregory A. Flores, 25, Houston, TX, speeding, \$131; Lonnie L. Harris, 35, St. Paul, speeding, no license and revoked license, \$431; Alejandro Hernandez, 52, Wells, seat belt, \$106; Alvin Hernandez, 44, Albert Lea, speeding, \$121; Larry J. Hill, 65, Peoria, IL, speeding, \$141; Gordon G. Hofmann, 56, Welch, husbandry violation, \$131; Alex M. Huerta, 23, Faribault, speeding and no license, \$241; Jennifer J. Husby, 32, Tea, SD, speeding, \$121;

Gregory D. Idso, 30, New Richland, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Alexander K. Krumins, 28, Waukesha, WI, speeding, \$131; Frederick N. Lumeh, 52, Des Moines, IA, speeding, \$221; Zulema P. Macias, 45, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Shawn M. Miller, 28, Albert Lea, revoked license and no child passenger restraint system, \$331; Vernetha M. Miller, 52, Albert Lea, revoked license, \$281;

Edward H. Schaus, 76, St. Peter, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft by swindle. Schaus was sentenced to \$10,198.01, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 10 years of supervised probation.

Trace M. Stanley, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet possession of stolen property, gross misdemeanor burglary and misdemeanors assault and violation of restraining order. The defendant was sentenced to \$381, 90 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, no contact with co-defendant, maintain employment, no possession of firearms, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 5 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jordan D. Lindeman, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony burglary. He was sentenced to \$1,081, 123 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, obtain GED and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of Dec. 5 – 9:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Richard Grinan, 25, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, \$111; Me Reh, 22, St. Paul, revoked license, \$281.

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Michelle A. Nelsen, 41, Adams, speeding, \$121; Hanh T. Nguyen, 35, Shoreview, speeding, \$131; Michael M. Nutt, 51, Robins, IA, speeding, \$121; Jeremy A. Olmsted, 20, Austin, speeding, \$121; Daniel T. Otero, 28, New Prague, speeding, \$381; Joseph W. Pritchard, 52, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, \$131; Mark G. Prochaska, 64, Edina, move over law violation, \$131; Celika Segovia Cantu, 23, Eagle Pass, TX, no license, \$181;

Laura A. Shaffer, 53, St. Paul, speeding, \$121; Charles R. Sonnek, 62, Lacrescent, speeding, \$121; Timothy P. Stohl, 52, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Denasha R. Sutton, 20, Owatonna, speeding and expired license, \$321; Jamee P. Tuttle, 50, Excelsior, speeding, \$141; Zachary E. Weichert, 20, Janesville, expired registration, \$111; Paul E. Woodard, 83, Waukeke, IA, unsafe lane usage, \$131.

Owatonna Police Department
Tiesha Allen, 31, Owatonna, no license, \$131; Marco A. Alquicira, 44, Albert Lea, cancelled license, \$131; Jose E. Colmenero, 34, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Vicky S. Fielding, 42, Austin, cancelled license, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Julie A. Flicek, 44, Owatonna, controlled substance crime, theft and offering forged check, stay of adjudication, \$131, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearm s, 184 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Riley J. Forcelle, 18, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Hannah L. Forsberg, 29, theft, \$181; Joyce A. Frye, 20, Waseca, theft, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; James L. Goskeson, 65, Owatonna, no license, \$181; Reese W. Hageman, 31, Blooming Prairie, failure to yield, \$131; Yussuf A. Hassan, 31, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106;

Jeffrey J. Hodges, 47, Owatonna, DWI, \$381, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Dylan D. Kelly, 19, Litchfield theft, \$946.11 and 90 days in county jail; Abigail E. King, 21, Faribault, revoked license, \$281; Brian D. Louks, 31, Claremont, expired tabs, \$111;

Rachel A. Madson, 40, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Charles D. Mayfield, 57, Owatonna, no front plate, \$111; Denise K. Miller, 56, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Matthew T. Pates, 31, Owatonna, revoked license, \$131; Lucia E. Porras, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Brianna

L. Rentmeester, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Candy L. Wunderlich, 55, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Cheng Xiong, 22, false name, \$381, 30 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Tyler K. Yentsch, 23, Duluth, speeding, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Zachary D. Allard, 19, Owatonna, lights violation, \$131; Corey M. Anderson, 39, Waseca, no insurance, \$281; Jose M. Arriga, 44, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Heidi L. Barstad, 42, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Mark E. Beierle, 30, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Nicholas W. Boy, 35, Welch, speeding, \$121;

John B. Frank, 35, Owatonna, DWI, \$581, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, alcohol monitor and 2 years of supervised probation; Cesar Gallo, 23, Claremont, no license, speeding and no insurance, \$441;

Ritlu Gaxiola, 34, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Shane G. Johnson, 38, Cold Springs, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Olevia G. Kanah, 38, Brooklyn Park, speeding, \$121; Garrett D. Larson, 21, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Andrew C. Miller, 36, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

Shannon M. Montanye, 33, Hollandale, speeding, \$141; Duyen B. Nguyen, 19, Fairmont, suspended license and speeding, \$341; Dudley E. Otto, 76, Owatonna, careless driving, \$181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Sonja B. Riemenschneider, 28, St. Paul, speeding, \$101;

Gina C. Schaefer, 17, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$141; Douglas D. Schieffer, 42, Webster, speeding, \$121; Christopher M. Spinner, 35, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121; Paige M. Stewart, 20, speeding, \$121; Travis J. Troska, 37, no insurance and revoked license, \$481; Anthony E. Wadley, 41, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Jane N. Wood, 64, Faribault, speeding; Bradley D. Wright, 44, New Richland, speeding, \$121.

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The sheriff makes this information available as a public service.

- Joseph Rodriguez – theft by check - \$1,000 bail
- Prudencio Rodriguez – traffic - \$2,000 ba
- Jose Roman – DWI - \$6,000 bail
- Justo Roman – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jose Rosales – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
- Brandon Rose – theft - \$100 bail
- Rodney Ross – theft – no bail
- Amber Rubitschung – theft - \$500 bail
- James Russell – no insurance - \$1,000 bail
- Anthony Russo – assault - \$10,000 bail

- Ramiro Salinas – DWI – no bail
- Miguel Sambrano – DWI - \$2,000 bail
- Gilberto Sanchez – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Jorge Sanchez – theft, shoplifting - \$100 bail
- Maria Sanchez – theft - \$500 bail
- Roberto Sanchez – criminal sexual conduct – no bail
- Russell Sanchez – theft - \$200 bail
- Jose Saucedo – theft - \$3,000 bail
- Teresa Saucedo – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Benjamin Savedra – DWI – no bail

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

ACTIVE
WARRANTS

Pastor's corner: Gifts that last

Well, the Christmas craze is upon us. "Wait a minute pastor, I thought Jesus was the reason for the season". Correct, good answer but unless your life is out of the ordinary, it's very difficult not to get caught up in the rush, celebrations, activities and of course...gift buying!

I don't know about you, but most gifts I have gotten, let's say, at least 10 years ago, are no longer with me. Most likely they are in a landfill somewhere. But let me tell you about 1 gift I still have. It's sort of a blanket, with snaps and a zipper, that can be turned into a sort of cocoon. It's comfy! This blanket has truly beat the odds. I don't know exactly how old it is but my two sisters and I

each got (note: I just checked with them: Theirs are long gone, and they have no idea when or where they went to) one from my parents before I got married which makes it 30-40 years old. Truly a gift that has lasted!

However, when I think about gifts that are most valuable and will NEVER end up in a landfill, I think of some very different than my blanket or anything else material.

This season at Cedar Creek Church I am preaching a Christmas series called "Gifts that Last". We're taking a look at different snapshots of the Christmas story to see what lasting Gifts the characters in the Christmas story experienced...and we

can too! We'll see how Mary and Joseph experienced the gift of Trust as they needed to trust God for what seemed impossible, and when the odds were so stacked against them. Ever been there? We'll look at the gift of God's providence, as we look at how God perfectly worked out baby Jesus to be born at exactly the right place and time. I hope you see this gift in your life. Then there's an aging man named Simeon who take baby Jesus in his arms and talks about the gift of forgiveness that would come through this baby Jesus who grew up to die on the cross for our sins. Have you received that gift? Finally, we'll talk about the gift of God's sovereignty and how Mary and

Joseph experienced that gift as God protected them from the seemingly all powerful edicts and murderous pursuit of King Herod. Knowing this about God is a great gift that I hope you have experienced, perhaps in times when your life seems so out of control.

These are gifts that last AND are more valuable than anything we'll find wrapped under our trees. I trust this Christmas season that your heart will be more enamored by these gifts among others come from God. Gifts that truly last a long time!!

Peace,
Pastor Aaron de Neui
Cedar Creek Church
Hayfield, MN



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Cedar Creek Church, Hayfield, MN

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Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

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Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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Pastor Sandy Miller
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Services: 9 a.m. Sunday School,
Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

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School: 9:45 a.m.

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Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School (Sept-May): 10:15 a.m.

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Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

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a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

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Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

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Worship 8:30 AM



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Education hour: 10 a.m.

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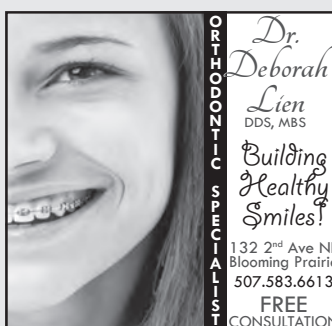
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Kids for Christmas: Ismael and Ciara

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.

Ciara is an 8-year-old energetic, outgoing, sweet, and happy girl. Ciara likes coloring, watching TV, playing in her room, Disney Princesses, Dora, playing with her kitchen set, her Leap Pad, going to the park, swimming, and playing with dolls. She wants a Big Sister to give her one on one attention and something to look forward to. The best Big



Ismael is a 12-year-old shy and very caring boy with a big heart.

He loves to draw and has a big imagination. He likes to play catch, ride his bike, go shopping, play sports (especially soccer), board games, and video games.

Ismael said that he would like a big brother to take him places, go to the park and just play catch.

He would like to experience new things and have a new friend to talk to.

If Ismael, Ciara, or a child in a similar 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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Christmas Day Mass:
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11:00 am, St. Mary's Oratory, Rural Geneva

New Year's Eve Mass:
5:00 pm, St. John Baptist de la Salle, Dodge Center

New Year's Day Mass:
8:00 am, Sacred Heart, Hayfield
10:00 am, St. Columbanus, Blooming Prairie

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St. John's Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Childrens Program
Saturday December 24 - 7:00pm

Christmas Day Service
Sunday December 25 - 10:30am



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St. John Lutheran Church

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Christmas Day Service	9:30 a.m.

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—Charles Dickens

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Christmas Services



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First Lutheran Church hosts Christmas program



Submitted photo by Izzy Wacek

First Lutheran Church third graders performed the nativity scene during the annual church program on Sunday, Dec. 11. Pictured are: Back (left to right) Brady Johnson, Zoe Heimer, Chloe Weber, Ella Salinas and Landon Allison. Middle (left to right) Ella Farr, Jonathan Heimgartner, Colby Johnson and Cannon Wacek. Front (left to right) Noah Graves, Layla Coleman, Allison Blume, Claire Schwarz and Ambriella Miller.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff riter

It took a team effort of many volunteers to produce a heart warming Christmas program at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Parents, grandparents, other family and friends of 122 First Lutheran kids came early to get a good seat in the sanctuary for the 10:30 production.

Kristin Romeo, director of Children’s Ministry, led a host of volunteers. “Lots of practice and enthusiasm from the kids went into this performance,” said Romeo.

Romeo said this program would not have worked without the help of many people including Sunday School teachers and helpers, custodians Gary Thorson and Judy Richard too help with setup, music worship team, pastors and other behind the scenes people.

Izzy Wacek took photos of the various student groups. A special background for a photo booth was provided for parents and grandparents to take photos of their children.

Here’s a list of the numbers of students in the program:

- 12 – 3-year-olds
- 20 – 4-year-olds
- 19 – Kindergarten
- 12 – 1st graders
- 15 – 2nd graders
- 14 – 3rd graders
- 13 – 4th graders
- 17 – 5th & 6th graders



Submitted photo by Izzy Wacek

Three-year-olds in the annual First Lutheran Church program were: Back (left to right) Owen Braaten, Alexa Miner, Emily Kasperek, Emma Koremann, Avery Allison and Mason Johnson. Front (left to right) Harper Hansen, Lyla Swenson, Aurora Musel, Elise Wilker, Alexander Mausbach and Landon Strand.



Submitted photo by Izzy Wacek

Four-year-olds at First Lutheran Church’s annual Christmas program were little angels. Pictured are: Back (left to right) Kazaiya Miller, Easton Valek, Isaac Stoen, Shelby Kasperek, Daniel Coleman and Claire Klocke. Middle (left to right) Brody Bishop, Ava Bergeron, Ashton Studer, Charlie Romeo, Zane Johnson, Isaac Westphal, Maverick Schlichter and Abbey Johnson. Front (left to right) Shainnah Cooke, Mark Romeo, Gracie Heimer, Bryer Nelson, Payton Esplan and Harlee Doocy.

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Blooming students out on the town

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mark
DeLap

In a story I published last week, I wrote: “As students answered questions and came up with solutions to the problem, they got a chance to meet with firefighter Jared Brown and Gold

Cross ambulance members Nick Nelson and Nola Wradislavsky.”

This was a great day and an incredible event, but unfortunately, my brain went to sleep when I identified the Blooming Prairie Ambulance members as being associated with Gold Cross. My apologies to both Nick and Nola who do such an incredible job here for the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service.

I suppose it is the adjusting to Blooming Prairie life. Being a new resident now to the community comes with such an excitement. A place to establish roots, to have my son in the school system, to work alongside the merchants and business people who

have made this little town a welcome place to call home.

As we were coming home the other night from the boys basketball game in Triton on the cold and icy roads, I noticed that we were not alone, but part of a caravan of parents who had made the trip. It made me feel safe and secure and I’m not gonna lie, a little proud to be a part of a group of parents who had the same schedule as my wife and I now had.

There was a common bond in the cheering. A camaraderie in the greetings. A pride in officially being an “Awesome Blossom.” My wife has said it since we began to look for home here. “There is something special about this little town.”

And the Minnesota-friendly part is being recognized around town. Some recognize me as “Seth’s dad” or “Robin’s husband,” while others recognize me as a writer for the newspaper, and some are now familiar just because we are frequenting the local businesses.

Living in larger towns and cities afforded us hustle and bustle and alienation. Blooming Prairie gives us something we haven’t been used to. Small town charm and family. To be part of the Blooming Prairie family is quite an honor.

And I guess we have come in at the right time as this small town is on the verge of quite a milestone, being incepted 150 years ago. 2017 will hold many exciting programs and festivals honoring the 150th, but before we look ahead that far, I am looking forward to Christmas in my hometown on the prairie.

A new home in a new town with new friends and bringing our family home for the holidays to share with them, all the wonder we have found here. Now, all I need to find is a good place to get a Christmas tree and I will be all set.

Our Christmas lights didn’t make the move, and the dancing laser lights I ordered, didn’t arrive yet, so the DeLap home looks pretty dark... for the moment. But soon, the lights will be up, the tree will be decked, the egg nog will be Keurigned and friends and family will fill our home with what the holidays are all about.

I guess I said all that from the apology to the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Service. I am sure, being new, I will get a few more things wrong, but rest assured, this old dog is willing to learn new things. Thank you Blooming Prairie for the warm welcome and remember. Be careful out there.

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Being blind does not hinder Paul Dale’s spirit

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



HOWARD
LESTRUD

“Turn-around is fair play,” says Blooming Prairie Lions Club member Paul Dale who is known as a man with a determined spirit.

Paul Dale is blind but he does not let that condition deter his ambitions. He is very well known around the Blooming Prairie community for being the man walking the streets with his Leader Dog

Summit. He has had three guide dogs in the past several years.

His ambitions have included a personal challenge to do most everything a sighted person can do.

Most recently, Lion Paul achieved another goal, this one being a desire to be certified in CPR. Thankful to his wife Laura and to Blooming Prairie First Responders, Dale said it was their efforts that saved his life when he suffered a severe heart attack on May 28, 2015. He refuses to call it heart attack but instead labels it his “temper tantrum.”

He says now he wishes to be more prepared for emergency situations and by being CPR-certified, he may be able to help others.

Dale signed up for a CPR class recently and was one of two students trained by Jessica Kremer, certified EMT and certified CPR trainer.

“I’m going to send out his CPR card tomorrow,” Kremer said, signaling the fact that Paul Dale successfully completed the CPR training. His training was witnessed by Paul’s wife Laura and by Leader Dog Summit as his side as he practiced the techniques of CPR.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Paul Dale of Blooming Prairie is blind but he doesn’t let that stop him from accomplishing most tasks a sighted person can master. Here, watched by his Leader Dog Summit and by certified CPR trainer Jessica Kremer, Dale participates in a CPR class. He recently became certified after undergoing training at the BP Ambulance Service.

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Lion Paul has retinitis pigments, an inherited, degenerative eye disease that causes severe vision impairment and often blindness. He was first diagnosed with the disease at age 18. His sight became more severely impaired in the early 1990s necessitating help of a Leader Dog.

Kremer said Dale was the first unsighted student she has trained. “I thought it went very well because he knows his disability and how to work with it,” Kremer said.

On the night Kremer trained Paul Dale and another student, she was accompanied by her six-month-old son Liam. She fed him dinner while the students followed the training video.

Kremer has been certified as an EMT for 13 years and has been a certified trainer for 11 years.

Dale’s training was aided by a newly updated video that he followed with the help of his keen hearing.”He definitely wanted to learn,” Kremer said.

Kremer said much of the training emphasizes feel. “My eyes are in my fingers,” Paul chuckles.

Dale is always exhibiting a sense of humor and asked if he were taking his dog Summit with him to class, he quickly responded: “Well, yes, I have to have Summit find the person I am to help.”

More challenges remain for Paul Dale and he says he is up to them.

Next spring, Dale hopes to compete in an archery league at the Cedar River Archery Club in Lansing. When he was sighted, Dale said he was president of the club. With a coach, Dale hopes to compete once again.

Another desire of Dale’s is to take a spin in Jeff Zwiener’s new John Deere tractor with a cozy cab. “Just give me a 40-acre field without trees,” he laughs.

Don’t ever sell Paul Dale short because he will undoubtedly prove people wrong when they question his spirit.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Santa Claus and his elf visited with many kids and gave the kids a chance to have their picture taken with Santa and his elf. Pictured from left to right with Santa and Dan the Elf are: Carly McIntosh, 10; Haley McIntosh, 6; Shelley Kasperek, 4 and Emily Kasperek, 3.

Santa and his elf stop by BP Police Department

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff riter

Santa Claus and one of his elves made a surprise visit to the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Wednesday night, Dec. 14.

Kids of all ages were invited to find Santa and his elf handing out Christmas coloring activity books, Christmas cards, Christmas candy and stuffed animals. About 50 kids and their parents stopped by the PD.

Oh yeah, Karen Peterson of Confections by Karen donated colorful Christmas cookies and Nick Schiefert of the Blooming Prairie Dairy Queen donated Blizzard (12 oz.) gift certificates for the youngsters.

Visitors entered the Blooming Prairie Police Station from 5-7 p.m. via the front door and once in the doorway, kids spotted Santa and Dan the Elf. Dan gave each kid a sack of candy

Santa made his lap available for youngsters and even

for some adults. Santa also asked all the boys and girls to whisper their Christmas wish list to him.

Blooming Police Officer Dan Peach (a cousin to Dan the Elf) helped organize the Santa visit and he was instrumental in decorating the police office in colors that Santa and his elf would enjoy.

“Santa’s visit provided a way for kids to interact with the local police department. “If kids need help or need someone to talk to, they can reach out to

the police,” Officer Peach said. “It’s cool to have the trust of the kids,” Peach said.

Santa and his elf promised to make a stop at the Blooming Prairie Police Department again next year.

The BP Police Department consists of Chief Greg Skillestad, Sgt. Mark Lang, Cpl. Jake Peterson and Officers Matt Miller, Rick Ellingson, Steve Seipp, Shane St. John and Dan Peach.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Little Brody Lang flashed a wide grin when visiting with Santa Claus and Dan the Elf at the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Wednesday night, Dec 14. Lots of goodies were given to the kids including cookies, milk, candy, stuffed animals and police badge stickers



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Three-year-old Emily Kasperek whispers her wish list to Santa Claus on his surprise visit to the Blooming Prairie Police Department last week. Dan the Elf gave out goodie bags to all of the little kids.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Santa’s lap was almost big enough to hold all the little kids that came by to visit him at the Blooming Prairie Police Department on Wednesday night, Dec. 14.

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We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year. May you enjoy the very best of the holidays with your family and friends. We will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24 and we will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26. We will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31 and we will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2. Stay warm, drive safe and we will see you all in 2017. Thanks for a great 2016, Donnavon, Rachael and all the staff at

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Texas.....	Feb. 19-Mar. 1.....	\$1619
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BPHS students show off architectural skills

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff riter

The class is called creative foods, part of the family and consumer science curriculum.

It's a class that is currently architecturally producing some gingerbread houses that are indeed becoming works of art. The five houses made by the 15 students of Mrs. Jennifer Gaines will soon be on display in the Blooming Prairie High School commons area.

Mrs. Gaines, in her 12th year of teaching at BPHS, chose the gingerbread making project again this year after it was such a success last year with the students.

"Kids love the hands-on approach to baking and

cooking," remarked Mrs. Gaines.

The 11 boys and 4 girls in the class began their gingerbread house project just before Thanksgiving. Mrs. Gaines provided the gingerbread dough and frosting. The decorations, mainly candies, are supplied by the students.

The designs of the houses are the creations of the students.

"It's fun to create foods and be able to eat them," says Christian Sorensen. He won't be eating this creation, however. The gingerbread house will be judged by teaching staff at the high school and a prize will be given to the house ranked the best. The identity of the prize has not yet been revealed.

The creative foods students utilize five kitchens in the classroom.

Three students make up each kitchen.

Some of the students already had their themes and names chosen for their gingerbread creations.

"Our roof collapsed and we had to re-do it," commented Kyler Christianson. "You learn by doing and the hands-on approach is a good one," said Mrs. Gaines. "The kids pick up skills they need to learn to cook and create their own dishes in the future," she added.

Kitchen #1 consists of Jake Ressler, Carly Meyer and Christian Sorensen. Their gingerbread creation is called Snoopy's Fantasyland. The

student creators built a house and placed Snoopy on top. Peppermint patties were used as steps to the house.

Kitchen #2 is made up of Jon Heron, Kristian Hammersma and Cameron Kubista. They had yet to name their creation at press time.

Kyler Christianson, Taylor Peterson and Hailey Naatz comprised Kitchen #3. Their creation was named "A Christmas Story." They actually built two houses, a large one and a smaller one with a path linking the two. Lots of candy was used to make this house.

Kitchen #4 was manned by Jack Abbe, Zach Wiese and Corey Lyman. They had yet to pick out a name for the house.

Clint Peterson, Chris Garcia

and Rachel Peterson made up Kitchen #5. Their house was named "Whoville" from Dr. Seuss' The Grinch.

The kitchens are open and students were able to peek at their competitors. "He's trying to sabotage my house," one of the students teased.

"We need to put on some more sprinkles," Hailey said to her two partners on the project. "We're a little over half way," she said.

"Do you have a grape stem?" Carly asked Mrs. Gaines. She said it would be dipped in chocolate and would serve as Charlie Brown's Christmas tree. Mrs. Gaines told Carly to search herself.

Mrs. Gaines said she also enjoys the creative foods classes because the students

have a chance to express more creativity and they also can make their own choices. She also teaches Foods 1 which covers the basics of cooking and baking.

Students in Mrs. Gaines' class previously participated in cupcake wars and a future assignment will be to building a food truck, patterned after the Food Network.

Reflecting on his class, Jake said, "It's another meal in the day." Carly added, "I like the class because we don't have homework."

Mrs. Gaines said the students in her class, which starts at 1:04 p.m., like to relax and chill after a more demanding day in other classes.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Snoopy's Fantasyland is the name of a gingerbread house creation of Jake Ressler, Carly Meyer and Christian Sorensen of Blooming Prairie High School. Here, Carly shapes Soopy on top of his dog house. The students are part of Mrs. Jennifer Gaines' creative foods class.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Dr. Seuss' Whoville is the name of this gingerbread house made in creative foods class at Blooming Prairie High School by Clint Peterson, Chris Garcia and Rachel Peterson.

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Master gardener's Christmas gift wish list

By MARY COX
Master Gardener

Extension Master Gardeners across the state were recently asked to list favorite gardening gifts they have received. I've used their answers to compile a gift idea list for gardeners. Practical gifts will be used, appreciated, and their giver will long be remembered.

1. The Cobra Head Weeder & Cultivator. This handy tool is aptly named and is designed in Wisconsin. There are different handle lengths to benefit the petite to tall gardener. One for hand cultivating and weeding is also available.

2. High on the list was the Hori Hori knife. It is a sharp, multifunctional hand tool used

for weeding, digging, planting bulbs, pruning, etc. (Hori Hori means dig dig in Japanese). Several may be found on the internet. Be sure to have a sheath for protection.

3. Dewit Dutch Hand Hoe. This is another style of weeder and is good in working up the soil. Goserud is another source for lightweight hoes designed with a great angle for weeding.

4. If your gardener likes books, here are some guides that are suited for MN and WI climates:

- Landscaping with Native Plants of MN by Lynn M. Steiner
- Ornamental Grasses for Cold Climates by M. Hockenberry Meyer
- The Lone Pine MN

and WI Gardening series by Don Engebretson and Don Williamson (The series include Tree & Shrub, Annuals & Perennials)

•The MN Lawn Guide: Attaining and Maintaining the Lawn You Want by Melinda Myers

5. One gardener appreciated a load of good compost for her garden. (Ask your gardener if it is needed and the type or source that is preferred)

6. Gift certificates to their favorite greenhouse, nursery or bookstore are nice gifts, too

7. A membership to the MN Arboretum in Chaska.

8. A magazine subscription to Northern Gardener. This magazine is a good reference tool.

9. A Bucket Boss Bucketeer fits into a 5 gallon pail. It can hold numerous hand tools and gardening essentials securely with numerous pockets inside and out.

10. If your gardener grows flowers or herbs, lightweight pruners or straight tip trimmers would be a welcomed gift for dead heading and flower or herb cutting.

11. An hour of your labor to assist the gardener in his/her efforts, perhaps in spreading the compost!

Have a great holiday season and remember the Steele County Extension Master Gardeners are available to answer your gardening questions. 507-444-7685

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MOVIE REVIEW: Star Wars: Rogue One



only the second to receive a PG-13 rating. That's not to say you can't still bring your more mature padawans.

For the first time, we aren't following mystic Jedi knights, but the foot soldiers and spies that make up the rebel alliance. They're less refined and tougher than the characters in previous films, but, luckily, they're just as much fun.

The wit and banter that lightened the original trilogy is back. The kid-aimed gross out humor of the prequels is gone.

This makes for an especially welcome shift in a movie that isn't light on dark moments. Like any good war movie, there are casualties. The hits land, and not everyone rides off into the sunset, or stars. This isn't, however, a bleak movie.

In the shadow of an oppressive regime, scrappy fighters build their rebellion on hope, a new hope you might say.

Faithful fans will recognize a few familiar faces, but this film is just as friendly to first time visitors to this galaxy far, far away. It treats the story and characters with a respect not even the original trilogy always managed, and anyone who considers themselves knowledgeable in the ways of the force should mark this down as a must-see. It is a prequel, but also a good film in it's own right.

If you're looking to ring in the Christmas week with an adventure, this is



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We'd like to wish all of our friends, neighbors, customers and associates here in town a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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from your local businesses



From our flock to yours, go our very best wishes for a merry and magical Christmas. May your holiday be trimmed with beauty and a feeling of pure happiness that grows all year.

As we look forward to beginning another new year here, we simply can't think of a better place to make our nest than this fine community. Thanks for making us feel so welcome and at home, friends.

Happy Holidays!

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Blooming Prairie's letters to Santa



Der Santa,
How bo you
put out fiyr
in the fiyr plas?
I wnt vigeogams
and nrfgams and
more dalits.
I wile l ev you kuices
and milk. Eli Johnson



Dear santa,
Thes year for
chr istmas I
realy like a
barebe hous.
barebe clows, I
wont a elf
on a shelf.
now is 10007? Love
Bloomng prairie Haley



Dear Santa,
When do you bring
elfs to people? Could
you please bring me
an elf on the shelf
and a nerf gun and a
hot weels stunt track?
I will leve out milk
and coickees. Love Payson
Bloomng prairie

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas!
For Christmas I want
a toy puppy named
snuggles. I also want
some art supplies.
I am excited for
you to come!
Love, Bella Romeo LC
B.P.E.S.

Dear Santa,
I Love you
Whd a Meffy
ChriStmas! I
hope you are all
haver a WundrPh
ChriStmas. and I
Oso Wont a
roBotCat. Love Mariam
B.P.E.S.



Dear Santa,
ThiS year for
chriStmas I really
want a vikinges
watch peece peanutcup
a chriStmastree
and a elf. Aow
are your elfs?
Love
Annika Bloomng prairie



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Maria Jones

Medford

Dear Santa,
I like your hat Santa.
I want a bariye for christmas.
I am nice Santa I am a girl
to Santa. Love Maria.

Kale Concannon

Medford

Dear Santa,
Thank you Santa for
all the things that
you do for all the
children in the world.
Can I ples have a
drt bick. And a drum
sit. And a I pad.
Love,
Kale

Corinna Neumann

Medford

Dear Santa,
I like your hat Santa I want
a leo with a scrunchie and a
poenter. Love,
Corinna

Eliana Arenas-Soto

Medford

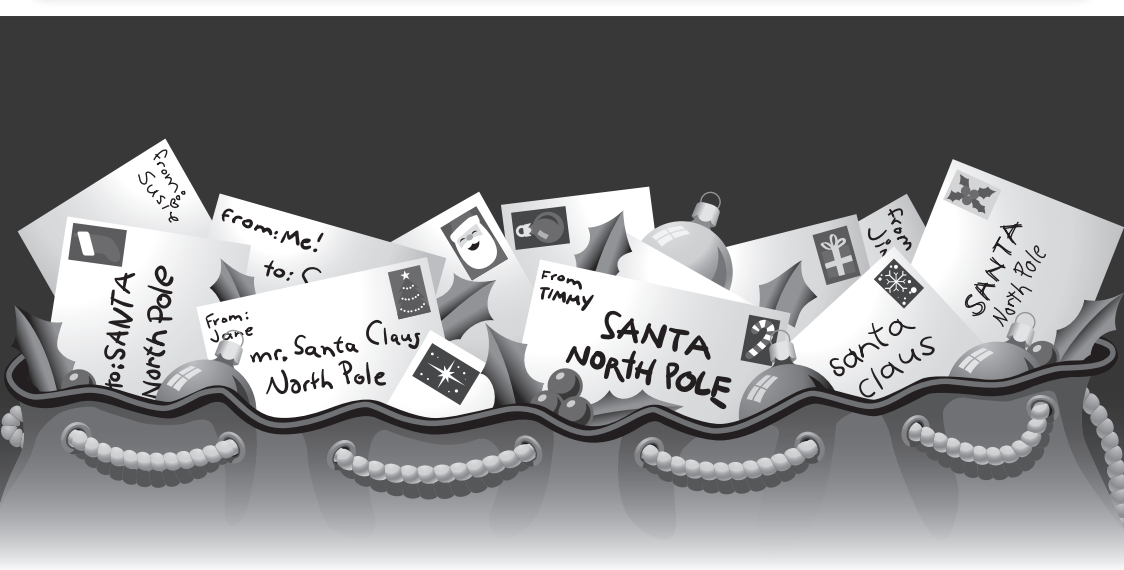
Dear Santa,
I like you and I like
your clothes. Love Eliana.

August Zacharias

Medford

Dear Santa,
I like the way you dress.
I want a dirt bicke.
I want a phone. I want a
viteegam. I want a ox box 10.
Love,
August

Dear Santa,
I believe in you.
I would be happy
if you got me a
snuggles. I have't ever
got it for Cristmas. I
would like it if you
got me it for Cristmas.
Love
Brielle



Over 40 years of School Bus Service

**Happy
Holidays**

Safety First! Be on Time!

Medford Bus Company



**You Deserve
the Best**

...and we hope you get it! Wishing all of our fine friends and neighbors here in the community a bright and wonderful holiday season, filled with good times and good fortune.

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SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY
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**WITH THANKS
FOR YOUR TRUST**

Here's hoping everything runs smoothly for you this Christmas. We value your trust in us and thank you for your loyal patronage.

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**WITH GLAD TIDINGS
AT THE HOLIDAYS**

With warm wishes to our neighbors, friends and associates this holiday season. For your trust and goodwill we are sincerely grateful.

**HENEFIELD
LAW OFFICE, LLC**
415 Main St. E, Blooming Prairie
583-6663

PANTHER OF THE WEEK 



Fynn Baumann is NRHEG's Panther of the Week. He is the son of Ben and Meghan Baumann of Geneva. Fynn was chosen as the student of the week by his 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Dutton, because he is kind to his classmates, works hard in class, and always strives to do his best! Mostly though, his teacher is always impressed with his quest for knowledge...always eager to learn more and help others if needed. Fynn's favorite movie is "Greek Heroes" and when he's not in school he likes to play with his cat India and play Minecraft. Way to go Fynn, keep showing your Panther Pride!



Ellendale's letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
How are you?
Are the elves really
busy? I have been
a good girl.
I would like an American
Girl doll set for Christmas.
Merry Christmas!
Love, Kenley

Dear Santa,
How are you? How
are the reindeer? I
have been a good boy.
I would like an i-pod
for Christmas.
Merry Christmas,
Nathan

Dear Santa,
How are you?
How many elves do you have?
Is Rudolph's nose really red?
Has a bird crashed into your sleigh?
I have been a good girl this year.
Please put a drone in your sack
for me.
Thank you Santa!
Love,
Olivia

Dear Santa,
How are you?
How do your reindeer
fly? How do you deliver
the presents in one
night? I have been
a good girl. Please
put shopkins in your
bag for me.
Thanks, Santa!
Love,
Abigail Age 3+

Dear Santa,
How are you?
How does your sleigh
fly?
Is Rudolph's nose
really red?
I have been a good
girl this year.
Please put a emoji pillow
in your sack for
me. Love,
Scarlett

*filled with our thanks
at year's end*

May you enjoy a vintage year filled with many glad tidings.

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To WISH YOU
THE SPECIAL GIFTS
OF THIS
HOLIDAY
SEASON
PEACE JOY
& LASTING
HAPPINESS

From our family to yours...

