



STEELE COUNTY TIMES

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Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Love in the limelight



Submitted photo by Kathy Purdie

Nate Chesney and Emily Schoenbeck play love interests in LTO's romantic-comedy *Prelude to a Kiss*. Prior to auditions, the two had never met.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff writer

Before you wrap up your Valentines festivities, catch Little Theatre of Owatonna's production of *Prelude to a Kiss* by Craig Lucas.

This romantic comedy follows the misadventure of Peter and Rita, a couple who fall in love and get married. On the day of their wedding, however, an old man approaches Rita asking for a kiss from the bride. As soon as their lips touch, their souls switch bodies, and Peter is left to figure out how to switch them back. The play touches on themes of commitment and what it means to love someone beyond their appearance.

Artistic director Craig Berg calls it, "a good date show." He says the premise of an old man and a young woman switching bodies allows from touching moments, and the "fantasy element is fun."

Mary Butler-Fraser, who's serving as the show's technical director, says, "It's very different."

Neither Berg nor Butler are new to theatre magic. Berg has been involved in over 60 productions, while Butler has worked on over 90 shows.

They first collaborated on *Little Shop of Horrors*, Berg's directorial debut, when the original director

had to back out. The two found they worked well together and "always knew what the other was thinking," according to Butler. Since then they've worked on six more shows, including a sold-out run of *Grease*.

Prelude marks their seventh and final collaboration. Health concerns have forced Berg to retire from theater after 29 years. He said auditioning for his first show back in 1988 was one of the best decisions he's ever made. Butler said it's "kind of heart-breaking" for their partnership to be coming to a close.

Despite the bittersweet feeling to their final team-up, both are excited to show *Prelude* to audiences. Berg has never directed a romance before and was intrigued to direct the play after being recommended it.

There's a challenge he said in finding a way for actor to portray having different souls in their bodies. He needed audiences to be able to recognize similarities in a character even when a totally different actor was portraying them.

Butler faced her own technical challenges. The many community theatres in the area draw on the same pool of stagehands and

KISS

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Moving forward in Owatonna

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff writer

Every step forward begins with knowing where you're going, and that's the goal of Owatonna's latest citizen driven initiative, Owatonna Forward.

Owatonna Forward is a grassroots effort to devise a plan for where Owatonna should be headed in the next few decades. The effort is run by volunteers known as Community Stewards, ordinary citizens who want to help build Owatonna's plan for the future.

At the group's first public input workshop on Feb. 7, Roger Warehime of Owatonna Public Utilities addressed a crowd of curious citizens.

He told them the effort is still in its early stages, so they're currently seeking public input about what people want for their community.

"We want to hear your voice about what you think is great about Owatonna, and maybe, what you think is not so great," Warehime said. Taking into account public opinion will allow them to develop an action plan that will be best for everyone in the community.

FORWARD

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Reception set to honor fallen Hayfield police chief

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

For years, Doug Claassen suffered a life altering, career ending spinal injury from a violent suspect he was trying to arrest. Though he died nearly 20 years ago, his sacrifice isn't going unnoticed.

Dodge County Sheriff Scott Rose is set to honor Claassen, who was injured in the line-of-duty in 1977 while serving as police chief in Hayfield and later died of those injuries in 1999. A reception will take place Thursday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Government Services Building, 721 Main St. North in Mantorville.

Until last summer, Sheriff Rose was not aware that Claassen's death had been

classified as a line-of-duty killing. The ruling will make four officers who have died in the line of duty in Dodge County over the years. Claassen's name will be added to the list this year for the first time ever. He will be the second Hayfield officer to have died in the line of duty. Village marshal Ole Havey was killed by gunfire in 1905.

"I made it a mission to make sure he was recognized," Rose said. He noted heart attacks are not generally considered in the line of duty death, but because of the circumstances of Claassen's death, it was ruled to be a duty death.

Claassen was patrolling on Main Street in Hayfield in April 1977 when he saw a vehicle run a stop sign. He

pursued the vehicle and found the driver slumped over in the driver's seat as the vehicle went off the road into a ditch. The chief removed the passed out driver and carried him back to the squad. While Claassen carried the suspect, who was believed to be under the influence of narcotics, he became alert and combative kicking the chief in the head and neck. The suspect then struggled with Claassen trying to gain control of his gun and shouting, "Kill, kill, kill." The suspect went unconscious again and Claassen was able to arrest and get him into the back of the squad until other help arrived.

CHIEF

Continued on page 4A



Submitted photo

Doug Claassen

BP outdoor biz expands into TC metro area

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A Blooming Prairie area outdoor company is expanding into the Twin Cities metro area.

Miners Outdoor & Rec is opening a retail store and showroom in Airlake Industrial Park in Lakeville beginning March 1. Owners Doug and Kristi Miner will be teaming up with Doug's sister, Tammy Gruidl, on the new store, which will open as MOR Golf and Utility. Gruidl will operate the Lakeville store.

MOR will specialize in golf cart rental and sales, along with parts and service work. The same business model has largely been responsible for Miners' successful business operation in Blooming Prairie for more than 15 years.

MINERS

Continued on page 3A

Local auctioneer calls his way to state title

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

One dollar, now two, now two, will you give me two?

It's a simple chant that rings familiar with many people who have attended auctions over the years. But it's also a chant that has gained a local auctioneer statewide notoriety.

Dave Thompson of Lansing has been chosen as the champion auctioneer after winning the statewide

competition through the Minnesota State Auctioneer's Association Jan. 19 in the Twin Cities. The title now qualifies him for the nationals.

"I was extremely excited," said Thompson, who has been calling auctions since 1999. "I think I broke protocol when I went off the stage and hugged my wife."

Thompson has competed in the auctioneer's contest eight times, but only got to fourth place a couple times. This

year he was determined to get to the top.

And the path to the top has meant lots of practicing on his own. "I love to practice," Thompson said. "I practice driving down the road selling things and my wife hates it," he added.

During the contest, auctioneers are judged on their clarity, cadence, eye contact and ability to answer questions in an interview.

His auctioneering style is to

be as clear as possible so that the audience can understand him. In addition, he said, "I like to have fun" while calling an auction.

He specializes in estate auctions, along with real estate and small parcels of land. In recent years, he has also taken a liking to doing benefit auctions. Thompson has traveled throughout the state, Wisconsin and Iowa doing fundraising auctions. He has assisted with the Blooming

Prairie Education Foundation and BP Cancer Auctions in the past.

The top auctioneer is currently doing auctions on a part time basis, but he envisions that changing down the road. "It is my passion to do it full time," Thompson said. He currently works full time at Austin Public Utilities and does some real estate on

AUCTIONEER

Continued on page 4A



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INSIDE **A:** 2A OPINION
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3B VALENTINES

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9C TAX WEEK

D: 1D-4D WHO'S WHO

Opinion

Our view

Communities on the grow

Going forward. It's essential for the preservation of quality and vibrant life. It is not simply putting one foot in front of the other mindlessly, but letting your experience, your knowledge and your heart dictate the velocity and the direction with a definite destination in mind. It is, as former UCLA basketball coach, John Wooden said. Planning your work and then working your plan.

We applaud those communities with a vision for moving forward. For adapting to the times and the change of seasons. Those communities who have fought back from adversity and who have at times stumbled, but refused to be defeated. Knocked down, but never knocked out.

Bravo to those who are constantly taking in the streams of information and then guiding those rivers to an outlet to insure the efforts will not stagnate. Those communities who never let the bacon burn in the pan and never let the dreams die in a difficult process.

Grass roots coalitions are springing up all over America and right here in our communities that are calling for a better look at how we can ensure a brighter tomorrow for future generations. A local campaign outlines three key ingredients for a tasty recipe for growth in the community.

Inspire. Involve. Invest. People are taking a good healthy look at the local success stories that surround them. The businesses that have adapted and changed their paradigm to achieve prosperity are the assets of a community. The willingness for those who are successful to share their secrets must be married to those less fortunate who must bury sour grapes for all to see the bigger picture for a healthy and growing community.

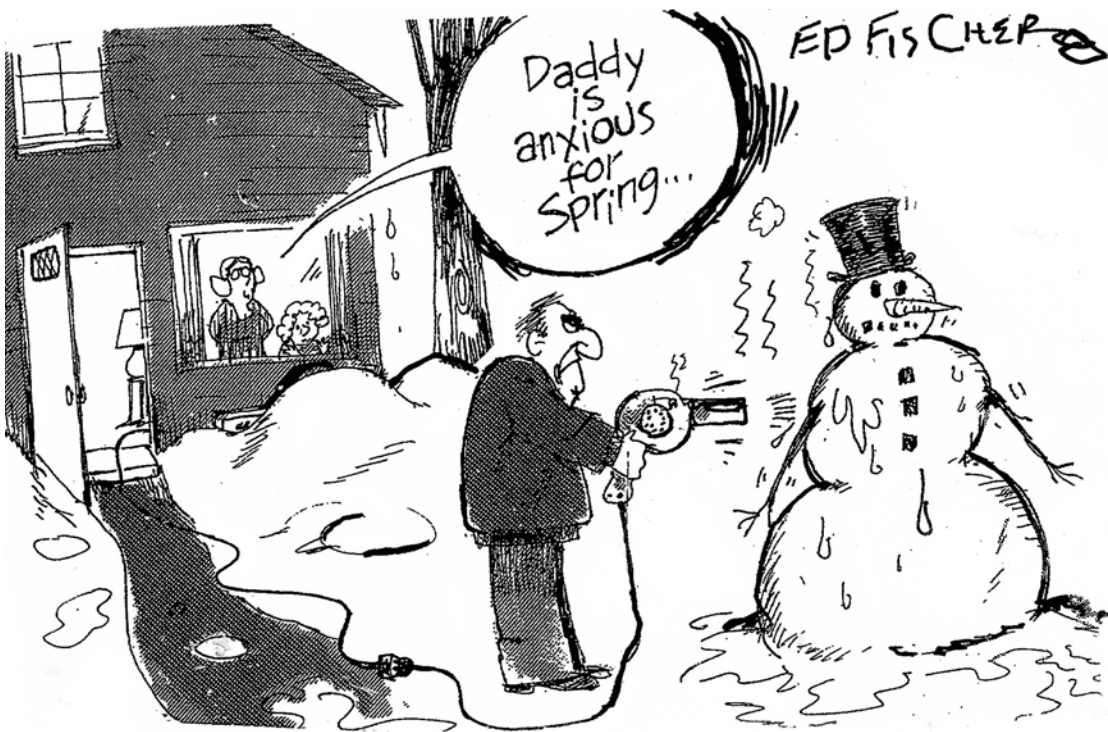
Locating those assets are one thing, adapting the mindset is quite another. Once an asset has been identified, a potential army of dreamers and educators can be assembled to examine the success. Ordinary people who will roll up their sleeves with can-do attitudes that are not afraid to lead the charge against mediocrity.

And finally, finding those who will not only talk a good game, but will become visionaries for their community's welfare and growth. Visionaries are different from the dreamers. They are the ones who can invest to get the proposals and plans into a working reality.

The wheel was a great idea. It took on more validity when the concept of the mind was architecturally put on paper, but it still lacked the power to transport the world. Until. It was forged and the first revolution turned under the weight of something that needed to be moved.

Going forward is a good thing. It is a combination of looking back for perspective, gathering the data from the history of the failures and the successes, the willingness to do what somebody has already achieved with the courage to take it to a level of where it's never been.

It's ordinary people with an extraordinary dream and finding a way to make it happen. Envision, speak, create and go forth.



Guest column

Beyond equality: Equity as an Ecomonic driver

By Tim Penny

In a recent interview, I was asked to reflect on what it looks like for rural voices to “be heard,” which has been a big talking point during this last election cycle. I referenced an op-ed from a friend of mine, former Congressman Dick Swett of New Hampshire. He stated “don’t insist that everybody worship at the alter of global warming, just talk to them about common sense approaches to conservation. We don’t need to sing out of the same songbook to be singing in harmony.” Dick’s advice could apply to a lot of issues where emotions often get in the way of solutions.

Naturally, I don’t think we’re going to agree 100 percent on many things, but I do think we agree a lot more than we’re letting ourselves think. One of these issues is that of equity; rural folks strive for equity with urban dwellers, just like within both urban and rural communities we seek equity between genders, races, generations, and more. As Minnesotans, we have typically done a good job of agreeing that our state does better when everyone succeeds. This includes all kids getting a good education, businesses of all sizes being able to succeed, and all residents no matter their skin color or religious background having access to economic opportunity.

Statistics, however, continue to show that we have work to do. For example, we know that 14 percent of Minnesota kids

ages 0-4 live in poverty (39 percent for black children and youth, 26 percent for Hispanic children and youth, and 25 percent for Native Americans) and that 8 of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s (SMIF) 20 counties are in the highest range of income inequality in the state. When SMIF surveyed minority business owners in our 20-county region, we found that the main barrier to success was access to capital. Yet, studies continue to show women and people of color, especially new immigrants, are driving entrepreneurship.

Economic inequalities and educational achievement gaps are not solely issues affecting the urban core. Earlier this month, MPR News host Tom Weber interviewed Dane Smith, President of Growth & Justice, which is a think tank that advocates for equity through policy, as well as Granite Falls Mayor Dave Smiglewski. They pointed out that there are areas of great inequality in parts of Greater Minnesota.

They mentioned issues ranging from access to high-speed internet and good infrastructure to racial disparities. Today, Greater Minnesota is more racially diverse than most people realize. I share the view put forward by Dane Smith that “community leaders are addressing this and embracing this issue,” because I see evidence of it every day.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis is another institution undertaking a study on equity, and lack thereof, as

a cause for economic concern. In that same vein, here at SMIF, we have launched The Prosperity Initiative to give minority-owned businesses one-on-one technical assistance. We received an Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program allocation from DEED to supplement our business lending to groups that have trouble accessing traditional bank financing. SMIF’s Early Childhood team and partners are driving the conversation around affordable, quality child care in rural communities. All of our resources help rural populations trying to make a difference in their community.

As Neel Kashkari, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, noted when announcing their new Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, “A lack of economic opportunity does not know racial or ethnic or even geographic boundaries. There are people in all communities who are struggling to get a fair chance at a good education and a good job.”

Investing in people of color, new Americans, women, veterans, people with disabilities, low-income people, young leaders and other historically under-resourced groups across all Minnesota communities is a win-win proposition. It can lead to increased economic opportunities for all Minnesotans. By creating welcoming communities that people want to move to and start businesses,

EQUITY

Continued on page 3A

Costs of tobacco use

By Jane Nyquist

We all know that tobacco use exacts a heavy price from those who smoke and the people who love them. Now, a new report from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota reveals just how devastating the impact of smoking is on our state as a whole.

Smoking killed 6,312 Minnesotans in 2014. Most of those deaths were caused by cancer or respiratory, heart and vascular diseases. Smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death in our state.

That same year, smoking caused Minnesotans \$3.19 billion in excess health care costs, including hospital care and prescription drugs. To put the cost in perspective, that’s \$593 for every Minnesota citizen. The same amount of money could provide 79,750

jobs at \$40,000 annual salaries or 58,000 four-year college degrees.

No single employer, taxpayer or citizen in our state escapes the burden of tobacco use — and together, we can inspire change for today’s young people and future generations. I encourage you to join me in advocating to raise the legal tobacco age to 21, restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products, keeping tobacco prices high and funding tobacco prevention efforts. These are proven ways to discourage kids from ever starting to smoke.

Please visit smokefreegenm.org to find out how you can take action to reduce tobacco’s terrible toll in Minnesota.

Jane Nyquist is a health educator with Steele County Public Health in Owatonna.

5 Ways Owatonna Will Attract the Best Workforce

By Brad Meier

The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is focusing attention on the workforce shortages and long term solutions to help fix this challenge. I hope this list gets you thinking about all the things that factor into a community that successfully draws people in.

- 1. Great Quality of Life, Low Cost of Living:** Owatonna consistently ranks among the most livable small towns in the country according to Money Magazine, American City Business Journals and Demographics Daily. Most recently Owatonna was ranked among the most affordable cities in Minnesota to live. Cost of living here

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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

2017
2 State Awards

2016
6 National Awards
8 State Awards

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
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2011
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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....\$42
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Area feedlots at center of state appeals court decision

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

The on-going feedlot fight in Dodge County is now in the hands of the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Oral arguments were heard Feb. 7 at the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul regarding a local judge’s ruling that paved the way for more feedlots to be built in Dodge County. Three judges will now decide the fate of a lawsuit initiated by Lowell and Evelyn Trom of rural Blooming Prairie. The appeals court has 90 days to issue a ruling.

Attorneys were given 15 minutes each to present their

cases to the appeals court. In addition to the oral arguments, both sides also had the opportunity to provide written submissions supporting their positions.

Several groups representing a coalition of the nation’s leading environmental, public health and animal protection organizations have joined Trom’s legal efforts to highlight what they believe are the negative impacts associated with factory farms.

Some of the leading groups that have joined in the battle are John Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, the Humane



Society of the United States and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Jim Peters, attorney representing the Troms, said

it is unprecedented to have the level of national attention that has been generated in this case. “These groups represent millions of Americans and that’s pretty unique for this kind of case,” Peters said. “It certainly conveys the significance of it,” he added.

“Their participation has been essential in educating and raising awareness regarding the public health and environmental concerns relating to factory farming,” said Sonja Trom Eayrs, who is the daughter of the Troms and has been instrumental in the legal fight for the past several years. “There are issues that extend way beyond our family

and this single feedlot.”

Trom Eayrs said the participation of the national groups “helps to highlight and underscore the issues raised on appeal.”

The legal briefs from the case are available on the website of Dodge County Concerned Citizens, a group led by the Trom family, at www.dodgecc.org.

“Local citizens need to understand the public health issues relating to these factory farms,” Trom Eayrs said.

The Troms are challenging a Dodge County District Court ruling that upheld Dodge County’s issuance of a Conditional Use Permit to

Masching Swine Farms for a hog feedlot on property adjacent to the Trom farm located in Westfield Township, east of Blooming Prairie.

The legal action began about three years ago with the Trom family making an effort to protect their land, home, health, livelihoods and the future of their family on a generational farm where Lowell was born 87 years ago.

Paul Reuvers, an attorney from the Twin Cities, is representing Dodge County in the appeal. He was unavailable for comment.

A decision from the appeals court is expected in early May.

Employers should welcome diversity

CHAMBER: from page 2A

initiative is ramping up and is generating a vision for the Owatonna area that we will need to excel and attract the future growth of our community. Owatonna Forward is a grass-roots effort that seeks to ensure a healthy and prosperous future for our community. The initiative will bring the community together to agree on where we are going—our destiny—and work together to get there. The initiative is taking into account all opinions from individuals to business groups. The vision that emerges will give our community a direction for the future that will surely attract people here.

3. Embrace Diversity: The ability to welcome different generations and diverse cultures will be a key indicator in our ability to attract the talent we need in the future. Tolerating diversity is one thing, but to attract people we will need to embrace it as part of the success of our community. Employee recruitment works because people go where they are wanted. We will need to be welcoming to diverse groups of people in order for us to grow.

4. Brand Names Built Here: Quality jobs will always be the core of what Owatonna has to offer. Globally competitive manufacturing companies, nationally based headquarters, and entrepreneurial enterprise can all be found in this economic center. Not to mention agricultural and tourism based businesses that make this economy strong. This will always be the key to our long term success and what helps us build on what we already have in the area.

5. Education & Training: From preschool to higher education, the Owatonna area offers the very finest in education. The Owatonna Public Schools are committed to maximizing students learning potential and through our partnership with the High School, Alternative Learning Center, CHOICE, Junior Achievement, and the United Way we’re giving kids exposure to real jobs in Owatonna during ‘Made in Owatonna Day’. These ‘homegrown’ kids will be the success of our future. The high caliber of our education and training options will equip the next wave of workers to new achievements

and draw people here.

Limiting a list about our community to just 5 things isn’t easy and it means the list isn’t complete. The strength of our non-profit initiatives, local government leadership, faith communities and so much more will all support the attraction of our future workforce. We believe the future is bright for Owatonna, but constant improvement will be needed to become an even greater city. Additional initiatives are underway to build on the assets of our community to attract people into the future.

Brad Meier is the president of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

Move brings new opportunities

MINERS: from page 1A

Gruidl said MOR will be one of only a few Club Car dealers in Minnesota. A dealership in Eagan closed last year, paving the way for the Miners and Gruidl to jump on this opportunity.

“Obviously, it’s scary, but it’s also exciting,” Kristi Miner told the Times. “It feels like we have a lot of people cheering for us,” she said. She added Club Car corporate approached them about opening up a metro store.

Gruidl brings her own business experience to the new venture as she owned and operated a bar and restaurant in Morristown for 18 years. Most recently she worked in the construction industry as an employee. Though she hasn’t been in business for the past

few years, Gruidl is excited to jump into a family operation with her brother.

“I liked my job, but this was an opportunity I could not pass up,” Gruidl said, adding her brother has done quite well and she wanted to join in on that prosperity.

Club Car, Gruidl said, is known for its high quality of golf carts.

The Lakeville store used to house a truck and repair facility

and has been remodeled into a state-of-the-art showroom for the golf carts. MOR plans to have a grand opening in April.

Miners has been operating in Blooming Prairie since 2001. It is an authorized Husqvarna, Club Car, Castle X and Parks Unlimited dealer serving a large chunk of southeastern Minnesota.

Both Doug Miner and Gruidl grew up in Blooming Prairie.

Moving forward together

EQUITY: from page 2A

raise families and volunteer their time, we create a state that is vibrant and strong.

My colleague Diana Anderson, President of SMIF’s sister foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, has the following African proverb on her office wall: “If you want to go quickly,

go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” As we go forward, who can we bring along?

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smi-foundation.org or 507-455-321

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Little Theatre of Owatonna presents

Prelude to a Kiss
BY CRAIG LUCAS

Craig Berg
Artistic Director

Mary Butler- Fraser
Technical Director

* This play contains mature subject matter and language

February 17, 18, 24, 25, 2017- 7:30PM
Matinee February 19, 26- 2:00PM

Online tickets go on sale Saturday, February 11
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GRIEF RELIEF



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Citizens encouraged to give input in future
FORWARD: from page 1A

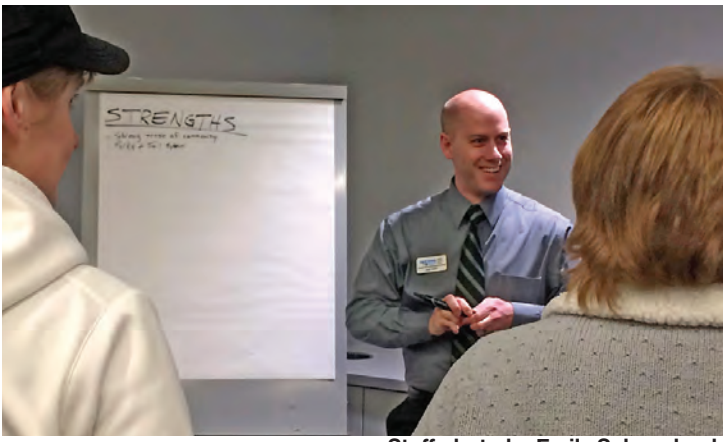
It's important that residents think about what they want for their town's future.

Warehime said that the good things happening in Owatonna now are a result of people years ago doing the same, and now it's time to pay that foresight forward by ensuring Owatonna continues to grow.

Once Warehime had finished addressing the crowd, the audience was broken into four groups who rotated around the room to four different stations.

At each station a single word was written on a board. The words were: opportunities, strengths, threats, and weaknesses. Warehime explained that each word asked them to consider a different facet of change versus staying the same. Strengths and weaknesses were for the things in Owatonna that are currently good or bad. Opportunities and threats were for things that we might gain or risk losing by change. The set-up was to help people break away from seeing change as a singularly good or bad thing.

As the groups rotated and began to work, the list of ideas under each word grew. There



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

An Owatonna “steward” asks residents for different strengths in Owatonna’s community. They made a list of things they would want to see preserved going forward.

was concern about Owatonna’s stagnant population and a lack of skilled workforce, and concerns that change might lead to a lack of affordable housing.

Citizens felt confident, however in the diversity of businesses in Owatonna and the many opportunities for community involvement through city events and the park and recreations program. Owatonna has the opportunity to offer itself as a

community that a person would want to live in as much as work in.

If citizens would like to participate by offering their input, the next public workshops will be in the Owatonna Public Utilities Building on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 12 p.m. Both meetings are scheduled to last a little over an hour.

Owatonna Forward plans for the action plan development to be a yearlong process.

Thompson headed to nationals

AUCTIONEER: from page 1A



Submitted photo

Dave Thompson of Lansing proudly shows off a trophy after being named the top auctioneer in Minnesota Jan. 19. He will compete in the national competition in Ohio later this year.

the side.

Thompson said he developed a desire to be an auctioneer as a youngster. “I was enamored by it,” he said, adding he loved to listen to the rhythm and cadence of auctioneers.

As he gets behind the microphone and calls auctions, Thompson loves making the sale and watching it happen. “I like to see people bidding against each other and see how high the bid goes,” he said, noting some of the best prices ever have originated from auctions.

Brandon Nelson of Ellendale won the runner-up title in the same competition.

Thompson will travel to Ohio where he will compete in the national contest in July.

For those wishing to hear the state’s top auctioneer, Thompson will be at the BP Servicemen’s Club for an auction on Feb. 18.

Chesney finds challenge in role

KISS: from page 1A



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Nate Chesney and Bill Wood play Peter and the old man respectively. The actors play unlikely love interests in LTO's latest romantic-comedy production.

people, so they were in danger of finding themselves short-handed. She encourages anyone who has an interest in theater to volunteer to help with a production. Their help would not go unappreciated.

On stage, Nate Chesney, who plays Peter, is excited to be undertaking his twelfth theater

production. His previous roles include Stephen in *Farragut North* for which he received “Southern Minnesota Best Actor” by Scene Magazine.

“It’s different. I’ve never had to play such a normal character,” Chesney said, “It’s nice.” He said it was challenge getting a grip on the love

story. He has to be in love with not just a young woman in her twenties, but also an elderly man. In a bit of a reverse, he said it was actually a little more daunting to play opposite the young woman, because at least he had worked before with actor playing the old man. The young woman playing Rita and him were strangers prior to auditions.

Challenges aside, Chesney thinks the show has a lot of humor and sentiment that make it a great romantic-comedy, especially for this Valentine’s season. When asked why people should come see the show, Chesney simply replied, “Because they’ll be entertained.”

The show opens on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and continues with 7:30 p.m. shows on Feb. 18, 24, and 25. There will be 2:00 p.m. matinees on Feb. 19 and 26. Tickets are available online at <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org> or at The Little Theatre of Owatonna box office. It’s \$16 for adults and \$14 for students. The show contains adult material and language that may not be appropriate for younger audience members.

Altercation resulted in spinal injury

CHIEF: from page 1A

During the altercation, Claassen suffered a severe spinal cord injury, which compromised both his respiratory system and circulatory system resulting in an accelerated decline in health and severe physical disability requiring him to use a wheel chair, according to Rose.

Claassen died in March 1999 of a heart attack, a result of the spinal cord injury suffered on duty in 1977.

Prior to going out on disability, Claassen served Dodge County residents as a peace officer for 3 1/2 years in Claremont, Hayfield and the sheriff’s office.

Claassen’s wife, Kathy, worked for the sheriff’s office for 37 years before retiring in 2011 at the age of 78.

Rose learned about the state and federal ruling regarding Claassen’s death from family members last summer. The sheriff has helped get Claassen’s name added to the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association list of fallen officers. Claassen has also been added to the Officer Down Memorial Page at the national level. The county is currently awaiting a ruling for Claassen to be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in



Washington, D.C.

There will be a short program at Thursday’s reception beginning at 3 p.m.

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Public Safety



Blotter spotlight: Drunken Driving. On Feb. 5 at 12:21 a.m., deputies received a report of a vehicle off the road at State Hwy. 56 and County Road 10 in Dodge Center. Deputies found that the driver was intoxicated.

CRIME BRIEF

Suspicious vehicle call nets suspected drunk driver

A suspicious vehicle call landed a man in jail facing drunken driving charges in Owatonna.

The Steele County Attorney’s Office has charged Jeffrey Averbeck with third-degree DWI, which is a gross misdemeanor charge.

Police responded to the 100 block of Hobart Street Southeast for a suspicious vehicle Feb. 8. When officers arrived, they found a vehicle parked in the driveway with a man standing outside. A family friend stopped by and found a man in the driver’s seat with the truck running.

According to police, the friend got the man out of his truck and noticed he nearly fell while swaying. Officers learned that the driver had been out ice fishing and came over to the



Jeff ey Averbeck

house to see his buddy’s fish.

The driver showed signs of impairment, but refused to do any sobriety tests for the officers. He was placed under arrest for DWI. He later consented to a breath test and finished with results of .23, which is nearly three times the legal limit to drive in Minnesota.

Bridge St. W. at 8:58 a.m.

Restraining Order. Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:24 p.m.

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 300 block of Bryan Ave. SW at 8:36 p.m.

Feb. 8

Drunken Driving. Police made a DWI arrest in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:25 a.m.

Theft. Officers took a report of stolen identity in the 100 block of Front St. W. at 9:38 a.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to motor vehicle accident with injuries at Park Dr. NW and Bridge St. W. at 11:12 a.m. and at Cedar Ave. S. and Mill St. E. at 5:40 p.m.

Traffic. Officers arrested a motorist at Elm Ave. N. and 12th St. NE at 1:52 p.m.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 100 block of Autumn Place NE at 10:26 p.m.

Feb. 9

Burglary. At 6:54 a.m., officers responded to a burglary in the 200 block of 26th St. NE.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Larch Ave. NE at 2:11 p.m.

Warrants. Police made warrant arrests in the 200 block of Rose St. E. at 3:53 p.m., in the 300 block of 23rd St. NW at 5:44 p.m. and in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 6:28 p.m.

Restraining Order. Officers arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 3:59 p.m.

Vandalism. Officer took a property damage report in the 1600 block of Wedgewood Dr. NE at 4:40 p.m.

COURT NEWS Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of Jan. 30 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

David F. Nolan, 37, Albert Lea, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of three grams or more of Cocaine/Heroin/ Meth. He was sentenced to \$381, 92 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, mental health evaluation, cognitive skill training, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 40 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

pervised probation.

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

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Terry L. Dahl, 37, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, no insurance and revoked license, \$511.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Robyn E. Adams, 45, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Juan P. Alvarado-Ortiz, 30, Fridley, suspended license, \$281; Phillip R. Andre, 20, Edina, speeding, \$131; Lah Baw, 22, Lancaster, PA, no license and no insurance, \$381; Jeremy J. Booth, 21, St. Paul, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Georgyann P. Brookins, 68, Ellendale, cancelled license, \$281; Jeffrey F. Carson, 48, Grundy Center, IA, speeding, \$141; Anthony L. Esquivel, 18, Claremont, no license, \$181; Jerrod R. Faulhaber, 27, Hayfield, seat belt, \$106; Jesse A. Haefs, 24, Faribault, speeding, \$141; Rashon J. Hill, 29, Eden Prairie, speeding and revoked license, \$421;

Penny J. Ihde, 54, Faribault, speeding, \$131; Riley G. Larsen, 18, Albany, unsafe lane usage, \$131; Susanna J. Loude, 54, Rochester, texting while driving, \$131; Joseph Lund, 25, Shoreview, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$181; Michael W. Martin, 47, Ellendale, revoked license and no insurance, \$481;

Chanelle M. McCamish, 36, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; Meghan M. McKasy, 28, Rochester, speeding, \$121; Kain D. Melby, 44, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Dakotah R. Musgrove, 26, Cedar Rapids, IA, speeding and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$241; Victoria R. Rethemeier, 20, Ellendale, speeding, \$111;

Jamal Sargent, 20, Minneapolis, giving peace officer false information, 6 days in county jail; Shannon M. Schultz, 46, Maplewood, speeding, \$141; Kamekwa L. Thurman, 18, Rochester, speeding, \$141; Manuel A. Tolano, 31, Monrovia, CA, no license, \$181; Haylee E. Weaver, 18, Webster, speeding, \$131; Jamy L. Whitehead, 45, Amboy, speeding, \$131.

Owatonna Police Department

Joseph R. Aubin, 29, Waseca, interference with 911 call, stay of adjudication, \$81, diversion program, no possession of firearms, Domestic Violence Inventory and 2 years of supervised probation; Ginger C. Barclay, 40, Austin, controlled substance crime and DWI, stay of adjudication, \$381, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Alan Bautista-Lozano, 25, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, \$381; Angelique J. Brown, 29, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281;

Kyle E. Burke, 26, Mankato, failure to stop for school bus, \$381; Kalley J. Chadderdon, 19, Faribault, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Sarah A. Cooke, 33, Blooming Prairie, tampering with motor vehicle, \$362; Erika D. Degollado, 22, Owatonna, criminal damage to property and suspended license, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Julie A. Flicek, 44, Owatonna, theft, \$381, 4 days in county jail and 2 years of unsupervised probation; Mysteria L. Gravlin, 17, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Miranda L. Hald, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, \$281; Angela R. Herplink, 34,

Clarks Grove, theft., revoked license and seat belt, \$487 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Megan J. Hogan, 22, Dodge Center, theft, \$131;

Shatoria D. Lane, 19, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$181 and 1 year of supervised probation; Brittany E. Louks, 32, Owatonna, theft, \$181; Stacy L. Martin, 39, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Angie S. Morrison, 40, Waseca, theft, \$81, 10 hours of community service and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Sandy K. Pack, 45, West Concord, theft, \$131 and 1 year of unsupervised probation;

Patrick D. Reinartz, 64, Owatonna, cancelled license, \$381 and 1 year of supervised probation; Chris A. Rivas, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption, \$181; Samantha J. Robinson, 22, Sauk Rapids, possession of stolen property and theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Dillin R. Schultz, 24, Owatonna, speeding and no insurance, \$321; Alex J. Seha, 19, Owatonna, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Alexandra F. Simon, 21, Faribault, minor consumption, \$181;

Susan M. Simon, 52, Owatonna, violation of restricted license, \$381, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Jordan M. Stanfield, 24, stop sign, \$131; Reyna V. Torres, 25, no insurance, \$281; Nathan J. Woods, 31, Faribault, theft, \$81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Christopher A. Beekman, 31, Land O Lakes, FL, speeding, \$121; Martin C. Berks, 20, Faribault, failure to yield right of way, \$100; Nancy A. Byron, 57, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Genevieve M. Caswell, 23, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Matthew H. Dennison, 27, Minneapolis, speeding, \$141; Jonathan P. Dobson, 30, Mankato, speeding, \$121; Bryan S. Dorenkamp, 39, Rochester, speeding, \$121;

Cody D. Guimond, 26, Medford, speeding, \$121; Steve J. Hackett, 58, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Brock J. Hanson, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Julianna Lamotte, 19, Waterville, speeding, \$141; Todd W. Neitzel, 54, New Richland, speeding, \$121; Baylee A. Nelson, 24, Owatonna, stop sign and speeding, \$171; Jayton W. Nisbit, 21, Waseca, revoked license and speeding, \$321; Sandra K. Reese, 58, Owatonna, speeding, \$141;

Colby J. Reich, 32, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Julian D. Roberts, 27, Inver Grove Heights, speeding, \$141; Paula M. Schuster, 56, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Daniel Schwartz, 40, Owatonna, disorderly conduct, \$381, 90 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Wendy M. Stowers, 51, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Susan M. Strunk, 49, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$121;

Milo S. Weckwerth, 41, New Richland, driving without ignition interlock, \$181, 1 day in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 188 complaints during the week of Feb. 1 – 7. Some of them include:

Feb. 1

Assist. Deputies assisted with juveniles running away from an officer in the 400 block of 2nd St. SW at 1:40 a.m.

Tobacco Checks. At 12:23 p.m., deputies completed tobacco compliance checks throughout the county.

Feb. 2

Fraud. At 9:54 a.m., deputies received a report of a fraud incident in the 200 block of Main St. E. in Hayfield.

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 7:04 p.m.

Suspicion. Deputies found suspicious activity at 10th St. and 6th Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 10:14 p.m.

Feb. 3

Threats. A Dodge Center resident reported receiving threats by phone in the 300 block of 1st Ave. NW at 10:40 p.m.

Suspicious Activity. At 10:37 p.m., a deputy found a suspicious vehicle out at the solar farm in the 62000 block of 130th Ave. in Claremont.

Feb. 4

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Hayes St. N. in Claremont at 9:31 p.m.

Feb. 5

Civil. At 11:45 p.m., deputy assisted with a civil matter in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont.

Feb. 6

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on 6th Ave. SE in Hayfield at 9:17 a.m.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to suspicious activity on Main St. E. in Hayfield at 10:05 a.m.

Assault. At 1:13 p.m., deputies responded to assaults in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center.

Fraud. A Dodge Center resident reported being the victim of identity theft in the 100 block of 3rd St. SE at 3:31 p.m.

Animal Bite. Deputies responded to a dog bite in the 700 block of Center Ave. S. at 4:07 p.m.

Larceny. At 4:47 p.m., deputy took a report of the theft of mail in the 200 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Larceny. A Hayfield resident called deputies at 6:24 p.m. when he believed he received a stolen check on 2nd St. NE.

Feb. 7

Disturbance. Deputies assisted a woman who needed to return to her home and get her stuff after her boyfriend locked her out in the 200 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 10:19 a.m.

Child Abuse. Deputies began an investigation of child neglect on Elm St. N. in Claremont at 3:55 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 9:31 p.m.

COURT NEWS Dodge County

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

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Dominic C. Baudoin, 39, Mantorville, railroad stop sign, \$120; Nicole M. Cummins, 25, Dodge Center, no insurance, \$280; Lindsay M. Duenes, 27, Mantorville, suspended license, \$280; Gabrielle M. Marx, 25, Kasson, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, \$180; John P. Webster, 51, Montgomery, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Barbara J. Austinson, 55, Kasson, stop sign, \$130; Heather J. Fate, 34, Kasson, dogs running at large, \$100; Kyle M. Halseth, 21, Otsego, parking violation, \$32; Joseph W. McKendry,

39, Neosho, WI, speeding, \$140; Monique M. Quick, 45, Stewartville, parking violation, \$32.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

David L. Wetzstein, 76, West Concord, change course of public water without permit, \$280.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Jordan A. Abel, 22, Kasson, window tint violation, \$130; Kathryn A. Bolin, 38, Mantorville, failure to obey traffic control device, \$130; Jose R. Cerritos Amaya, 32, Willmar, log book not current, \$130; Savannah M. Gaylor, 22, Hayfield, speeding, \$130; Octavio S. Gurrola, 42, Dodge Center, no license and no insurance, \$380; Shannon D. Irons, 38, Dexter, speeding and revoked license, \$340; Dorothy A. Larsen, 56, Kasson, speeding, \$220; Kristofer A. Lee, 34, Marshall, expired registration, \$110; Nestor G. Reyes, 19, Dodge Center, possession of marijuana, \$230; Michael L. Rink, 35, Byron, vehicle weight violation, \$505; Travis S. Seeger, 37, Byron, speeding, \$220; Carri L. Virmig, 35, Dodge Center, speeding, \$140.

West Concord Police Department

Amanda J. Berndt, 34, Dodge Center, parking violation, \$32.

ARREST Steele County

Owatonna Police

Tyler Steven Britt, 21, arrested at 9 p.m. Feb. 4, domestic assault and interference with 911, held for court.

Heather Lynn Borneman, 38, arrested at 6:06 a.m. Feb. 5, domestic assault and interference with 911, held for court.

Jeffrey Scott Evans, 54, arrested at 2:11 a.m. Feb. 8, possession of controlled substance and paraphernalia, held for court.

Charity Ann Braulik, 37, arrested at 2:20 p.m. Feb. 8, revoked license and no insurance, held for court.

Jeffrey Gerald Averbeck, 53, arrested at 8:10 p.m., DWI, held for court.

Luis Alberto Cuevas, 27, arrested at 4:34 p.m. Feb. 9, harassment restraining order violation, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Anthony James Bohlen, 27, arrested at 11:54 a.m. Feb. 6, warrants arrest, body only.

Kevin Michael Carey, 43, arrested at 5:02 p.m. Feb. 6, warrant arrest, body only.

Eric Craig Cousens, 34, arrested at 8:39 a.m. Feb. 7, probation warrant, body only.

Jonah Michael Deml, 19, arrested at 9:15 a.m. Feb. 7, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Tara Marie Saltou-Olson, 20, arrested at 1:25 p.m. Feb. 8, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Klayton Ray Ament, 35, arrested at 5:06 a.m. Feb. 9, warrant arrest, \$500 bail.

Anival Cuellar, 39, arrested at 6:47 p.m. Feb. 9, felony fleeing on foot and warrant arrest, \$52,000 bail.

Brandi Lea Davidson, 24, arrested at 10:02 p.m. Feb. 9, intent to evade tax, held for court.

MN State Patrol

Jaimie Rae Pugh, 39, arrested at 1:13 a.m. Feb. 9, felony theft of motor vehicle, held for court.

Desirae Jean Haukaas, 35, arrested at 2:28 a.m. Feb. 9, DWI, held for court.

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

- Jeremy Becker – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
- Judith Beneke – DWI - \$1,400 bail
- Jose Bernal – domestic assault - \$700 bail
- Kathleen Bernichon – theft by check - \$2,500 bail
- Jose Blancaste – DWI - \$1,000 bail
- Jose Blanco-Delgado – burglary, assault - \$35,000 bail
- Henry Bloomfield J. – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Kenneth Bonow – warrant - \$3,000 bail
- John Borchert – fleeing officer - \$2,000 b
- Jojo Boswell – theft - \$20,000 bail

- Dyez Boyd – theft - \$700 bail
- Ronnie Boyd – order for protection violation – no bail
- Jessica Bradley – DUI – no bail
- Robert Brantner – property damage - \$500 bail
- Kevin Bremer – DWI - \$12,000 bail
- Michelle Brodersen – theft, shoplifting - \$500 bail
- Tina Brown – criminal vehicular operation - \$20,000 bail
- Marilyn Bryant – false name - \$6,000 bail
- Jacinda Buchanan – obstruction - \$1,000 bail
- Mario Burciaga Jr. – threats – no bail

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

ACTIVE WARRANTS

Public Records

Steele County Births November 2016

Ruthvik Marilingaiah, Parents: Arpitha Paramashivaiah and Marilingaiah Linganna, Nov. 1.

Luul Abas Mohamud, Parents: Anisa Abdi and Abas Arif, Nov. 2.

Charlotte Leanne Lehman, Parents: Brittaney and Randy, Nov. 3.

Mara Reign Ebeling, Parents: Makenzie Robertson and Jesse Ebeling, Nov. 3.

Jack Daniel Svenby, Parents: Chelsey and Ty, Nov. 5.

Maelyn Marie Clayton, Parents: Katy and Michael, Nov. 7.

Kinley Mae Besser, Parents: Rachel and Jeremy, Nov. 7.

Arlo Brady Vaith, Parents: Jenna and Brady, Nov. 11.

Abram David Cooke, Parents: Lindsay and Christopher, Nov. 12.

Brantley Michael Dunlap, Parents: Kimberly and Michael, Nov. 12.

Patrick Michael McCauley, Parents: Shelley and Michael, Nov. 13.

Abigail Joy Kunkel, Parents: Amanda and Anthony, Nov. 14.

Everett Dale Viktora, Parents: Senja and Dale, Nov. 14.

James Thomas Thorson, Parents: Ashley and Ryan, Nov. 15.

Iva Rain Wimer, Parents: Megan and Steven, Nov. 18.

Wilder Herb Bauernfeind, Parents: Colbe Enzenauer and Jeremy Bauernfeind, Nov. 18.

Bennett Levi Bachtle, Parents: Courtney and Josiah, Nov. 22.

Alyssa Rae Anderson, Parents: Sara and Jered, Nov. 22.

Collyns June McCauley, Parents: Natasha and Timothy, Nov. 23.

Nora Jean Welch, Parents: Jessica Hertzog and Matthew Welch, Nov. 25.

Elaina Rose Clark, Parents: Melissa and John, Nov. 26.

Alex Evan Schettler, Parents: Kristi and Michael, Nov. 29.

Keturah Anastasia Schiell, Parents: Jillian and Ryan, Nov. 29.

Elaina Collette Berg, Parents: Michelle Feeley and Jonathan Berg, Nov. 30.

Camden Ray Riewe, Parents: Breauna and Tyler, Nov. 30.

David Wayne Spitzack, 74, Faribault, Nov. 2.

Ory Ann Helene Champlin, 94, Blooming Prairie, Nov. 4.

Lorraine Catherine Grinolds, 92, Owatonna, Nov. 6.

Eva Marie Woods, 62, Faribault, Nov. 8.

Ludwig Concord Wencil, 91, Owatonna, Nov. 9.

Benita Lora Esther Yentsch, 95, Medford, Nov. 11.

Ralph David Huxford, 86, Owatonna, Nov. 11.

Donald Mandt Anderson, 88, Owatonna, Nov. 15.

Sharon Annette Decker, 60, Owatonna, Nov. 19.

Leo Maurice Mullenmaster, 77, Owatonna, Nov. 20.

Phyllis Marie Abbas, 87, New Ulm, Nov. 21.

Michael Eugene Wilkemeyer, 60, Inver Grove Heights, Nov. 21.

Elvera Katherine Kriesel, 94, Owatonna, Nov. 23.

Charlotte Ann Stange, 81, Owatonna, Nov. 24.

Allen Conrad Paulson, 78, Ellendale, Nov. 25.

Mary Albert Bickford, 95, Owatonna, Nov. 27.

Clarence A. Brage, 81, Owatonna, Nov. 27.

Steele County Marriages November 2016

Bridget Cecelia Haff and Zachary Jacob Waddell, Nov. 12.

John Duane Petterson and Gretchen Anne Chavez, Nov. 17.

Isabell Garcia Hernandez and Kristin Suzette Emrich, Nov. 23.

Christopher Gary Utoft and Staci Lyn Smith, Nov. 23.

Steele County Divorces November 2016

Lisa Cashman Bulver and John Benjamin Bulver.

Ronito Labatiao Mast and Lynn Marie Mast.

Justine Toshiko Saufferer and Brandon Jay Saufferer.

Lisa Marie Schmidtke Dukatz and Mark Wesley Dukatz.

Bobby Allen Dill and Brandy Jo Dill.

Christina Joanne Skalicky and Joseph Thomas Skalicky.

Tonia Sue Douglass and Billie Joe Douglass.

Douglas J. Gerhart and Lisa O. Gerhart.

Colleen Elizabeth Hougas and James Earl Hougas.

Amber May Erler and Torres Michael Erler.

Anna Elizabeth Kujac and David Ray Kujac.

Little Theatre of Owatonna Seeks Scholarship Applicants

Little Theatre of Owatonna is proud to announce it is seeking eligible candidates for its 2017 Veta Alexander LTO Scholarship(s). Graduating high school students who have been accepted at an accredited two or four-year college for a full-time course of study and have an interest in the performing arts are eligible.

Recipients are selected based on academic record, community involvement, leadership quality, school activities, and theatre involvement.

Details and forms for the application can be found on the Little Theatre of Owatonna website, <http://LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org/veta-alexander-scholarship> or interested students should contact their guidance counselor for the application form. Two recommendations are also required and should be sent directly to the Scholarship Chairperson at the listed address. All application components should be postmarked by Friday, April 14, 2017.

Announcements and notification regarding the scholarship recipients will be made in May. Recipient(s) will be recognized and the scholarship(s) will be presented at awards ceremonies scheduled later in the school year at the appropriate schools(s) and at the opening night of LTO's summer production, Funny Girl, on Friday, June 16.

Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to providing opportunities and incentives for youth in the Owatonna area to explore the dramatic arts. Over \$50,000 has been awarded to Steele County High School graduates since the scholarship's inception in 1969. Questions regarding this scholarship should be directed to Gaylene Steckelberg, LTO Scholarship Chairperson, P.O. Box 64, Owatonna, MN 55060.

How to spur kids' interest in the arts

Art can enrich the lives of people young and old, male and female. The arts can introduce adults and children to different cultures and traditions, while also helping them to develop more fully as human beings.

While some may feel the benefits of the arts cannot be measured, the non-profit organization Americans for the Arts notes that kids who are involved in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement than kids who are not involved in the arts. And though mathematics and science may not be the first thing people associate with the arts, kids involved in the arts are four times more likely to participate in math and science fairs than kids who are not involved in the arts.

Parents can do a lot to make art a bigger part of their kids' lives. The following are some simple ways parents can bring more art into their kids' lives, courtesy of Americans for the Arts.

- Join in the fun. Parents can make art more fun for kids by playing music around the house and singing and dancing alongside their youngsters. In addition, read a book to or with your children and join in when they pursue other artistic endeavors, such as drawing or painting.
- Find local events. Many school districts have slashed their arts budgets in recent years, but parents can still find local arts events for kids in their communities. Peruse the local newspaper and other community-based periodicals for cultural events for kids. Support local theater groups by attending performances with your children and explaining to them that the performers live in the community just like they do.
- Pitch in with local arts organizations.

Local arts organizations typically rely on donations and volunteers to support their programs. Parents who want to instill a love of the arts in their children can help local organizations' fundraising efforts and even volunteer their time if the opportunity presents itself. If possible, take kids along when volunteering so they can get some firsthand experience with the arts.

- Encourage kids' artistic pursuits. Some kids may decide to pursue artistic endeavors on their own, and parents can encourage such pursuits. Celebrate kids' participation in arts-based activities in school and in the community, recognizing their hard work in the same way you would acknowledge their successes in the classroom and in sports.

The arts can benefit youngsters in various ways, but it's often up to parents to instill a love of the arts in their children.



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Crossword solution																			
N	E	X	V	L			O	S		S	E	D	I						
E	L	V	H	I		A	L	I	T	V	E	H	N						
E	F	I	N	X	E	H	L	H	E	D	N		O						
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D	V	H	V		H	E	I	P		H	V	B	V	B					

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. Elephant's name

6. Support

10. Mures River city

14. Bastard wing

15. One was named Desire

17. PGA Tournament prize

19. A way to leave unchanged

20. Unchangeable computer memory

21. Harangues

22. 6th Hebrew letter

23. Well informed

24. Turfs

26. In a way, obeyed

29. Lawyers group

31. Increases motor speed

32. Political action committee

34. Light pokes

35. Struck down

37. Central Philippine Island

38. Japanese sash

39. Afresh

40. Bluish green

41. Inspire with love

43. Without (French)

45. Counterbalance container to obtain net weight

46. Express pleasure

47. Cheap wine (Br.)

49. Signing

50. ___ compilation, compiling computer language

53. Have surgery

57. Being trompe-l'oeil

CLUES DOWN

1. Cry

2. Wings

3. Baseball play

4. Flower petals

5. Drive against

6. Velikaya River city

7. A single unit in a collection

8. Stray

9. Bring back

10. Repented

11. Receipt (abbr.)

12. Expresses pleasure

13. Not wet

16. In a way, takes off

18. Macaws genus

22. "Fast Five" star's initials

23. Sharpen a knife

24. Oral polio vaccine developer

25. Former CIA

27. Fencing swords

28. Aba___ Honeymoon

29. Bustle

30. Minor

31. Propel a boat

33. Passage with access only at one end

35. Underwater airways

36. Small, slight

37. Box (abbr.)

39. ___ Blake, actress

42. Repents

43. Merchandising

44. Exclamation of surprise

46. With fireplace residue

47. A small lake

48. Bait

49. Tip of Aleutian Islands

50. K___: watercraft (alt. sp.)

51. Norse variant of "often"

52. Adolescent

53. Visual metaphor (Computers)

54. River in Spanish

55. Cowboy Carson

56. Powerful gun lobby

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Community Calendar

Steele County Times • Tuesday, February 14, 2017 • 7A

OWATONNA/MEDFORD

Feb. 14th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center, BR
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church
Feb. 15th:
4pm - 5pm Owatonna EDA, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Ft Robert Carlin Knights of Columbus Council, Medford
Feb. 16th:
9am - 5pm Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons, Owatonna
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
Feb. 17th:
5 pm Around the World Food Tasting, Steele County Historical Society
Feb. 18th:
5 pm - 7pm Rock the Ice, Morehouse Park, Owatonna
Feb. 20th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
Feb. 21st:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall

Event Spotlight:
Mower County Livestock Hall of Fame

The Mower County Livestock Hall of Fame is currently seeking nominations for inductee(s) into the Livestock Hall of Fame for 2017 and beyond. Nominees must have exhibited leadership qualifications in Mower County livestock organizations and/or activities.

The Hall of Fame Reception and Induction Ceremony will be held during the 2017 Mower County Fair which will be from August 8 through August 13.

Please submit your nomination in a letter stating why you think this person should be inducted into the Hall of Fame or call the office to get the form. Mail all letters/forms to the address below.

Mower County Fair
700 12th Street SW
Austin, MN 55912
Please also include your name and telephone number.
Nominations will close on March 10, 2017 for persons to be considered for the current year.

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

Feb. 14th:
9am - 10am Hormel Retirees Breakfast, Mower County Senior Center
6pm - 7pm Grand Meadow City Council Mtg
Feb. 15th:
9am - 3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive
Where: Mower County Employees, 201 1st St NE
12pm - 1pm Lunch and Learn - A Glimpse at Teens: Building a Stronger Future Workforce, ArtWorks Center
Feb.17th:
12pm - 1pm Valentine's Meal, Mower County Senior Center
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
6pm - 8:30pm Autism Family Respite Night, YMCA of Austin
7pm - 9pm ArtRocks Open Jam Session, Austin ArtWorks Center
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Brookings Blizzard, Riverside Arena, 501 12th St NE, Austin
Feb. 18th:
11am - 2pm The Bridge's Annual Chili Feed, 108 E Oakland Ave
5:30pm - 8:30pm 6th Annual Foodie Throwdown, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave NW, Austin
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Brookings Blizzard, Riverside Arena, 501 12th St NE, Austin
Feb. 19th:
8am - 12:30pm Gourmet Pancake Breakfast, Cunningham Hall, Queen of Angel's Catholic Church
Feb. 20th:
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
Feb. 21st:
10am - 11am Hearth and Home Series - The Life and Music of Ian Shapinsky, Hormel Historic Home
6:30pm - 7:30pm Lion's Club Meeting, Lyle Community Center

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Feb. 14th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:30 pm Fire Comission Meeting, City Center
Feb. 15th:
10:30 am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
Feb. 20st:
All Day - City offices closed
Feb. 21st:
10:30 am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
5 pm BP School Board Meeting, BPHS Library
7 pm P&Z Board Meeting, City Center

ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

Feb. 14th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
Feb. 15th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
Feb. 16th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
Feb. 20th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
Feb. 21st:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Lights of Litomysl, a local music group, performed at the Third Annual Litomysl Women's Council Valentine Dinner Saturday night, Feb. 11. The event was attended by 193 sweethearts.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Anna Segner

Medord High School FFA Wildlife team including Wyatt Volkmann, Cole Volkmann, Nick Meixner, Cierra "CJ" Duchene and Tyler Stenzel placed third at the Region 7 Wildlife Competition in December. They will next be advancing to the state competition in April.

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Event Spotlight:
Mantorville Theatre presents
HONK! The Musical

The Mantorville Theatre Company is proud to present HONK! The Musical. Friday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, March 12. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Winner of multiple awards, including the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, this musical retelling of the classic Hans Christian Andersen story The Ugly Duckling is a heartwarming celebration of being different. This family-friendly production is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit and memorable score.

Ugly looks quite a bit different from his darling duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to notice and point this out, despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a very hungry cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a whole flock of unique characters and finds out that being different is not a bad thing to be.

Directed by Denise Ruemping, the show features the acting and singing talents of Aaron Budihwas, Ella Ashlin, Hannah Brumfield, Anders Herfindahl-Quint, Karl Huppler, Patrick Quint, Denise Ruemping, Joseph Ruemping, Priscilla Ruemping, Sarah Schaller, Alexi Swintek, Briana Switalski, and Meeah Underbakke.

Tickets are on sale now. Please visit our webpage or Facebook page for information about our special "Adult + Child" combo discount ticket.

For more information, visit www.mantorvillain.com.

Event Spotlight:
February AAUW meeting

Members of the American Association of University Women in Owatonna invite interested guests and potential members to attend their meeting on Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Owatonna Public Library, Gainey Room.

The program for the evening will feature Kristin Gunsolus, who is an attorney and will speak on various estate planning topics and discuss the use of powers of attorney and advanced healthcare documents. This presentation provides a detailed synopsis of the importance of every individual having a goal-based estate plan in place.

Event Spotlight:
History Uncorked: "A Shot in the Dark:
The Murder of Harry H. Krier"

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) is excited to announce the newest edition of History Uncorked – where audiences learn about Steele County history while enjoying a glass of wine or beer. This edition in the series will be called "A Shot in the Dark: The Murder of Harry Krier".

Harry Krier was killed in broad daylight on North Cedar Avenue, Owatonna. Robbery was the motive. Three alleged perpetrators. Confessions, retractions, alibis, fornication, perjury, legal misconduct – this Steele County case, not surprisingly, captivated the county, as well as the State with its many twists and turns.

Join us to hear attorneys Ben Cass and James Cole argue the case using the evidence from 1903. The audience aka jury will deliberate and decide the case before learning how it was actually decided in 1904.

History Uncorked is sponsored by Smith, Tollefson, Rahrack and Cass Law. It will be held at 7 pm Thursday, February 16th at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Tickets are \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members which includes one beverage of your choice. Additional wine and beer are available for purchase and must be 21 years of age to attend. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.steelehistorymuseum.org. Seating is limited.

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(1 P.M. 2 PERSON TEAM)

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TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H
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JAN. 24 FEB. 7 MARCH 14 APRIL 4
MAY 9: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT
7-9 P.M. @ J&H

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Stock # D15613A, 2.5L I5 20V, 102000 mi., 23/32 MPG
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Stock # F160511A, 2.4L 4-Cylinder SMPI DOHC 16V, 93942 mi., 21/26 MPG
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Best Price: \$9,999
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Stock # F17324A, Power Stroke 6.0L V8 DI 32V OHV Turbodiesel, 5-Speed AT Electronic with Overdrive, 102866 mi.
Best Price: \$15,999
- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT**
Stock # F17280B, Vortec 5.3L V8 SFI, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 184206 mi., 14/17 MPG
Best Price: \$8,999
- 2004 Ford F-150 XLT**
Stock # P160541, 5.4L V8 EFI 24V, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 195826 mi., 14/18 MPG
Best Price: \$6,999
- 2004 Chevrolet Suburban 1500**
Stock # F17346AA, Vortec 5.3L V8 SFI Flex Fuel, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 183274 mi., 14/18 MPG Best
Price: \$7,999
- 2005 Ford F-250SD XLT**
Stock # P160145B, Power Stroke 6.0L V8 DI 32V OHV Turbodiesel, TorqShift 5-Speed AT with overdrive, 160901 mi.
Best Price: \$9,999
- 2005 Ford F-150 XLT**
Stock # P17278A, 5.4L V8 EFI 24V, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 121739 mi., 14/18 MPG
Best Price: \$9,999
- 2005 Ford F-150 XLT**
Stock # F17178B, 5.4L V8 EFI 24V, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 92879 mi., 14/18 MPG
Best Price: \$11,999
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT**
Stock # D17243A, Vortec 5.3L V8 SFI Flex Fuel, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 167661 mi., 14/19 MPG
Best Price: \$10,999

SUVS

- 2000 Ford Expedition XLT**
Stock # F160174C, 4.6L SOHC, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 145338 mi., 14/18 MPG
Best Price: \$2,500
- 2004 Ford Explorer Limited**
Stock # F17326A, 4.0L V6 SOHC Flex Fuel, 5-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 170940 mi., 15/20 MPG
Best Price: \$4,999
- 2005 Ford Freestyle Limited**
Stock # F17223A, Duratec 3.0L V6 24V, CVT, 130520 mi., 19/24 MPG
Best Price: \$5,999
- 2006 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer**
Stock # F160449B, 4.0L V6 12V, 5-Speed Automatic, 149312 mi., 15/20 MPG
Best Price: \$6,999
- 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe LT**
Stock # F17129A, Vortec 5.3L V8 SFI Flex Fuel, 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive, 161173 mi., 15/21 MPG
Best Price: \$12,999
- 2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT**
Stock # P160500A, 3.8L V6 OHV, 6-Speed Automatic, 196689 mi., 16/23 MPG
Best Price: \$4,999
- 2008 Ford Escape XLT**
Stock # P160087C, Duratec 3.0L V6, 4-Speed Automatic, 154878 mi., 17/22 MPG
Best Price: \$5,999
- 2008 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT**
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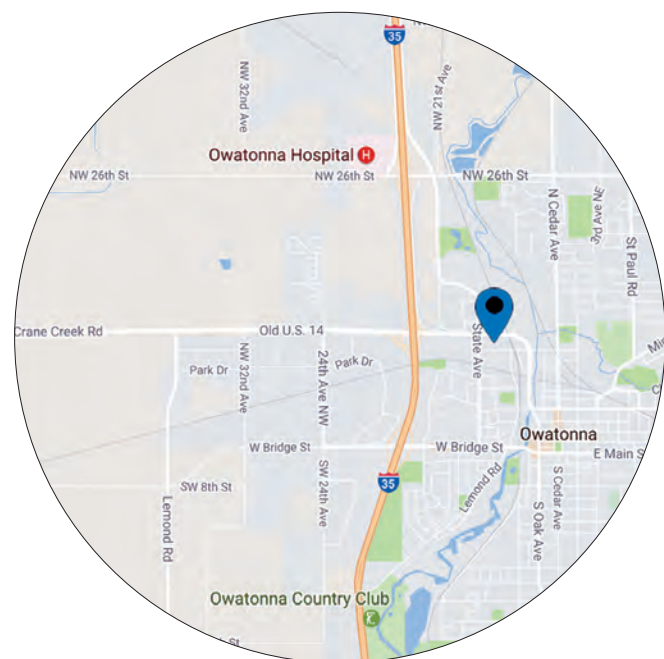
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Snow week blows into Steele



Staff photos by Howard Lestrud and Emily Schoenbeck

Each of the four high schools in the county celebrated winter with its own snow week. All of the schools hosted dress-ups days. Two Blooming Prairie High School students, Kassiey Borgen and Bailey Sorensen were star attractions at Blooming Prairie High School's Snow Week Crazy Hair Day on Thursday. Pep rallies were also popular, like the one Owatonna held on Wednesday to name their snow week queen and king.

Peer specialists help others in recovery



Barbara L. Durbahn

Peer Supports have existed in the mental health field for decades in informal settings like clubhouses, drop-in centers, and consumer run organizations. Since the 1990's, there has been an increasing awareness and acknowledgement of the importance and value of consumers as providers of mental health services. In 2007, the Minnesota Legislature instructed the Commissioner of Human Services to establish a Medicaid-covered Certified Peer Specialist role. Minnesota is now one of 26 states that have a covered peer support service. The concept of hiring someone that has a serious mental illness, someone that has or is receiving mental health services, brought forth many questions. Won't there be issues and problems relating to confidentiality and boundaries? What if they become ill and are not able to work? These questions and many more brought forth honest and sincere skepticism about adding these new employees to our program. Staff within our agency had many serious conversations, and still do, about these issues and work to address them in a professional and honest way. There are still bumps and trouble spots, but the value these new roles have brought to the agency and the services provided have been well worth those challenges. In 2010, South Central Human Relations Center hired our first Certified Peer Specialist, and now employs three individuals. We are

PEER
Continued on page 3B

Your taxes... their \$alaries

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Conversation often comes up focusing on what public servants are paid for their annual salaries. Taxpayers are curious, for a variety of reasons, as to what public officials take home. This week the Steele County Times compiled salaries of top officials from around the five county area, including Steele, Rice, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower. As a comparison, the Times also factored in the salaries of officials in Rochester and Olmsted County. The highest paid public servants in southeastern Minnesota are the city administrator of Rochester at \$170,625 and the county administrator for Olmsted County at \$170,622. Other high paying civil servants are the general manager for Rochester Public Utilities at \$166,050 and the public works director and city attorney for

Rochester, both bringing in \$165,334. Outside of Rochester and Olmsted County, the highest paid public employee in this region is the city administrator for Austin at \$134,472. The Rice County administrator comes in second at \$130,000 followed closely by Steele County Attorney Daniel McIntosh at \$128,772. Behind McIntosh, the next highest paid public officials in Steele County are Owatonna City administrator Kris Busse at \$124,738 and county highway engineer Anita Benson at \$122,628. Both Sheriff Lon Thiele and county administrator Laura Elvebak bring in \$119,532. Thiele is the highest paid sheriff in Steele, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties. The next closest is Sheriff Terese Amazi in Mower County at \$102,622. Scott Rose, sheriff in Dodge County, makes \$96,790 and Kurt Freitag in Freeborn is at \$89,712.

There appears to be a wide disparity in salaries of county attorneys across the area. After the Steele attorney, the Rice County attorney is second at \$121,236 followed by Freeborn County at \$99,657 and Mower County at \$112,607. David Walker, county attorney in Freeborn, just took office last year. Dodge County Attorney Paul Kiltinen is paid \$49,397, though the position is only part-time. For county administrators, John Kluever of Freeborn is the highest of the four county area at \$121,580. He has been in the position since 2007. Elvebak is second followed by Dodge's administrator, Jim Elmquist, at \$109,554. For engineers, Benson of Steele County is the highest followed by Mower County at \$107,202, Freeborn County public works director at \$103,715 and Dodge County at \$98,966. The public works director for the City of Austin makes \$115,190 while the

Steele County/Owatonna Department Heads 2017 Salaries:

County Attorney	\$128,772
City Administrator	\$124,738
Highway Engineer	\$122,628
Sheriff	\$119,532
County Administrator	\$119,532
City Police Chief	\$111,509
City Public Works Director	\$110,074
County Auditor	\$100,896
County Treasurer	\$86,064
County Recorder	\$78,768
County Commissioners	\$21,876

same position in Albert Lea is paid \$102,856. The county recorder in Steele is paid the highest around the area at \$78,768. Other recorder salaries include: Mower at \$70,274 and Freeborn at \$67,180. County commissioners in Freeborn are paid the highest at \$24,200 followed by

Mower at \$22,674 and Steele at \$21,876. Dodge County commissioners are the lowest at \$21,189. Editor's Note: A complete list of salaries for all county employees, including part-time and full-time, in Steele County is published on Page 6B.

BP Education Foundation auction set for March 28

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff riter

Organizers of the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auction do not set goals for the fundraiser but it is likely that the 14th annual auction on Saturday, March 25 will again set records. "We made \$29,000 on our first auction 14 years ago," said Sue Zwiener, one of the organizers of this phenomenal money maker which benefits the kids of the Blooming Prairie School District. Last year's silent and live auctions brought in \$80,000, a record. Taking a total on all of the BP Education auctions, one learns that \$750,000 has been raised for the benefit of the local education system. Proceeds from the auctions are used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. Funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, the robotics team at the high school and the lego project at the elementary

school. The 14th annual auction will again be held at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company of Blooming Prairie. A silent auction at the Pizza Cellar begins at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a live auction at 6 p.m. at the Cue Company. Foundation board members and committee volunteers began planning for this year's auctions, the day following the April 2, 2016 auctions. "Don't leave anything unattended or it will be sold," jokes Karen Fouarge, a steering committee member. "We sold a ladder belonging to Greg Johnson of B to Z Hardware," she confessed. "We will accept any items," said BP Education Foundation President Julie Noble, also a steering committee member. Items have already started to roll in and can be left at New York Life in downtown Blooming Prairie. Event planners again expect 300-plus items to be auctioned. Bid numbers can be picked up at a cost of \$5 each, beginning at 3 p.m. the day of the auction. "We ask everyone to come

out and support our kids and they do just that," remarked Zwiener. "Our local people like their kids and like their town," she added. Many of the donated items are handmade creations of adults and students. Blooming Prairie Elementary School students are again making items for the silent auction. The auction committee consists of Karen Fouarge, Sue Zwiener, Becky Noble, Lori Arndt, Julie Noble, Julie Naatz, Jennifer Walsh, Pam Hameister, Carrie Farr, Betti Johnson, Kathi Peterson, Lois Nelson, Diane Anderson, Sue Helgeson, Terese Sisler, Mary Kittelson, Judy Bishop, Al and Lori Lysne, Rachel Klemmenson, Jessica Carlson and Jason Iocavino. Current board members of the BP Education Foundation are: Julie Noble, Mark Larkoski, Karen Fouarge, Lori Arndt, Camden Heimerman, Sue Helgeson, Jennifer Walsh, Doug Myers, Roger Sorenson, Chris Staloch, Diane Anderson, Carrie Farr, Lois Nelson, Josh Toquam, Pam Hameister, Rod Krell, Judy

Bishop, Barry Olson, Lisa Bruns, Bill Rinkenberger, Barb Kaplan, Allyson Skillestad and Emma Christianson. The BP Education Foundation is a non-profit organization created by a group of fiscally conservative community members. Mission of the Foundation is "to enhance the educational opportunities for the students of ISD 756." Funding for the Foundation is possible through the generous contributions of community members, alumni, business and other charitable organizations. Many auction items have been turned over to the auction committee. They include: •Six-month membership for fitness or tanning at Fit & Tan, Inc. •Four golf packages, 18 holes of golf, at the Blooming Prairie Country Club •Several crocheted items donated by Jess Motl •Christmas tree wall hanging/table topper donated by Julie Naatz and Jeanette Hauschildt •Blooming Prairie High



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

An authentic Blooming Prairie High School megaphone dating back to the 50s will be placed on the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auction on Saturday, March 25. Sue Zwiener, originator of the auction, echoes a few cheers into the megaphone. School megaphone donated by Mike and Sandy Jones •Goose decoy signed by Vikings Hall of Fame Coach Bud Grant •Three USA baskets •Halloween basket •Christmas stocking knitting basket •5 little monkeys reading in bed •Yarn basket •Easter basket •BP Awesome Blossoms light-up brick donated by Jodi Green •Reclining lawn chair donated by Noble RV •Wooden American flag donated by Tyler Kruckeberg

Blooming Prairie Living



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Who are these super guys? Showing off their Superman pajamas during Snow Week at Blooming Prairie High School are Zach Weber and Karson Vigeland.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie High School seniors Jordan Paulson, Jasmine Anderson and Rachel Peterson brought their penguin pillows with them on Pajama Day Monday.

Snow Week features fun attire

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff writer

No new snow fell during Snow week at Blooming Prairie High School last week but there was a blizzard of fun activities and events. The week kicked off with a powder puff volleyball game

between the junior boys and senior boys. Who won? Just ask the junior boys. On Monday, Feb. 6, students wore their favorite pair of pajamas. Zach Weber and Karson Vigeland, both ninth graders, wore their Superman pajamas. Seniors Jordan Paulson, Jasmine

Anderson and Rachel Peterson brought their penguin pillows to school. Tuesday was Jersey Day and it was thought that Tom Brady's missing jersey might show up in the Blossom hallways. Wednesday was Colorful, Bright Day with students

wearing as many colors as possible. One of the most fun days was Crazy Hair Day on Thursday. Many students dyed their hair and others had soda containers on top of their heads. "Is that Eli Baker?" someone asked, when pointing to an orange-

colored Elijah. Friday was Spirit Day, black or white hats allowed. A pep fest got the adrenalin of the Blossoms going in the afternoon. A Lip Sync contest was also held. On Saturday, the Snow Dance was held in the high school commons.

Sunday, the final Snow Day of the week, ended with a Fire and Ice event at the Blooming Prairie Ice Skating Rink. Camp fires, S'Mores and hot chocolate were enjoyed.

'I Love to Read Month'

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February is here which means two things for readers: I Love to Read Month will be celebrated in the schools with fun activities, and Hot Reads

for Cold Nights is going on at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. The kids get special treatment during our Summer Reading Program, so now it's time for the adults to have their annual program. And what better time than the middle of winter? Every time you visit the library, put your name in for weekly drawings. Prizes include the popular book calendar, mugs, bags, and books. The first time that you sign up, you can choose a free book. From the entries we also compile lists of books and authors favored by our local readers.

Don't forget our weekly events: story times are held on Tuesday and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Family Fun Night is coming on Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. We have been having a great group of kids (4th-6th graders) on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. ready to Bust Boredom with board games. Also, our movie series continues Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. with a recent movie about a medic during World War II. Discussion of the movie will be held on Friday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m. See you at the library!



Submitted photo

BP American Legion Post 52 & Auxiliary awards 3 scholarships

Blooming Prairie American Legion Post 52 and its Auxiliary recently presented three \$500 scholarships. This is the 22nd round of scholarships awarded. Legion scholarship committee member Ken Trom (center) presented a \$500 award to Pat and Julie Noble, both at left, for their daughter Anna Marie. She is attending the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota where she is studying accounting and entrepreneurship. Brianna Gree, to Trom's left, is the daughter of Chad and Jodi Green and is attending Augustana University, studying nursing. Brian Nelson, far right, accepted the scholarship award for his son Anthony who is attending Bethel University, studying business administration and accounting.

Local speller places in Southeast Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee



Submitted photo

Bobbie and Maggie Bruns hold their certificates for competing. Maggie will advance to the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee.

Maggie Bruns, daughter of Jonathan and Lisa Bruns, took 6th Place in the SE MN Regional Spelling Bee held Tuesday, February 7th in Rochester. This qualifies her to compete Tuesday, February 21st in the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Final, also held at Southeast Service Cooperative, 210 Woodlake Dr. SE, Rochester MN. The champion of the Southeast Minnesota Spelling Bee Final will win an all-expenses-paid trip (including one adult) to compete in the 2016-17 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC held May 27 - June 2, 2017. Maggie's winning word was "illuminati". Maggie's sister, Bobbie, also competed and lasted three rounds, missing "wiseacre". Congratulations to both local competitors for a fine job!

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

2017 Minnesota Chamber Federation Priorities

ENACT MEANINGFUL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF
High business tax burdens are consistently cited as a top concern for Minnesota businesses negatively impacting their growth and expansion opportunities. Minnesota business taxes rank among the highest in the nation in many tax categories including 3rd highest for corporate and pass-through income tax rates, 2nd highest for some types of business property taxes and one of 14 states that still have an estate tax. We support tax relief focused on reducing taxes that undermines growth, entrepreneurship and expansions. We support the following tax reforms to improve Minnesota's competitiveness: property tax relief for all businesses by reducing the statewide levy and eliminating the automatic inflator; lowering top income tax rates; conformity with Section 179 expensing federal laws for small businesses investing in their Minnesota operations; enhancement and simplification of research and development tax credit; and increasing estate tax threshold to the federal level.

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT
We support passage of a 10 year, comprehensive transportation funding package that provides increased investment in the state's multi-modal transportation infrastructure. The state should use the General Fund revenues generated from the statewide sales tax on auto parts and rental cars to fund increased investment in our transportation system; consider an adjustment in the tab fee depreciation schedule; augment any new investment through an increased focus on efficient use of resources; use Trunk Highway bonding to help finance projects in the state's road and bridge system and General Obligation bonding to support local road and bridge, transit way, port, rail, airport, and other transportation infrastructure projects across the state.

PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY; DON'T IMPOSE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL MANDATES
Employers must have the flexibility they need to provide benefits that are appropriate for their workplace. Voluntary, flexible policy approaches are far more effective than a one-size-fits-all solution mandated by elected officials. Consistent with these principles of offering choices and ensuring flexibility, we support consideration of the following potential approaches:

- Incentives for employers to offer paid leave benefits for employees.
- Incentives for employees to save for the paid leaves they take.
- Policy changes to make it more affordable and convenient for private-sector employees to purchase short-term disability policies in the private insurance market.

A troubling new trend is for cities to enact their own workplace mandates, creating a patchwork of city-by-city ordinances that presents an even greater administrative burden for employers. Local units of government should not be able to enact their own local minimum wage ordinances or benefit mandates since doing so will disrupt the state employment market and impede hiring and job growth.

HEALTH CARE
In response to the dramatic spike in health insurance costs in the individual market, we anticipate a one-time buy down of those premiums using surplus revenue in the 2017 Session. We support that effort, but as important, we support long term health care reform that will ensure more affordable premiums moving forward. Our goal is to ensure access to quality affordable health care in the commercial market by reducing health care taxes and mandates; expanding product and coverage options for employers (i.e. self-insurance for smaller employers) and individuals; increasing market competition and stability; encouraging outcome based payment and delivery reform; and improving consumer engagement and transparency of cost and quality.

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Owatonna Living

Auditions set for LTO’s ‘Much Ado About Nothing’



William Shakespeare returns to Little Theatre of Owatonna with the spring production of the much beloved comedy “Much Ado About Nothing,” and LTO announces auditions for the play.

The auditions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19, and Monday, Feb. 20, at the theater, 560 Dunnell Drive in the West Hills complex in Owatonna.

“I like to think of this play as Shakespeare’s great screwball comedy,” said artistic director Jeffrey Jackson. “‘Much Ado’ incorporates all the great

elements of a screwball comedy — the classic battle of the sexes in the relationship of Benedick and Beatrice, their fast-paced repartee, and, of course, plotlines involving courtship and marriage. And there are some great comedic characters, like Constable Dogberry and his deputies.”

The play begins as war has come to an end in Italy and a group of soldiers, led by Prince Don

Pedro, comes to the city of Messina and to the home of Don Pedro’s good friend Leonato, a well-respected and well-to-do nobleman. Don Pedro is accompanied

by Claudio, a young nobleman, and Benedick, a witty gentleman soldier. Also in the prince’s company is Don John the bastard, as Shakespeare calls him — the sullen, illegitimate brother of the prince, who tried unsuccessfully to rebel against the prince in the war.

When the soldiers come to Leonato’s home, Claudio once again reacquaints himself with Leonato’s young daughter, Hero, with whom he falls quickly and deeply in love, much to the chagrin of Benedick, a self-professed “tyrant” to women. Soon thereafter, Claudio and Hero become engaged to be married.

At the same time, Benedick meets up with Beatrice, Leonato’s witty and independent niece, Beatrice. She is, perhaps,

the only one who can match wits with Benedick, and the two are said to have a “merry war” between them. Or, as Leonato says of them, “They never meet but there’s some skirmish of wit between them.” So under the direction of Prince Don Pedro, the others in the group — Leonato, Claudio, Hero and Hero’s two waiting women, Margaret and Ursula — scheme to get Benedick and Beatrice to fall in love.

Things go well for all involved until the prince’s brother, Don John, plots to break up the relationship between Claudio and Hero and thereby to set his brother, the prince, against Leonato. And the plot might have worked were it not for the buffoonish yet surprisingly effective work of the constable Dogberry and his

befuddled deputies.

In addition to the comic story in the play, Shakespeare also incorporated several dances in the play that will be performed as part of the production. So in addition to the speaking roles — 15 men, four women — there will be several non-speaking roles, such of which will require dancing. Many of the speaking roles will require some dancing as well. Ages for the characters range from high school to age 70.

Actors wishing to audition for the play will be asked to read from the script. Sunday’s audition will also include some dancing.

A copy of the script — along with character descriptions, a list of the audition scenes and a tentative calendar for rehearsals and performance — may be found at may be

found at the Little Theatre of Owatonna website, <http://littletheatreofowatonna.org/auditions-set-for-ltos-production-of-much-ado-about-nothing>. An audition application form may also be found on the website. Those interested in auditioning are encouraged to look at the audition material on the LTO website to prepare for the audition.

Copies of the audition material may also be found at the Owatonna Public Library or by contacting Jeffrey Jackson at 507-444-2371 or via email at jjackson@owatonna.com.

Performances of “Much Ado About Nothing” will be 7:30 p.m. April 21, 22, 28 and 29, with 2 p.m. matinees on April 23 and 30.

Celebrate hometown favorites

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff riter

Love to hear some music provided by local musicians, be sure to mark March 3-5 on your calendar. This is the date of the 24th Annual Hometown Sampler, a Steele County Food Shelf special event.

The Little Theatre of Owatonna at 500 Dunnell Drive will be the site of the special event which will feature some popular local bands.

Some of the bands include the Bad Tangerines, The Gogs, Hot “n” Bothered and Mile 5 Band.

Planning for this event has been taking place since last November.

A free will donation of cash or packaged food will be the price of admission for the event.

Steele County Food Shelf board members and US Bank employees will be on hand to accept gifts at the door.

The two-hour show will feature the four groups of local accomplished musicians who are donating their time and also helping the Steele County Food Shelf raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity in Steele County.

This year’s Hometown

Sampler will kick off Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. The goal is to raise \$24,000 or \$1,000 for each year the Sampler has been staged.

Thomas Hyland, Steele County Food Shelf Board of Directors chairman, says seating is limited, thus it is a good idea to come early.

The Steele County Food Shelf’s new Meals in Motion van will also be on display for anyone interested in finding out more about that program. Rich Pettet is Meals in Motion coordinator.

Limberg Productions welcomes Shauna Christiansen

Limberg Productions is pleased to announce that Shauna Christiansen, Advertising Specialist has joined our OwatonnaLive.com team.

Shauna is a lifelong resident of Blooming Prairie, MN. She brings advertising knowledge from the print media market. We are excited to have Shauna join our team to assist in our next period of growth, which includes new content launching in 2017.

Please help us in welcoming Shauna to our OwatonnaLive.com team. Feel free to contact her at ads@owatonnaLive.com and let her show you how to maximize your advertising

dollars.

About Limberg Productions and OwatonnaLive.com

Limberg Productions, a video production firm, launched in 2011. Scott started the company with a passion for documenting people’s stories. Let us help you “Tell your Story on Video” whether that be a personal or professional story.

OwatonnaLive.com launched in 2012, bringing the plethora of talent, ideas, and community communication to a central location. OwatonnaLive.com currently has around 400 videos available to watch 24/7 at your



convenience. Experience all the great things that Steele County has to offer at owatonnaLive.com.

Peers offer unique chance to relate

PEER: from page 1C

ready to hire our NEXT Peer Support Specialist in one of our new Housing programs. <https://www.schrc.com/career-opportunities/> This person will join a team to provide housing support services to adults who have mental illness and want to live in the community. By December 2017, we expect to hire another Peer Support Specialist to work with our Compass Care staff to serve adults with complex needs (physical, mental, chemical

health).

Back to the CPS staff who joined us in 2010 - One is working as a member of the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. One is working as a team member at Safe Harbour, an Intensive Rehabilitation Treatment service (IRTS). And one is employed as a member of the Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS) program. All three have completed the very challenging certification

process to become a Certified Peer Specialist in the State of Minnesota. Besides this, they have each received the training required of all new SCHRC staff on Data Privacy and Confidentiality guidelines. Each has also been trained by the specific program they are hired within.

The Value of Certified Peer Specialists

SCHRC has found many valuable contributions made by the Peer Specialists. They help people that are reluctant to engage in services, become more willing to access help. They can say to someone, “I have struggled too, and I have gotten better.” As role models, they can be a great source of hopefulness. This hope that they convey is very powerful. They are living examples that recovery is possible.

Individuals that are struggling with their mental health, often know that others who don’t have that illness really can’t relate to their challenges in the same way. A professional

that has never suffered with depression, for example, does not have the same credibility when they say to a depressed client, “I know how hard it is.” Yet that same statement made by someone that has been hospitalized with that illness, lost jobs, or relationships because of that illness, has much more power and believability when they say to someone, “I know how hard it is.” And then they can also say, “And you can get better.”

A Certified Peer Specialist has a unique ability to create healing connections and relationships quickly. It is their willingness to share their own struggles with the illness, to be honest about how hard the challenges are and what barriers they themselves were faced with that gives them real credence. Sharing their firsthand knowledge about accessing help and services can be extremely beneficial to people, especially those that do not believe that accessing services will make much difference.

A Certified Peer

Specialists role in working directly with people that have a mental illness is important, but a more subtle, but not less important role they play, is part of a treatment team and within an organization.

Having a Certified Peer Specialist as part of a treatment team ensures that the special knowledge and insight of someone that has received such services is heard. They offer a perspective that is priceless. They do not diminish the role and expertise of the professionals on the team, on the contrary, they enhance it.

The Certified Peer Specialist’s engagement and trust with a new client can make the services offered by the other members of the team more acceptable and increases client engagement. It takes the clinical services offered by the other team members and enhances it with hopefulness.

Certified Peer Specialists can offer feedback to team members and help them see situations from the client’s perspective.

Employing Certified Peer Specialists can also enhance an overall agencies recovery culture. That is to say that their existence and integration into the operations and culture of the agency, keeps everyone focused on the need to have a recovery focus, to give all recipients of services the best opportunity for recovery and ensures that we see that recovery potential in everyone.

Barb Durbahn, MSW, LICSW is Director of Community Programs at South Central Human Relations Center, Owatonna, Minnesota. Among the programs she supervises are Safe Harbour, Youngdahl Living, Adult Mental Health Rehabilitative Services, Housing Programs, and Mobile Crisis.

SCHRC is a nonprofit Community Mental Health Center, founded in 1964. They serve approximately 3000 people each year through 20 programs. They have over 130 staff in 16 locations in 5 counties. www.schrc.com

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RECIPES FROM THE FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COOKBOOK 2006 ED.

CRANBERRY NUT BREAD

Ingredients:

1 egg

3/4 c. sugar

1 c. dairy sour cream

2 1/4 c. flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. salt

3 T. grated orange peel

1/2 c. chopped walnuts

1 c. cranberries, coarsely chopped

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Beat egg in large mixing bowl. Add sugar and mix well. Carefully stir in sour cream.

Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add to creamed mixture, stirring just until moistened.

Add orange peel, nuts, and cranberries.

Turn into 1 buttered 5x9" pan.

Bake 45-50 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely on wire rack. Yield: 1 large loaf.

BY MARGARET WILLIAMSON

STEELE COUNTY
Times
Always local,
all the time.

County Living

FRED delivers food to needy in Steele County

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff riter

Wiping tears away, an elderly Steele County woman thanked the Steele County Food Shelf for delivering food for her pantry.

Rich Pettet, program coordinator for Meals in Motion, said it has been most inspirational to see the reaction of recipients during the early days of the Meals in Motion program which delivers free food to eligible county citizens.

“This wonderful lady was most appreciative for the food donated to her through the program. “She said she would now have more money at the end of the month for baking and cooking.

The Steele County Food Shelf Meals in Motion program provides food for those who are unable to make it to the food shelf in Owatonna, says Steele County Food Shelf executive director Nancy Ness.

Due to a state grant from Minnesota Hunger Solutions, the Steele County Food Shelf was able to purchase a \$48,000, 2016 Ford van, retro fitted with shelves, a ramp and two refrigeration units.

The van, decorated in colorful

graphics by the Learning Zone Express, is named FRED, an acronym for Food Resource Education Delivery. Sign Pro applied the graphics on the van.

Director Ness said that a United Way study recently revealed that transportation is a main cause of hunger in Steele County. Based on that founding, the Food Shelf then looked for ways to deliver food to needy people of the county.

The grant application had been completed just prior to Ness joining the Food Shelf last Dec. 1. Soon after she assumed her duties, Pettet, a pastoral counselor, was hired to oversee the Meals in Motion program. “I like to help people so when I saw an ad for this program, I put in my resume,” Pettet said.

“Our mission is to go out and locate people who can’t come to us for food,” Pettet remarked. He said seniors, the disabled and shut-ins are eligible for the program.

The food will be delivered to the communities of Blooming Prairie, Medford, Ellendale and Owatonna. The program will hopefully expand as time goes on, Pettet said.

“We’ve had an overwhelming response and are taking baby steps with the program,” said

Ness.

First delivery was made by Pettet in Jan. 31 to the Kay Knutson assisted living complex in Owatonna. The delivery to needy county residents included fresh fruits and vegetables, everything from cereal to eggs, milk, meat, canned vegetables and potatoes.

On the first day of delivery, Pettet said he loaded 700 pounds of food and delivered 640 pounds.

The first delivery to Blooming Prairie at the senior center was made on Feb. 3. The senior center in Blooming Prairie will be the hub for BP deliveries on the first and third Fridays of each month, Pettet says.

A larger delivery, 2600 pounds of food, was delivered to 21 people at the Lincoln Square Apartments in Owatonna. “We also plan to reach out to the Valley View Apartments in Owatonna and to the Maple Trail Apartments of Owatonna, said Pettet. Medford is also on the future delivery list. People can register the day of deliveries.

More than 100 households were registered for the program initially. “We should have more than 200 registered by next September,” reports director

Ness. The program will serve about 150 households every other week.

Pettet and Food Shelf volunteers have made lots of calls and visits to determine recipients. “Money is a big issue for these people and the program has made them very happy,” Pettet said.

Food for the program comes from the Channel One Food Bank in Rochester. Food is also donated locally by local grocers.

The grant that helped make this program possible involved the following agencies: Accessible Space, Allina Health, Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Owatonna Public Schools, the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership for Dodge and Steele counties, Steele County Food Shelf, United Way and the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Guidelines for assistance from the Meals in Motion program are: family of one, \$23,760; family of two, \$32,040; family of three, \$40,320; family of four, \$48,600; family of five, \$56,880; family of six, \$65,160; family of seven, \$73,460 and family of eight, \$81,780.

For more information on the program, contact Pettet at 507-455-2991.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

FRED is the newest associate at the Steele County Food Shelf. FRED is actually a delivery van purchased by the Steele County Food Shelf to deliver food to the needy in Steele County. Pictured by the van are program coordinator Rich Pettet and Food Shelf executive director Nancy Ness.

Baskerville is mysteriously good time

BY **EMILY SCHOENBECK**
County Staff Writer

It’s no mystery why audiences are enjoying Paradise Community Theatre’s production of Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery.

Directed by Jon Terrill, the play follows the story of Holmes’s most famous mystery, The Hound of the Baskervilles. Fans of the story will enjoy a fairly faithful adaptation with one new twist: the humor. Baskerville is as much a comedy as it is a mystery. Outside of Holmes and Watson, the long list of characters is played by only three actors.

Baskerville is famous for being the story where Doctor Watson is most prominent, and Samuel Temple’s portrayal of the character justice. He’s perfectly at home in the Victorian dialogue and brings good humor to Watson’s narration.

Owatonna resident Buddy

Ricker plays the American Baronet that’s Holmes and Watson’s client, and he is fun every minute he’s swaggering about on stage complete with cowboy hat and pistol.

The real hat tip, however, goes to Kathy Rush, as she jumps from multiple characters, each with their own voice and carriage. You have to remind yourself that all of these characters are being played by just one actress.

The production design itself is equally spirited with sound and sight gags. When Rush is already playing a female in a scene, her male co-stars step-up in full drag. The mention of an ominous locale is followed by dramatic music.

The mystery is full of twists and turns. While Sherlock mysteries are definitely easier to follow in book form, the cast does a good job of helping the audience track the action. You probably won’t solve the

mystery before Sherlock, but then that’s what makes him the great detective.

If you’re a fan of Sherlock or any good sleuths for that matter, this production will tease your mind, even as it tickles your funny bone.

The remaining performances are on February 16, 17, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at <http://www.paradisecenterforthearts.org/tickets/> or at the Paradise Center box office for \$16 for the general public or \$10 for students.

Credits Written By Ken Ludwig
Directed By Jon Terrill

Cast George Hemphill III, Samuel Temple, Patrick Braucher, William “Buddy” Ricker, Kathy Rush

Designers & Crew
Producer - Kathy Rush
Stage Managers - Sandee Hardy-Hagen, Paula Goebel,

Mark Ahnemann, Tim Vizina
Sound Design - Drew Whitehead
Light Design - Mark Tousignant
Wig Design -Denise Haaland

Movie Review: The Lego Batman Movie



BY **EMILY SCHOENBECK**
County Staff Writer

Batman is back in all his Lego brick glory to take on his greatest gallery of villains yet.

After defeating the latest caper of Gotham’s criminals led by the Joker, Batman finds himself at a loss for what to do when crime in the city begins to drop rapidly removing the

need for a masked vigilante. Commissioner Barbara Gordon wants him to team up with the city’s police, and his trusty butler Alfred wants him to take the orphan Dick Grayson under his wing as Robin. Orphaned himself and used to fighting his own battles, Batman isn’t sure he wants to be a part of a team, much less a new family. Time is running out for him to decide, however, as sinister forces are plotting Gotham’s destruction.

In a world where the current trend is to make superhero movies gritty and dark, “The Lego Batman Movie” is a welcome breath of hilarity. Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, is as much an arrogant man-child as he is a crime-fighting detective. His absolute self-confidence and tendency to burst into raps brings a level of ridiculousness to the action that only something as bright and snappy as a Lego movie could pull off.

The movie’s humor pokes

fun at Batman’s long comic book and movie history. It frequently references the newest Batman V Superman movie and even has a few throwbacks to the campy 60’s TV show. It’s a love letter to anyone who grew up under the protection of Gotham’s Dark Knight.

The stop-motion Lego animation is colorful and keeps the jokes coming fast. The scope of the sets is fantastic as Batman whips through the cityscape, out to Wayne Island, and into the cavernous Bat Cave.

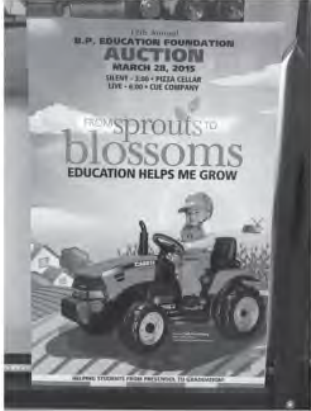
The plot of the movie is tightly written, but also a lighter-fare. There isn’t a big plot twist or a deep theme explored, but it’s the “Lego Batman Movie.” It’s meant to be fun, not deep, and there it triumphs.

If you’re looking for someone to save your weekend, look no further than the caped crusader.

Rated: PG

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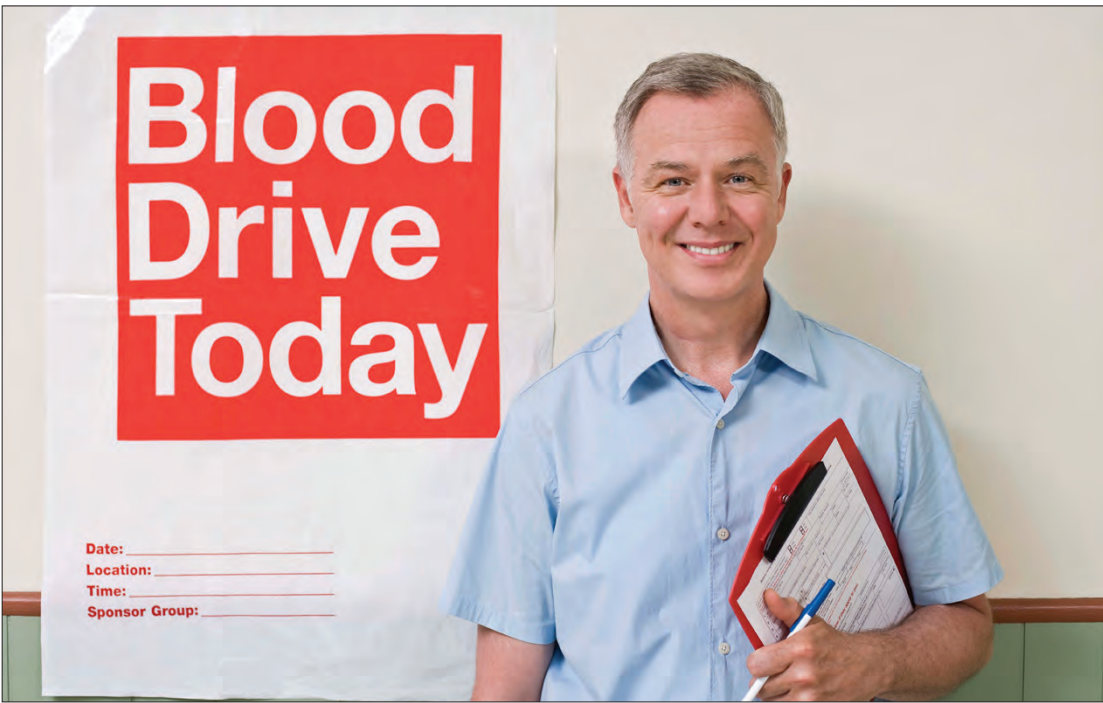
Volunteering as an older adult: find the right fit for your new lifestyle

Many parents feel involving their children in volunteering at an early age can have a profound, long-lasting impact on their kids. But youngsters are not the only ones who can reap great rewards from volunteering, as studies show that men and women at, beyond or approaching retirement age also benefit greatly from volunteer work.

Research from the Corporation for National and Community Service found that more than 20 million older adults contributed in excess of three billion hours of community service time each year from 2011 to 2013. The reasons why older adults volunteer are varied, but in its 2014 survey the AARP's Experience Corps found that 97 percent of its volunteers indicated that their volunteer work with the organization gave them a sense of purpose.

Older adults who want to volunteer but have little or no history with volunteering might not know where to begin with regard to finding the right opportunity. The right fit can make all the difference for volunteers and the people they help, and the following tips might help older adults as they look for an opportunity that best utilizes their skills and experience.

- Know your schedule. Older adults who are still working but want to volunteer may have a firm grasp on their schedules, but even retirees should not overestimate how much time they have to volunteer. Before you begin to



look for an opportunity, write down your commitments and daily schedule, using this list to determine how much free time you have to volunteer. Some opportunities require greater time commitments than others, so make sure you know just how much time you can devote to an opportunity before signing up.

- Give due consideration to your experience. Older adults who have retired or are on the cusp of retirement have a lifetime of experience they can use to help others. Imparting wisdom learned in your professional life can provide a sense of purpose and even make you feel as though you are still actively involved in the industry where you built your professional reputation. But life experience can also prove

invaluable in volunteering opportunities. Mentoring programs give volunteers the chance to help young people, and such opportunities can involve more than just offering professional advice.

- Don't downplay the significance of certain opportunities. Volunteering opportunities come in many variations, and each is significant in its own right. Coaching a grandchild's soccer team can have as significant an impact on the people you help as other volunteering opportunities. Volunteers offer their time because they have a passion to help others, and that help can be given in a myriad of ways.
- Leave time for the rest of your life. Volunteering is a selfless act, and volunteers

are the backbone of many successful charitable organizations. But older men and women should leave time for the rest of their lives as well. Retirement should be fulfilling but also include time for recreation, so don't downplay how important hobbies are to you in an attempt to find more time to volunteer. No retiree wants to grow resentful of his or her volunteer work because it leaves little time for other pursuits, so do your best to balance your charitable endeavors with the other things in life that matter to you.

Finding the right volunteer opportunity can make all the difference for older men and women who want to give back to their communities

Did you know?

A new study in the journal *Neurology* suggests that working out is the most effective way to protect the brain from Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers studied roughly 700 study participants from Scotland, all of whom were born in 1936. Each participant reported their levels of leisure and physical activity at age 70, rating their physical activity on a scale from moving only to perform household chores to participating in heavy exercise or competitive sport several times per week. Participants were also asked to rate how often they engaged in social or intellectual activities.

At age 73, participants received an MRI to measure certain biomarkers in their brains. Those who participated in more physical activity showed less brain shrinkage and fewer white matter lesions, both of which can be signs of Alzheimer's disease. And while social and intellectual activities can be beneficial in preventing Alzheimer's disease, the study found that social and intellectual engagement weren't as helpful to the brain as physical exercise.

The types of physical exercise most beneficial to the brain are still being studied, though information presented at the 2012 Alzheimer's Association's International Conference suggested that strength training is perhaps the most effective form of exercise.



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Cancer Corner

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

Behaviors that may help you reduce your risk for colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer is a formidable foe. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. Colorectal cancer is similarly lethal in Canada, where the Canadian Cancer Society reports it is the second leading cause of cancer death in men and the third leading among women.

Some risks for colorectal cancer are beyond an individual's control. For example, the CCS notes that a personal or family history of polyps in the colon, rectum or both significantly increases a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer. Lynch syndrome, a condition caused by gene mutations, causes polyps to develop in the lining of the colon, rectum or both. Since Lynch syndrome is inherited, there is nothing men and women can do to reduce their risk of developing it.

Research into colorectal cancer is ongoing, making it difficult for doctors to say certain behaviors or approaches are certain to reduce a person's risk of developing the disease. But there are certain things individuals can do that might help save them from falling victim to colorectal cancer.

- Get screened. The CDC notes that colorectal cancer usually begins when polyps



form in the colon or rectum. If they go undetected, these polyps may turn into cancer. Screening can detect polyps early so they are found before they develop into cancer. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends colorectal cancer screening using high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing, or FOBT; sigmoidoscopy; or colonoscopy for men and women between the ages of 50 and 75.

- Embrace physical activity. While men and women who are physically active can still get colorectal cancer, the CCS notes that people who live sedentary lifestyles are at a higher risk of developing the disease than those who are active.

- Maintain a healthy weight. According to the CCS, people who are overweight or obese have greater incidence rates of colorectal cancer than those who maintain healthy weights. The CCS also notes that men with a high body mass index, or BMI, seem to be most at risk of developing colorectal cancer.
- Limit alcohol consumption. The CDC notes that some studies have shown that limiting alcohol consumption may reduce a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is a devastating disease, but men and women who embrace healthy behaviors may be able to lower their risks.

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County Living

Steele County employee salaries

Employee Name	Employee Status: PT/FT/ Commissioner	Department	Monthly Wages
AASETH, AMBER	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 6,642.13
AASETH, NIJOLE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 738.92
ABBE, JAMES	Commissioner	Commissioner	\$ 1,823.84
ADAMS, PENNY	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 849.33
AFODA, ADNANE	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,506.53
AHRENS, SAMANTHA	Full Time	Probation	\$ 4,868.93
ALFORD, BARBARA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 3,986.67
ANDERSON, BRIAN	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 4,530.93
ANDRIST, JOSHUA	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,045.60
ARCHAMBAULT, KRISTI	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 5,484.27
AVELAR, TRAVIS	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,336.80
AVERY, JAMIE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 788.67
BABCOCK, RENEE	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 3,813.33
BALLSTADT, DENISE	Full Time	Environmental Services	\$ 3,619.20
BALZER, LAWRENCE	Full Time	Landfill	\$ 4,215.47
BARTSCH, CHRISTINE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 2,215.20
BEHNE, CHRISTOPHER	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
BENDZICK, JESSICA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 3,967.60
BENSON, ANITA	Full Time	Highway	\$ 10,219.73
BENTLEY, KRISTY	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 4,777.07
BENZ, SEAN	Full Time	Park & Rec	\$ 6,052.80
BETTIN, LINDA	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 3,050.67
BIESTERFELD, THOMAS	Full Time	Planning & Zoning	\$ 4,810.00
BLOOD, BRENDA	Full Time	Auditor	\$ 4,097.60
BLOWERS, MARK	Full Time	IT	\$ 4,220.67
BLUM, KRISTI	Full Time	Recorder	\$ 3,433.73
BORCHARDT, NANCY	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 5,484.27
BORGER, JOHN	Full Time	IT	\$ 8,448.27
BOYD, LUCY	Full Time	IT	\$ 4,005.73
BOYSEN, NATHAN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,884.53
BRADY, ELIZABETH	Full Time	Highway	\$ 6,773.87
BRADY, JAMES	Commissioner	Commissioner	\$ 1,823.84
BRANDERHORST, ROSE	Part Time	Recorder	\$ 1,392.30
BROMLEY, WILLIAM	Full Time	Probation	\$ 3,579.33
BROOKS, BRIAN	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 3,239.60
BROSE, ERIN	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 2,362.88
BROWN, DAVID	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,288.27
BUCK, CALEB	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 3,962.40
BUSHEY, JODI	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 7,510.53
BUSHO, BRADLEY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
BUTTERA, ANTHONY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,752.80
CAHOON, ERIN	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 1,910.83
CARSRUD, M MICHELLE	Part Time	Landfill	\$ 775.23
CHRISTENSON, JUANITA	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 3,295.07
COLE, JAMES	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 5,811.87
COTTINGHAM, TRENT	Full Time	Highway	\$ 5,820.53
COUSINS, ETHAN	Full Time	IT	\$ 5,529.33
CRANDALL, NANCY	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 2,801.07
DAVID, ANTHONY	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,548.40
DE VOS, JANE	Full Time	Veteran Services	\$ 3,867.07
DELAITSCH, MAREN	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 2,605.03
DEML, CHRISTOPHER	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,608.93
DEPLUTCH, JEREMY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
DEPLUTCH, KRISTIN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,572.53
DIERCKS, KRISTI	Full Time	Probation	\$ 3,967.60
DIERSEN, TYLER	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 5,177.47
DITTRICH, JODIE	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 3,239.60
DREHER, LUCAS	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
DUDLEY, TERESA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 4,423.47
EDEL, ERIN	Full Time	Highway	\$ 5,484.27
EDEL, TODD	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 4,336.80
EFFERTZ, WILLIAM	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 8,222.93
ELVEBAK, LAURA	Full Time	Administration	\$ 9,966.67
FAST, HEATHER	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 3,582.80
FINER, JORDYNN	Full Time	Human Resources	\$ 3,962.40
FLATGARD, NICHOLAS	Full Time	GIS	\$ 5,213.87
FORBES, JULIA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 5,484.27
FORYSTEK, CHAD	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,964.40
FOUNTAIN, KAREN	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 4,358.90
FOWLER, CYNTHIA	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,316.00
FREAR, BENJAMIN	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,220.67
GILORMINI, RENE	Full Time	Veteran Services	\$ 6,423.73
GJERALD, NANCY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,097.60
GUZMAN, AARON	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,548.40
GWIN, MATTHEW	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,572.53
HALVERSON, STEVEN	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 4,946.93
HANSON, SCOTT	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 7,852.00
HARTLE, JODELL	Full Time	Auditor	\$ 5,529.33
HARTLE, JOYCE	Full Time	Treasurer	\$ 5,346.47
HEBEL, JUSTIN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 5,518.93
HELGESON, CRAIG	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,090.67
HELGET, DARRIN	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,548.40
HINZE, ALICYN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
HOFFMANN, CHRISTINE	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 5,024.93
HOFSTAD, KAREN	Full Time	Extension	\$ 3,322.80
HOLLAND, BRUCE	Full Time	Landfill	\$ 5,950.53
HOLTHUS, LYNN	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 7,325.07
HOLTON, JAMES	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,548.40
HOREJSI, JOSHUA	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,090.67
HORMANN AYERS, CHRISTY	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 7,240.13
HUEBBE, GREGORY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
HULLOPETER, LESA	Full Time	Recorder	\$ 4,061.20
HUMMEL, SETH	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
HUMPHREY, SAMANTHA	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,614.00
IHRKE, LAURA	Full Time	Auditor	\$ 8,408.40
ISENOR, LAURA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 5,331.73
JENSEN, DAVID	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,288.27
JENSEN, DOUGLAS	Full Time	Highway	\$ 5,219.07
JENSEN, LOREN	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,288.27
JOHNSON, JULIE	Full Time	Human Resources	\$ 7,739.33
JOHNSON, PAUL	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,614.00
JORE, SHAWN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
KAISER, ROSALVA	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 3,541.20
KAROW, KAREN	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 3,239.60
KARSTEN, CHARLES	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,378.40
KASPER, STEVEN	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 4,336.80
KENT, LEAH	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,423.47
KLUG, ALLAN	Full Time	IT	\$ 4,752.80
KOCH, MATTHEW	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,463.20
KOENIG, JOLEEN	Part Time	Extension	\$ 3,189.33
KOFSTAD, MELISSA	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 6,226.13
KOROGI, JANET	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 4,203.33
KOZEL, KEVIN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,220.67
KRELL, DENISE	Full Time	Landfill	\$ 3,596.67
KRUCKEBERG, RANDY	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,288.27
KRUEGER, GREGORY	Commissioner	Commissioner	\$ 1,823.84
KVIEN, RICKY	Full Time	Recorder	\$ 6,564.13
LARSON, TAMMY	Part Time	Landfill	\$ 314.17
LARSON, TIMOTHY	Full Time	Landfill	\$ 3,712.80
LEBGUE, ADIL	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,572.53
LEE, MINDY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47

Employee Name	Employee Status: PT/FT/ Commissioner	Department	Monthly Wages
LOFTUS, JED	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,808.27
MACHT, CHET	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,220.67
MALEPSY, ANTHONY	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,090.67
MARAZES, MELISSA	Part Time	Probation	\$ 1,825.20
MCCARTY, BECKY	Full Time	Highway	\$ 6,772.13
MCGINN, MICHAEL	Full Time	Park & Rec	\$ 3,700.67
MCGUIRE, GINA	Full Time	Human Resources	\$ 5,702.67
MCINTOSH, DANIEL	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 10,731.07
MCMANN, KATY	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 4,777.07
MEIER, KAREN	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,061.33
MEIXNER FREAR, NICOLE	Full Time	Probation	\$ 4,203.33
MEYER, JULIE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 782.08
MILLER, JACOB	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,090.67
MILLER, KORTNEY	Full Time	Auditor	\$ 3,433.73
MILLER, TONIA	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 3,867.07
NELSON, CONNIE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 685.88
NELSON, GREGORY	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 4,946.93
NELSON, MICHAEL	Full Time	Planning & Zoning	\$ 5,674.93
NYQUIST, JANE	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 5,484.27
OKINS, GARY	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 6,274.67
OLSON, RICHELLE	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 5,518.93
OOLMAN, DALE	Full Time	Planning & Zoning	\$ 6,831.07
PETERSON, LIANE	Full Time	Recorder	\$ 3,986.67
PIEPHO, CATHERINE	Full Time	Treasurer	\$ 7,172.53
PIEPHO, NANCY	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 2,622.10
PLUT, KRYSTAL	Full Time	Probation	\$ 3,579.33
PRIEBE, JOVAE	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,220.67
PRISSEL, PAUL	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 5,822.27
PROBST, ANGIE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 857.35
PRUSHA, JOYCE	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 4,884.53
RADEL, BRADY	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,262.13
RADUE, MARK	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 4,014.40
RICHARDS, JOYCE	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 5,964.40
RIPPLE, MARY	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 2,801.07
RISCH, LISA	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,295.07
ROBBINS, SEAN	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,220.67
ROBINSON, JARRED	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,362.67
ROGGENBUCK, AMY	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 7,985.47
RUPPRECHT, BARBARA	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,316.00
SCHAMMEL, TIMOTHY	Full Time	Probation	\$ 7,326.80
SCHLUETER, CHAD	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
SCHMIDT, RACHEL	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 5,024.93
SCHROHT, STEVEN	Full Time	Park & Rec	\$ 6,831.07
SCHULZ, STEVEN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
SEIFERT, ANDREW	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,659.33
SKALA, LINDA	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
SMITH, BRIANNA	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,614.00
SMITH, MICHAEL	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,220.67
SOMAGE, KATHERINE	Full Time	Planning & Zoning	\$ 3,614.00
SOUKUP, KAREN	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 3,986.67
STANDKE, LACY	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 3,867.07
STARMAN, ROBERT	Full Time	Highway	\$ 5,347.33
STEFFENSMEIER, CAREY	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 4,628.00
STENEMAN, JESSE	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
STOCKWELL, TROY	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 5,241.60
SU, JENNIFER	Full Time	Probation	\$ 5,045.73
TAPPE, DEBBIE	Full Time	Assessor	\$ 3,596.67
TEICHROEW, JAYSON	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,478.93
THIELE, LON	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 9,961.47
TRIHUS, MELISSA	Full Time	Recorder	\$ 3,395.60
TSCHOPP, STEPHEN	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,362.67
TWADDLE, MARCUS	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,851.47
ULRICH, MARY	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 5,950.53
URCH, MARY	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 4,951.92
VANRAVENHORST, DEBRA	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 685.88
VERMILYEA, DANIEL	Full Time	Planning & Zoning	\$ 4,926.13
WANNER, TAMI	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,879.33
WAYPA, LISA	Full Time	Public Health	\$ 6,226.13
WEGENER, ANDREA	Full Time	Administration	\$ 4,090.67
WENCL, DIANNE	Part Time	Public Health	\$ 862.07
WENCL, GERALD	Full Time	Highway	\$ 4,288.27
WILSON, BENJAMIN	Full Time	Detention Center	\$ 3,731.87
WINTER, KAREN	Full Time	Auditor	\$ 3,295.07
WINTER-POLZIN, TARA	Full Time	Probation	\$ 6,465.33
WITTER, SEAN	Full Time	Highway	\$ 3,362.67
WOBSCHALL, TANNER	Full Time	Building & Grounds	\$ 3,395.60
WOLTMAN, KARI	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 4,884.53
YOUNGQUIST, WILLIAM	Full Time	Sheriff	\$ 6,598.80
ZABEL, STACEY	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 3,986.67
ZEKOFF, SASHA	Full Time	Attorney	\$ 5,876.00
ZEMAN, DEBORAH	Full Time	Probation	\$ 6,465.33

SCHS seeking nominations for Preservation Awards

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) is seeking nominations for its 2017 Preservation Awards. Each year two Steele County buildings or properties are recognized for their outstanding preservation, and / or restoration efforts. Honorees in the past have included Jefts Hall @ Pillsbury, Kottke Jewellers, KIK Graphics, Lerberg’s Store, Owatonna Public Utilities, the First Baptist Church, the Zamboni Building, the Alexander home, and many others.

For a property to be considered, it should accurately reflect the architecture of the time it was built, be as close in its original detail as possible, and be in above average condition. Historical significance of the property and provenance are also desirable when choosing a nominee. Nominations may include homes, businesses, farmsteads, or other rural properties.

“We’re asking for input and suggestions from the general

public for this year’s nominees. There are many beautiful properties throughout the County, and it is fitting that we recognize our Steele County citizens for their preservation efforts” said SCHS Executive Director, Kim Purscell.

All nominations must be received at the SCHS office by April 1st so that the selection process can begin. Awards will be announced in May during National Preservation Month. To nominate a property, please submit a letter explaining why

you have chosen this property, some background information, the property’s historic significance, a photograph, and a contact to call. Nominated properties will be visited by a selection committee. For more information please call 451-1420 and ask for Kim. To submit a nomination, you can e-mail it to kim.purscell@steelehistorymuseum.org, or mail it to SCHS 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN 55060.

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How Medicare covers preventive health services

Dear Savvy Senior,
Does Medicare cover 100 percent of all preventive health care screenings? I'm due to get a colonoscopy and a few other tests, but I want to find out if I'll have to pay anything before I proceed.
New to Medicare

Dear New,
Medicare currently covers a wide array of free preventive and screening services to help you stay healthy, but not all services are completely covered.
You also need to be aware that the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) – which helps financially support Medicare – may very well cause these free preventive services to be eliminated in the future. But in the meantime, here's how it

works.
Free Preventive Services
Currently, most of Medicare's preventive services are available to all Part B beneficiaries for free, with no copays or deductibles, as long as you meet basic eligibility standards. Mammograms; colonoscopies; shots against flu, pneumonia, and hepatitis B; screenings for diabetes, depression, and heart conditions; and counseling to combat obesity, alcohol abuse, and smoking are just some of Medicare's lengthy list of covered services. But to get these services for free, you need to go to a doctor who accepts Medicare "on assignment," which means he or she has agreed to accept the Medicare approved rate as full payment.

Medicare also offers a free "Welcome to Medicare" exam with your doctor in your first year, along with annual wellness visits thereafter. But don't confuse these with full physical examinations. These are prevention-focused visits that provide only an overview of your health and medical risk factors and serve as a baseline for future care.
For a complete list of services along with their eligibility requirements, visit *Medicare.gov* and click on the "What Medicare Covers" tab at the top of the page, followed by "Preventive & screening services."
Hidden Costs
You also need to know that while the previously listed Medicare services are completely free,

you can be charged for certain diagnostic services or additional tests or procedures related to the preventive service. For example, if your doctor finds and removes a polyp during your preventive care colonoscopy screening, the removal of the polyp is considered diagnostic and you will likely be charged for it. Or, if during your annual wellness visit, your doctor needs to investigate or to treat a new or existing problem, you will probably be charged here too.
Cost Sharing Services
Medicare also offers several other preventive services that require some out-of-pocket cost sharing. With these tests, you'll have to pay 20 percent of the cost of the service, after you've met your \$183 Part B yearly deductible. The services that fall under this category include glaucoma



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screenings, diabetes self-management trainings, barium enemas to detect colon cancer, and digital rectal exams to detect prostate cancer.
Medicare Advantage Members
If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, your plans are also required to cover the same free preventive services as original Medicare as long as you see in-network providers. If you see providers that are not in your plan's network, charges will typically apply.
Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit *SavvySenior.org*. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC *Today* show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, February 12th, 2007
Tim and Tina Bush are doing something not everybody can do- turn things green. For many folks, having a green thumb is not their thing but for the Bushs, it is what they hope to do even more this upcoming year.
Last year the Bushs, along with their three children, planted 10,000 bulbs and the family is looking at putting 20,000 more in the ground this coming spring. Tina told us that the kids get really involved by going to the markets with them in Austin, Owatonna and Blooming Prairie.
Tina Bush, a transplant to the Blooming area from Red Wing, Min., commented that she has always loved flowers. When

we asked her where her desire came from to work with flowers, especially gladiolus, she said, "My interest came as a young girl. I used to go out and gather flowers to bring home to my mom. I loved the bright, vibrant colors, they made me smile and I noticed that they made everyone else happy as well."
20 Years Ago
Tuesday, February 11th, 1997
Any fans of Blooming Prairie High School basketball or wrestling probably have noticed new chairs for the various teams in which to sit. Thirty new cushioned chairs have been recently donated by the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association to the schools, and will be used in a variety of

ways at BPHS.
The charis have the high school name on the backs and also a picture of the "Awesome Blossom" under the school names. Since the teams and the scorer's table was moved to the stage this season the attractive chairs are very noticeable by fans in the bleachers on the east side of the gymnasium.
In the past few years the BPRA has given to the school and also the community such items as the portable bleachers at the elementary school gym, the new infield and backstop at Victory Field, and the new chairs. BPRA is able to do these projects through their fund-raising activities.
One of the biggest of these affairs is the Pancake Breakfast that will be held

this year at the Servicemen's Club on April 6th. The BPRA is appreciative of the community support in the past and the organization promises to continue to serve the youth of our community as well as it possibly can.
50 Years Ago
Thursday, February 10th, 1967
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bierschenk, Nashua, Iowas, were honored at a banquet and awards night on Saturday evening, Jan. 22nd, at the Club Iowa in Charles City, Iowa.

Awards were presented to five outstanding individuals in the area at the banquet by the Jaycees and Mr. Bierschenk was the recipient of the distinguished "Outstanding Young Farmer Award".
Mr. and Mrs. Bierschenk have three children and operate a large farm in the Nashua area. They feed steers and raise hogs.
Mrs. Bierschenk is the former Dorothy Sweazy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sweazy, Rt. 1, Blooming Prairie.

Thursday, February 12th, 1942
An all-time local record is believed to have been set Wednesday at the Bernard Olson farm sale, when a team of beautiful white-faced horses were sold for \$384. This is thought to be the highest price ever paid at auction for a team in this section in many years, Auctioneer Ole Olson reported that cows sold as high as \$151 at the sale and other items brought at very good prices. The auction had a very large attendance.



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Double Ceremony
Unites Two Couples
In Marriage Feb. 14

In a double wedding ceremony Thursday morning at 8:30 at St. Columbanus Catholic church, Miss Harriet Srsen, daughter of Mrs. Anna Srsen, became the bride of Frank Ressler, and Miss Tillie Christine Risovi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Risovi, Hamburg, N. D., became the bride of George Ressler. The bridegrooms are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ressler, Sr., Blooming Prairie. Rev. Fr. S. E. Mulcahy officiated at the impressive service.

Miss Srsen wore a honey sand beige suit of wool gabardine with a small red hat and a corsage of red carnations. Miss Risovi was attired in a gabardine suit of cocoa brown with lime green accessories and a corsage of red carnations.

Mrs. Srsen, mother of the bride, wore a rose beige mesh dress and the bridegrooms' mother was attired in melon wool gabardine.

Dinner was served 30 guests following the ceremony at the home of Miss Srsen's mother. A beautifully decorated cake was the centerpiece.

The contracting parties are very popular in the younger set and have a host of warm friends whose sincere best wishes will follow them on their matrimonial trip through life.

Both couples left for a short trip and are expected in Blooming Prairie today. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ressler will make their temporary home with Mrs. Srsen and Mr. and Mrs. George Ressler with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ressler, Sr.



ST. VALENTINE

"Way back when Grandpa was a boy, this season of the year inspired romantic swains to poetic effusions which were burning with fervor no matter how lacking in rhythm, meter or originality. Cute little cupids with bent bows and lace trimmed edges cavorted around the important declarations which dealt largely with blue violets and flaming red roses.

"Roses are red and violets blue,
My faithful love is all for you,"

—or—

"No heart will beat so true as mine

If you will be my Valentine" are examples of the messages slyly placed in the box at school or sometimes even mailed at the post office if the lad had been exceptionally lucky in earning more than the price of the lovely ten-center. Homemade copies of previous expressions of sentiment might be permissible for the general run of girls, but the one bright star of the firmament must have a store-bought valentine if it could be arranged by careful planning and hard labor.

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January Recollection Winner



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Brad Trom was the winner for The Time's January recollection contest with his memories as a farm boy growing up in Blooming Prairie. He won two tickets Chanhasen Dinner Theatre. The contest starts over every month with residents from around Blooming Prairie encouraged to write in with some of their favorite memories about Blooming in honor of the 150th anniversary.



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Huskies suffer tough loss



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Margo Achterkirch (23) attempts to skate into the offensive zone as the Raider ' defense closes in during the first period of the Huskies' 3-0 loss to Northfield in the semifinals of the Section 1A tournament in Northfield on Saturday. The loss marks to second-straight year Northfield ended Owatonna's season.

Northfield ends Owatonna's season for the second year in a row

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Northfield - For the second year in a row, the Owatonna Huskies girls hockey team faced Northfield with a berth to the state tournament on the line.

For the second straight season, the Raiders ended Owatonna season.

Scoring a goal in every period, the No. 2 Raiders blanked the Huskies 3-0 Saturday night at the Northfield Ice Arena in the semifinals of the Section 1A tournament.

"We had a good season. We put ourselves in a good spot. I felt like tonight, it was basically going to be a coin flip. They (Northfield) battled hard and we battled hard. I just don't know what to say," commented Huskies head coach Tim Hunst. "It's tough."

Despite not scoring the game's first goal until the 15:12-mark of the first period, the Raiders dominated in every fashion. They say speed kills and Northfield put that on display in the first period. They managed to quickly attack the offensive zone, while also being able to recover and get back on defense if the puck was poked away.

Owatonna just couldn't find the remedy, mustering just three shots on goal in the period – most

of which were clearing attempts that slid to the goaltender – compared to Northfield's 12. The Raiders' first goal of the game came after Katie Boland fed a crisp centering pass from the boards to McKenna Nelson who managed to fire a snipe before Owatonna goaltender Laura Ebeling could even counter.

The boards became almost like a sixth skater for the Raiders as much of the offense predicated on chipping the puck into the zone off the boards or firing long wrap-around passes.

The second period was a bit of a stronger showing for the Huskies as they managed to generate some momentum in the offensive zone, firing four-straight shots on goal prior to the Raiders even entering the Huskies' zone.

"I thought the second period, we were going pretty well there," Hunst added. "We got into a string of penalties there on both sides that slowed the game down a bit. We just couldn't get any shots in the net."

A moment in the second period provided some flare for fans in attendance and for Hunst, something he has never seen in a tournament game prior to tonight.

With Owatonna on the power play after Northfield was assessed a two-minute minor for tripping, Maddie LaPanta managed to create a turnover and

coast for a breakaway until Owatonna's Jamie Davison appeared to hook her arm. According to Hunst, the referee interpreted that LaPanta had enough of a clearing to be awarded a penalty shot.

As she was backing Ebeling into the crease, LaPanta fired a quick wrister between the legs of Ebeling to give the Raiders a 2-0 lead early in the second period. From there, it seemed like all the air was ripped from the lungs of Owatonna.

"Anytime a goal is scored, especially a penalty shot, it takes the wind out of you and I thought the girls battled hard," commented Hunst.

Lizzie Morsching would deliver the final blow to the Huskies, scoring at the 11:03-mark of the third period.

Huskies top Waseca in Section 1A quarterfinals

Coming into the Section 1A tournament, the Owatonna girls hockey team was in the midst of a three-game slump with one of its leading scorers in a drought.

Both ended against Waseca.

Scoring a pair of pair of goals and assisting on another, Jenna Bogen guided the No.3 ranked Huskies to a 3-1 win over the Blue Jays in the quarterfinals

of the Section 1A tournament Wednesday at the Four Seasons Centre.

"We were taking way too many things for granted; sitting back and not really forcing them (Waseca) to make mistakes," commented head coach Tim Hunst. "I felt like we improved on that, but we're going to need to play with the urgency we played with at the end of the game. That needs to be in every shift of every period in the game."

It wasn't an ideal start for the Huskies as Bogen was assessed a minor penalty for checking just ten seconds into the contest. Hunst mentioning that it appeared to wake up his team, noting that the pressure near center ice limited the Blue Jays' ability to create a rush.

Owatonna dominated the period, registering 16 shots on goal to just six for Waseca. One of which, gave the Huskies a 1-0 lead late in the first period.

Corralling a deflected shot attempt from Jamie Davison, Bogen hit a rushing Margo Achterkirch, who then fired a shot that just beat the pad of Waseca goaltender Danni Dahms from the edge of the blue line. It was strong showing for Bogen. After failing to register a point in the last three games, the senior registered three Wednesday, scoring two goals to go with the assist.

In an all too familiar sight for the Huskies, Waseca would tie the game 1-1 at the 1:31-mark of the second period after freshman Jayde Pederson was able to bury a breakaway.

The tie would last just under a minute.

After Anna Herzog was unable to redirect an Achterkirch shot, Bogen managed to control the puck enough to flick it past a sprawling Dahms to extend the Huskies' lead to 2-1 as Owatonna continued to establish a presence in the offensive zone.

Just a minute after Bogen's goal, the Huskies were on the penalty kill after Kiley Friedrichs was assessed a two-minute minor for high-sticking. Despite the Blue Jays being on the power-play, Owatonna continued to attack keeping the puck in the offensive zone for the vast majority of the kill attempt.

"We were trying to work it down in their (Waseca's) zone. It wasn't even about scoring a goal," he added. "We'll take the shorty (short-handed goal), but the longer we have it below their goal line, the less chance they have of scoring."

48 seconds into the penalty kill, Bogen was able to put in her second goal of the game after Dahms mishandled a Shannon VanReeth slap shot to put away the game for good.

FOUR-POINT STANCE



JOSH ZIMMER

Where's the etiquette

There was an event I was covering this week where something I saw and have been seeing over the past few years has really left me asking myself one question.

Where in the world did the proper etiquette for when the national anthem is played go?

Again, at this particular event, they announced to rise and remove your cap for the national anthem.

Now, I may have been woven from a different cloth due to being raised in a military family, but it seems like a fairly easy and straight forward concept. Right?

You stand toward the flag, remove your cap and place it over your heart.

I'm only 26 years old, but I wouldn't be surprised if it's been like that since our independence. Yet, someone walks in, with a beanie still on their head and cell phone attached to ear talking during the national anthem.

The part that really and personally chapped me, was that no one around her afterward said a word. NOT ONE.

From someone who has numerous friends and family serving, I find that completely out of line.

However, in this day in age, it's also now considered proper to kneel during the anthem. This all thanks to Colin Kaepernick, a man who says he is standing up for oppression, yet makes millions of dollars to play a game and wears a Fidel Castro t-shirt to a press conference. But, that discussion is neither here or there.

It's the principal in which is being set to the new norm.

To be clear, I'm not trying to prove one point over the other. However, whatever your political views may be, the one thing that should NEVER be disrespected should be the one symbol that is suppose to unite this country.

Of everything this country has been going through as of late, the one thing that unites everyone under the same banner is the colors.

It's a small act that speaks loudly.

The way I see it, thousands stand to defend it, the least we can do as civilians is stand to honor them and those passed.

**Editor's note: To read the complete column this week, go to www.steeledodgenews.com*



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Blossoms lose two

Blooming Priaire drops fifth-straight game in blowout to NRHEG

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

It has been many years since a Blossom boys' basketball team has scored only 22 points in a game, but that happened Friday, Feb.10, when NRHEG'S defense stifled the Blossoms all game long.

In fact, the Panthers' Oakley Baker matched the Blossom total with 22 points of his own, including six treys.

But it was the defense that impressed Coach Pat Churchill. "We came out and played defense about as well as we could play. We made everything difficult for them tonight. I was really proud of our defensive effort."

The Panthers exploded from the start and led 26-3 on the way to a resounding 39-14 edge at the half. BP managed just eight points in the second half, and Jarret Utpadel contributed eight points for NRHEG, and two other Pan-

thers added six points each.

Max Romeo counted half of the Blossom scoring with 11 points, and Jake Ressler counted six. NRHEG improved its season record to 19-2 overall and 8-1 in conference play.

BP dropped to 9-12 for the season and suffered its fifth straight loss.

EAGLES FLY PAST BLOSSOMS

Maple River counted six three-pointers in the first half on the way to a 77-45 conference victory over the BP boys on the Blossom court Tuesday, Feb 7. The Eagles put up 44 points in the first half.

"Maple River moved the ball well to find open shooters, and their scorers scored," remarked Blossom Coach Nate Piller. "We stayed pretty even on two-pointers, but we had no answer for the eight treys they made in the game."

"They had good balance and good looks at the basket,

while too often we were shooting off- balance or with altered mechanics. We have to do things better fundamentally within the framework of the offense".

Jeff Lewis led all scorers with 26 points for the Eagles, including three treys.

Gabe Hagen led the Blossoms with 12 points, and Jake Ressler added 10. No other Blossom had more than six points in the game. Kaden Thomas had the six points.

The JV team lost to Maple River in a close game 44-40. The Eagles led by nine with four minutes left, but a well-executed press moved the Blossoms within two points at the nine second mark.

Two Maple River free throws determined the final score. Trent Swenson had 10 points to lead the scoring, but free throws proved a problem, as the Blossoms made just 6-of-19 attempts. BP dropped to 12-7 for the season.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Gabe Hagen goes up for a layup in the first half of the Blossoms' 77-45 Gopher Conference loss to Maple River Tuesday at BPHS. Hagen scored a team-high 12 points.

Westfield wins season finale

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

Westfield won five of the last seven bouts on the way to another Gopher conference wrestling victory Thursday, Feb. 9, at BPHS.

The Razorbacks defeated JWP/WEM 51-26. Only Mitchell Oswald's four-point decision loss decision loss to Benji Lindquist 16-4 at 220, and Trey Chatman's pin by heavyweight Andreas Larson of JWP/WEM in the first period spoiled the run of wins.

That streak began with a forfeit win for Jordan Sullivan and continued with Seth Peterson's pin over Cole Peterson at 152.

A forfeit win for Colton Krell, Morgan Moreno's pin in the third period over Shae Wheelock at 170 and a fall for Tristan Reicken over Brady Bushmeyer in just 38 seconds of the first period at 182 put the Razorbacks up big.

The string of wins ended with Dylan Nirk's pin in the

third period over Will Storch.

Before the winning run of decisions, Westfield found itself trailing after six bouts. The Razorbacks won the first two bouts, when Alex Phenix outpointed Vaurus Crosby 7-0, with three takedowns and a penalty point at 106; and Ethan Arett kept his stellar dual season going with a pin at 1:28 of the first period over Tucker Reints at 113.

JWP/WEM cut the Westfield lead 9-6 with a pin over Joe Pirkel, but Jackson Heydt upped the Razorback lead with a pin early in the third period over Zach Vogts at 126.

Adam Rients got four points back for JWP/WEM with a 13-0 major decision over Quentin Kubista at 132.

JWP/WEM gained its first and only lead at 16-15 on Brendon Johnson's first period pin of Joey Meyer at 138.

By the time the JWP/WEM scored points again, Westfield led 51-16, and the final score favored the Razorbacks.

Prep basketball round up



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna senior Jay Sullivan (2) goes up for a layup during the first half of the Huskies' 97-61 loss to Rochester John Marshall Friday. Sullivan scored a team-high 20 points and added 26 in a win over Red Wing Saturday.

Girls basketball

NRHEG 65, WEM 45

Betsy Schoenrock counted 20 points; Marnie Wagner 18 points and 7 assists; and Maddie Wagner added 11 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, and 6 steals. The Panthers led by just 4 points 31-27 at the half, but they poured in 34 points in the second half onslaught. The JV team edged WEM 39-37.

Owatonna 71, Roch. JM 51

Forcing 21 turnovers, the Huskies managed to pull away from the Rockets.

Sydney Schultz led all scorers, recording a double-double. She scored 30 points to go with her 10 rebounds. Jenna Zeman added 14 points and four steals.

Owatonna 67, Red Wing 54

**stats were not reported prior to press.*

**Editor's note: scores from the Medford girls contests were not reported after attempts to retrieve stats. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to have the issue fixed.*

Boys Basketball

NRHEG 55, WEM 58

Zac Olson and Dallas McB-

room proved too much for the Panthers Tuesday, scoring a combined 42 points. Olson scored a game-high 32.

Suffering just its second loss in Class AA this season, the Panthers held a 22-21 edge at the half. Oakley Baker paced the Panthers with 23 points.

Owatonna 80, Red Wing 53

After struggling against the Rockets, Dalton Kubista scored 20 points while Jay Sullivan continued his scoring surge, recording 26 points.

Owatonna 61, Roch. JM 97

Outscoring the Huskies 50-32 in the second half, the Rockets cruised to a win Friday night at OHS.

John Marshall shot 40 percent from beyond the arc.

Sullivan scored a team-high 20 points in the loss.

Owatonna 76, Roch. Century 49

Kubista scored 27 points as Owatonna outscored the Panthers 40-20 in the second half.

**Editor's note: To read the full recap from the Owatonna girls game Feb.7 and the Boys game on Feb. 10, go to www.steeledodgenews.com*

Struggles mount for Blossoms girls

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

New Richland - In addition to getting down big early, the Awesome Blossom girls shot only 30 percent from the field, while the Panthers were making 40 percent of their attempts. NRHEG leaped to a 42-15 halftime lead and were never threatened in a 71-32 win Friday.

As NRHEG Coach Onika Peterson commented, "The girls came out ready to play tonight. They moved the ball well offensively, hitting cutters and seeing the floor well."

In contrast Coach John Bruns admitted, "A tough game for us tonight against the high-powered Panthers. We got down early, and could just never get anything going offensively all night."

The Panthers had a well-balanced attack, with five players scoring at least six points. Betsy Schoenrock led the parade with 14 points. Maddy Camerer had 12 while Maddie Wagner 11, and Rachel Collins

10, all got into double figures.

Marissa Larson and Sam Wurst counted 12 and 10 points for the Blossoms, but no other player could score more than four points for Blooming Prairie.

NRHEG outrebounded BP 38-17 in complete domination on the boards, as the Blossoms managed just one offensive rebound the entire game. The Blossoms turned the ball over 17 times to just 7 mistakes for the Panthers. It marked the fourth straight loss for the locals.

Maple River downs Blossoms

Mapleton - A disturbing routine of falling behind big early has popped up for the Awesome Blossom girls.

The latest big deficit came in a loss to Maple River 59-47 at Mapleton Tuesday, Feb. 7. The defeat left BP 5-5 in conference play.

The Blossoms pretty much sealed their fate when they fell behind 18-2 to begin the game, although the girls get a

lot of credit for climbing back into contention over the second half.

The Blossoms got within one possession a couple of times in the half, but was never able to tie the score.

"We dug ourselves an awfully big hole," commented Coach Bruns, "and we just couldn't dig ourselves all the way out in the second half. The slow start resulted from a lack of rebounding and a lot of carelessness with the ball."

"Some of that can be attributed to playing without senior guard Kylie Forystek, who missed another game due to illness. I was proud that the girls did not give up in the face of adversity."

Sam Wurst led the Blossom scoring again with 18 points, and Marissa Larson added 11. Maple River had a big edge in rebounding and made far fewer turnovers than the Blossoms.

Ayren Ingvalson contributed 8 points and McKenna Hein and Julia Worke both counted 5 points in the losing effort.



Submitted photo

Blooming Prairie's eighth grade basketball team poses for a photo after a second place finish at a tournament in Albert Lea Sunday. Pictured: Back row: Boone Carlson, Mitchell Fiebiger, Luke Larkowski, Chris Naatz, Coach Casey Anderson. Front row: Cole Christianson, Jacob Naatz, Alex Miller, Alex Piller

Huskies struggle

Owatonna drops a trio of contests in blowouts

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Looking to string together a pair of wins, the Owatonna boys hockey team had a set back against Rochester Century.

The Panthers went 60 percent on the power play, going 3-for-5 in the contest, beating Owatonna 4-1 Saturday night.

Nick Aney scored the first goal of the game at the 6:45-mark of the first period.

The Panthers would add a pair of power play goals in the third period just seconds after as Eric St. Marie and Skylar Klinghus scored at the 16:08 and 16:22-marks of the third period.

Braeden Meier’s goal at the 8:43-mark of the third period was the lone goal for the Huskies.

Faribault 0, Owatonna 6

Completing the season sweep of the Falcons, junior forward Nick Smith recorded the hat trick in the final two periods. The Huskies recorded goals in the opening minutes of all three periods. Brandon Meier (5:08 in the first), Tyler Wencil (4:20 in the second) and Nick Smith’s goal at the 3:53-mark of the third period gave him his first hat trick of the season. Smith scored his first two goals in the second period. His first goal was apart of a 3-for-7 effort on the power-play. Wencil and Luke Kubicek’s

goal early in the third period were the other two powerplay goals.

South St. Paul 4, Owatonna

Playing its second game in as many nights, the Huskies (11-10, 8-4) fell to the South St. Paul Packers 4-1 in nonconference action Tuesday. Matthew Gellerman scored two goals for the Packers. His first at the 12:14-mark of the first period gave South St. Paul an early 1-0 lead and his second would start a two-goal period.

John Swenson’s goal at the 8:07-mark of the second period cut the lead to 2-1 until South St. Paul managed to registered two-straight goals.

Chanhassen 6, Owatonna 0

If not for a winter storm, the Owatonna boys hockey team may have spent Monday preparing for its game against South St. Paul on Tuesday. Instead, the Huskies played host to the Chanhassen Storm.

Instead of going into their game against South St. Paul with a four-game winning streak, the Huskies are now looking for quick answers.

Powered by Jack Haley’s hat trick, the Storm beat the Huskies (11-9, 8-4 Big Nine) 6-0 in dominating fashion Monday at the Four Seasons Centre in Owatonna, snapping a three-game winning streak.

“From the minute we started I didn’t feel any energy on our

bench,” commented head coach Josh Storm. “I didn’t feel any engagement. Felt a lot like the first period against (Rochester) Mayo honestly.”

The Storm managed to find the back of the net early as Justin Kauls fed Haley – who was camped out in front of the net – at the 1:45-mark of the first period with a nice centering pass that just needed to be chipped in.

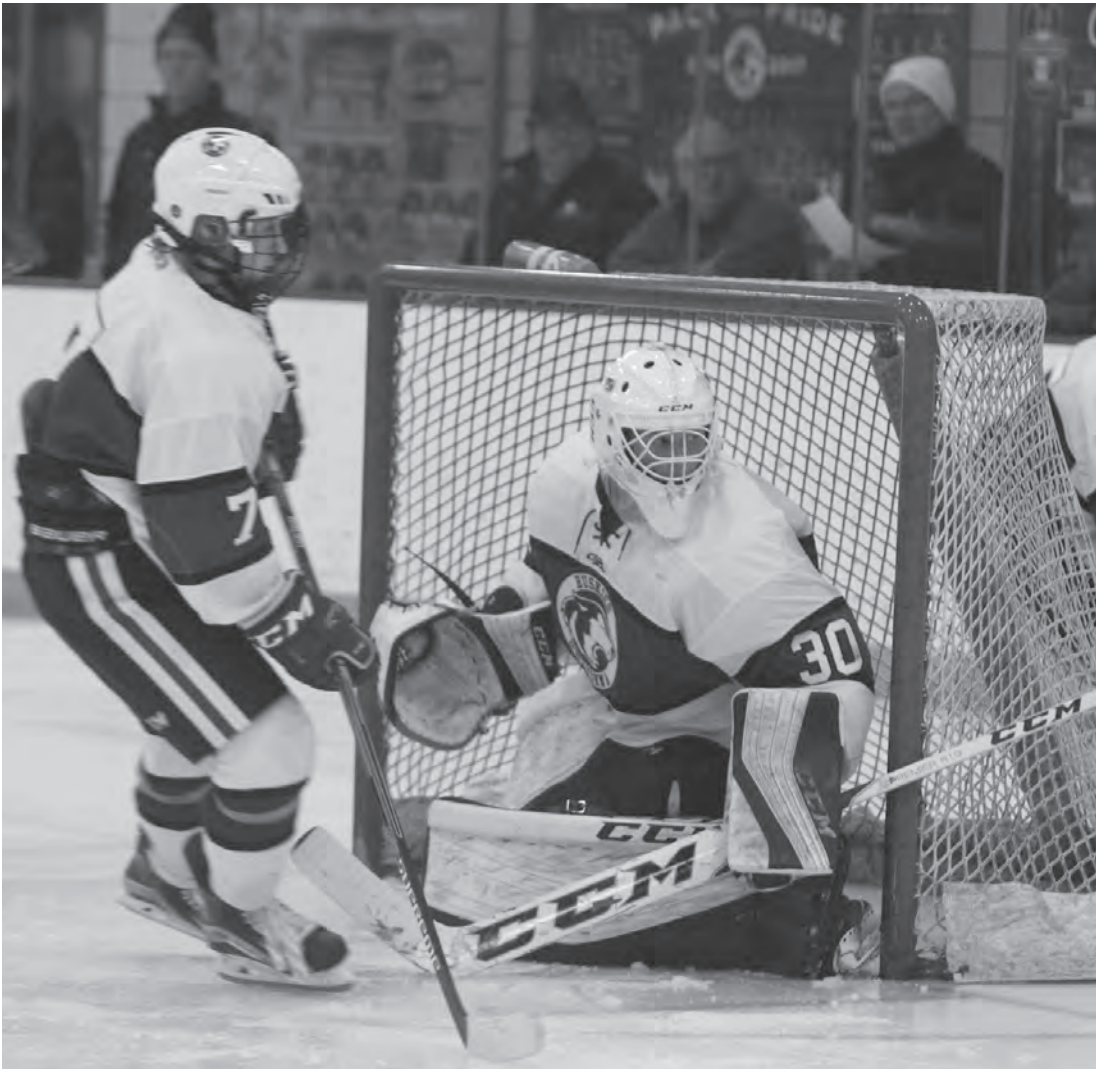
Owatonna managed to settle in defensively for the remainder of the period, limiting Chanhassen to nine shots while finding five chances of their own to net the equalizer. After the first intermission, it appeared any momentum the Huskies established quickly evaporated.

It would only take the Storm 44 seconds to extend the lead 2-0 when Patrick Newell fired a lazy wrist from the boards that beat the glove of Huskies’ goaltender Jacob Dub.

Just over a minute after Newell’s goal, Haley managed to fire home his second goal of the game, giving the Storm a 3-0 lead just three minutes into the second period.

Chanhassen would net four goals in the first ten minutes of the period.

The third period was set to running time and both teams had fewer than six total shots on goal.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna goaltender Jacob Dub (30) looks for the puck during the third period of Owatonna’s 6-0 loss to Chanhassen on Monday, Feb.6. The Huskies have dropped three of the last four games.

Owatonna wins Big Nine title

Owatonna’s 40-19 win over Faribault caps first title since 2013

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

At this time last season, the Owatonna was hoping to qualify as a team for the state tournament, only to have those hopes dashed by Faribault in the section semifinals.

While it wasn’t for a bid to the state tournament, a Big Nine Conference championship and a presumed top-seed for the section tournament were on the line Thursday night.

The Huskies would relish

the moment.

With gritty performances from some unlikely grapplers, the No. 6 ranked Owatonna Huskies (14-5, 8-0) clinched its first Big Nine Conference championship since 2013 with a 40-19 drubbing of Faribault at the OHS gymnasium on senior night.

“Losing to Faribault last year in Sections, it kind of had a bad taste in a lot of our guys’ mouths,” commented co-head coach Scott Seykora. “We have a lot of the same guys returning back and they didn’t

want that to happen again.”

After crunching the numbers with his staff, Seykora noted that they opted to shift guys around the lineup in their lower weights, meaning that there would be a number of guys who needed to step up. After Kaden Nelson bumped down to 106 pounds and earned a 10-6 decision, Joey Wencil took his place at 113.

Wencil, who has seen the vast majority of his action on the junior varsity this season, needed a takedown in the final seconds on the match to record

the 9-7 decision after falling behind late in the third period. The Falcons would soar back to take a 12-6 lead after Josh Oathoudt recorded a pin at the 3:42-mark of the match, after Kobie Kath managed to hold Cain Van Ryn to a 9-2 decision.

At 138, Carlos Beascochea, Owatonna’s third junior varsity grappler to see action in the dual, quickly jumped out to a 5-0 lead after catching Faribault’s Ren Ross in a headlock. Beascochea dominated the match to a 7-0 decision, cutting the deficit to just three (12-9). Seykora noted that the performances by some of the unlikely varsity participants were well deserved.

“Some kids got an opportunity and they proved that they belong apart of Owatonna wrestling as well,” commented Seykora. “Sometimes kids are stuck behind good kids and they don’t always get that opportunity, but I tell them that they have to stick with it. The kids staying in the room are the ones that are going to get the opportunities when they come up.”

From there, the Huskies would start the show the strength in their lineup, reeling off five straight victories, virtually locking up the Big Nine Conference championship. No.1 ranked Peyton Robb (145), No.3 ranked Cade King (160) and No.1 ranked Brandon Moen all recorded pins while Parker Westphal won by a convincing 16-0 major decision.

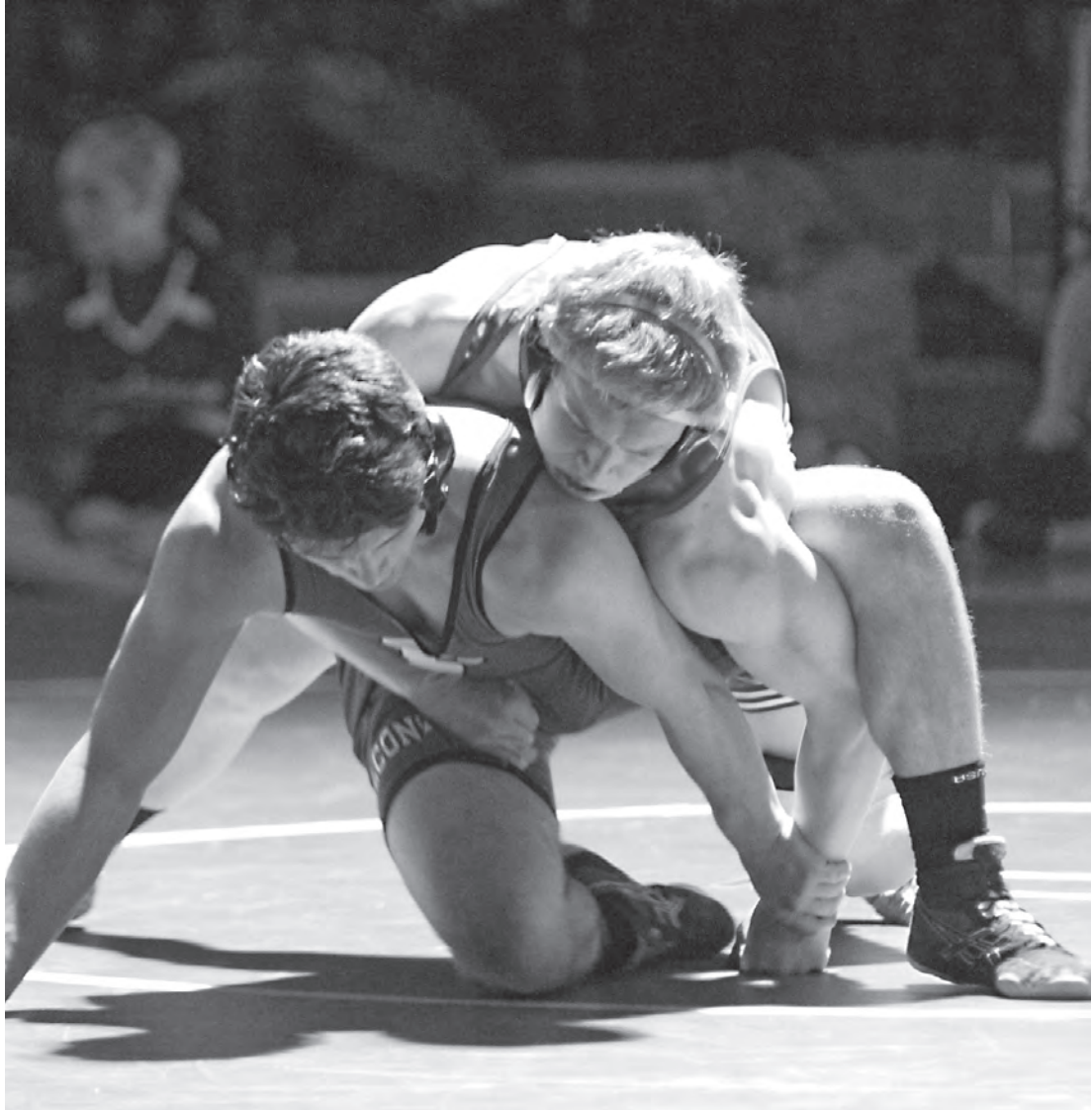
It was at 170 pounds, however, where everyone couldn’t pull their eyes away. After trailing 1-0 for much of the match, Owatonna’s Nick Staska managed to hit a reversal with just under 1:30 left in the third period to go up 2-1 on Josh Heyda. Any attempt to ride Heyda out for the

final minute failed as a quick stand up tie the match with just thirty seconds remaining in the match. Then, with roughly ten seconds left, Staska managed to gain enough control on the edge of the mat to be rewarded the winning takedown. A caution point would give Staska the 6-2 win and Owatonna the commanding 28-12 lead.

In the final match of the night, Huskies’ heavyweight Goy Tut put an empathic stamp of approval for Owatonna.

Just fifteen seconds into the first period Tut took a powerful blast double-leg on Hank Schultz that would have made every wrestling fan’s heart explode. The senior would record the pin at the 1:31-mark of the period.

Seykora noted that seeding for the Section tournament should be conducted sometime early next week with matches slated to start Thursday at OHS.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna’s Nick Staska (top) attempts to hold Faribault’s Josh Heyda during the third period of the 170-pound match in the Huskies’ 40-19 dual win Thursday. Staska recorded a takedown with ten seconds left to win 6-2.

STARS OF STEELE

Jay Sullivan

Despite a lopsided loss to Rochester John Marshall on Friday, Sullivan was the lone bright spot for the Huskies. He scored 20 in the loss and added 26 points in a bounce back win over Red Wing on Saturday.

Jenna Zeman

In three Big Nine Conference games that Owatonna won, Zeman has been a focal point of the Huskies offense. She scored a combine 25 points, 16 of which coming against Rochester Century and added eight steals.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

Owatonna BUS COMPANY



PARKS and RECREATION

540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna • Office Phone: 507-444-4321 • www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation • Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Greetings from Owatonna Parks and Recreation!

Here at Parks & Recreation we're looking forward to warmer temps, green grass, and sunny skies. Spring really is right around the corner.

We are excited to offer some "NEW" programs and bring back some of our past favorites!

SeniorPlace, West Hills Tennis & Fitness Center, and Brooktree 2017 memberships are available as well as water park passes, golf punch cards, and pavilion rentals. Check out our website for all of our info at www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation. Also "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

We hope you are able to make time to enjoy your parks, trails, facilities, and programs!

"The Benefits are Endless" as "Your Best Investment is your Parks and Recreation Department"

James "Corky" Ebeling
Director of Parks, Recreation and Government Buildings

Park and Rec



Corky Ebeling

Upcoming Events

Special Events

- February 18: Rock on Ice
- March 18: Washer board tournament
- April 1: Boat Water Safety
- April 22: Munchkin Market

Spring Programs

- Tennis
- Soccer
- Swim Lessons
- Adult Softball League
- Girls Lacrosse program Grades 1-4
- Boys Lacrosse program Grades 1-2

Early Summer Programs

- Little League grade 2-5 baseball
- Girls' Huskies Fastpitch grade 1-4
- T-ball and Squirrt Ball

Partner Programs/Associations

- Huskies Bullpen Club Traveling Teams (Minor League)
- Huskies Fastpitch Club Traveling Teams
- Boys/Girls Lacrosse Association

Programs coming in the Summer Brochure (released April 18)

- Track
- Jr. Golf
- Camps
- Summer Swim Lessons

Spring Brochure Released February 21st

Rock on Ice

Saturday February 18, 5:00-7:00pm
ice or no ice, the party's on! Music, lights, fun... we'll be rockin on Ice! DJ, Screamin Productions, is providing music, entertainment, and LED lighting while you skate! The Chalet is offering a skate rental special! No ice? No problem-we'll have a Parking Lot Party! Dancing, glow sticks, games, bonfire, and free s'mores!

4th Annual Munchkin Market

Saturday April 22

Time: 9:00am-12:00noon
(Set up booths at 8am)

Location: Four Season Centre
S. Elm St. West Arena
Owatonna, MN 55060
Sponsored by: Owatonna Parks and Recreation

What: Kids will sell toys, games, books, sporting goods, video games and more!

Cost to rent a space: \$10 (Only 100 spaces are available for rent, register today!)

Sellers wanted! (Ages 6-15) Kids, do you have toys you are no longer using? Want to turn those toys into CASH? Rent a table at the Four Seasons Centre (west end) to sell some of your old toys, games, books, sporting goods, video games, and anything else you can think of to sell (no food). Please make sure electronics are working properly. We provide you with an 8-foot table to sell what you wish. Everyone is invited to shop, but only children ages 6-15 can rent space. You must have an adult with you the day of the sale, and provide your own startup cash and change. Only one adult and one child per table. Mark your own prices on your items and keep the profits! Please keep items at \$10 or less. Register on line at <http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/> online-registration, in person at the Parks and Recreation Office 540 West Hills Circle, or by phone at 507-444-4321.



Family Fun Day!

NEW this year, Family Fun Day is part of Munchkin Market. Watch the Park & Rec website and Facebook pages for details. Games, prizes and tons of fun at this free event!

Calendar Photo Contest:

What do you love about your Owatonna Parks and Trails?

Submit your favorite park or trail photo for your chance to win a gift card and be featured in the 2018 Owatonna Parks and Recreation calendar! Submit your photo by email to: Jessica.abrahams@ci.owatonna.mn.us or mail photos to: 540 West Hills Circle, Owatonna, Attn: Jessica. Photos must be submitted by October 13, 2017 and include photographer's name and phone number. For more details about the contest visit our website: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation



Brooktree Golf Course

The course will open from March-November as weather permits. Clubhouse and Pro Shop hours are subject to change based on daylight, weather, league and tournament play; and are posted at the course.

April	8:00am-9:00pm
May	8:00am-9:00pm
June, July, August	6:30am-9:30pm
September	8:00am-8:00pm
October	9:00am-7:00pm

Season Pass Special!

*A Sweetheart of a deal! Now through February 28th.

Purchase your 2017 season pass and get a power cart punch card for four, 9-hole rounds and a guest pass for 18-holes. Set-up a payment plan for your 2017 season pass and get a power cart punch card four, 9-hole rounds

Leagues-registration is under way!

All League information is listed on the Parks & Recreation website. Register now... space is limited!

March Into the Season!

March 1st through 31st.

Purchase your 2017 season pass, or set-up a payment plan and get a guest pass for 18-holes.



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507-451-2585

PARKS and RECREATION

SPRING/EARLY SUMMER REGISTRATION

Date: Friday, February 24
Location: SeniorPlace, South Entrance
Time: 4:00-6:30 pm

Baseball and softball uniforms are available to try on at the SeniorPlace registration. Owatonna Lacrosse Association is there this year as well!

Registration deadline is March 9th for soccer, little league, and Fastpitch Softball.

WAYS TO REGISTER

- **On-Line:** www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation Begins at 12:01 am on February 24. Baseball and softball registrants are encouraged to register in person to try on uniforms.
- **Walk-In:** at the **Park and Recreation office** at **540 West Hills Circle**.
Office hours are 7 am-5 pm Monday – Friday or at SeniorPlace on February 24 from 4-6:30pm
- **Phone:** call the Park and Recreation office at **507-444-4321**

Soccer

Cost: Early Bird Fee- \$46, after March 9th - \$56
Program Dates: Starts week of April 10th at Four Seasons Centre. Ends June 3rd (Makeup June 10th).
Coaches Meeting: April 4th @ 5:30pm at Four Seasons Centre. (Coaches will call players before their first practice)
Boys and Girls age 5 (by August 31) through 6th grade learn basic skills in a fun, inclusive, social setting. Players are divided into separate boys and girls divisions:



- 5 year olds and Kindergarten
- 1st and 2nd grades
- 3rd-4th grades
- 5th -6th grades

Park & Rec Boys & Girls Lacrosse

An entry lacrosse skills and game clinic that concentrates on learning and building the skills needed to play lacrosse. Mouth guards and appropriate shoes are required.

PLAYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THEIR MOUTHGUARD.

Girls Lacrosse Grades 1-4

Mondays and Wednesdays **April 24-May 24th**
Time: 6:00-7:00pm
Location: Willow Creek Intermediate School
Cost: \$25, after May 9th-\$35 includes use of stick and goggles during the session.

Park & Rec Boys Lacrosse Grades 1 & 2

Mondays and Wednesdays **April 24th-May 24th**
Time: 6:30-7:30pm
Location: Lincoln School
Cost: \$50, after May 9th-\$60 Includes rental helmet and stick.

T-ball and Squir Ball

First exposure to the game of baseball and softball, geared for boys and girls. T-ball is for those entering Kindergarten on 1st grade in the Fall. Squirts is for those entering 1st grade (if they have had one year of T-ball), or 2nd grade.
Fee: \$37, after May 9th-\$47
Locations: Brown, Jaycee, or Manthey/Willow Creek Fields
Dates: Early June-1st week in August
Times: Evenings at varied times-5:30, 6:30, or 7:30pm
Days: T-ball plays Mondays, Squirts plays Tuesdays

Little League Baseball

Level 1 (current 2-3 graders):
Pitching machine league with emphasis on participation and development of fundamental baseball skills. All participants receive a full uniform with a Major League Baseball hat.
Cost: \$55 payable to Owatonna Park and Rec (after May 9th-\$65), and a \$25 check to the HBC for the Taco Johns fundraiser.
Deadline to register: May 9th
Evaluations: April 8th at OJHS. 2nd Grade: 9:15am, 3rd Grade: 10:45am
Kickoff: May 30th at Four Seasons-6:00pm
Level 2 (current 4-5 graders):
Player pitch in-house leagues intended to continue the development of fundamentals and the skills of game. All participants receive a full uniform with a Major League Baseball hat.
Feet: \$75 payable to Owatonna Park and Recreation (after May 9th-\$85) and a \$25 check payable to the HBC for the Taco Johns fundraiser
Deadline to register: May 9th
Kickoff: May 30th at Four Seasons - 6:00pm
Practice/Games: Mondays and Wednesdays (starting early June-late July)

Mini Crush softball-Grades 1&2 (current grade)

This is an in-house Park & Rec program emphasizing fundamental softball skill



development using fun and creative drills. Players will learn proper techniques for throwing, catching, fielding, batting, base running, and good sportsmanship.
Fee: \$50, after May 9th-\$60
Practice: Wednesday evenings June-July
Junior Crush softball-Grades 3&4 (current grade)
Players continue development of proper techniques.
Fee: \$50, after May 9th-\$60
Practice: Monday and Wednesday evenings June-July

Lifeguard Training Classes:

(Registration for Lifeguard classes available now)
Pre-requisites:
•Swim 300 yards continuously performing front crawl and breaststroke
•Swim 20 yards, pick up 10 pound brick from 10 feet of water and return it back 20 yards using only a kick, holding the brick with 2 hands on the chest.
Lifeguard Training: February 22-March 4
Fee: \$185
Pre-Requisites Pre Test: February 22 8:00-9:00pm
Class Meeting Times: March 25- 8:00-11:00am and 12:00-4:00pm, Feb 26 1:00-7:00pm, and March 4-8:00-3:00pm
Lifeguard Training: April 26-May 5
Fee: \$185
Pre-Requisites Pre Test: April 26- 8:00-9:00pm
Class Meeting Times: April 29-8:00-11:00am and 12:00-4:00pm, April 30-1:00-7:00pm, May 5-8:00-3:00pm

Adult Softball

Owatonna Park & Rec and the Owatonna Slow Pitch Softball Association offers organized leagues in Men's, Womens and Co-Rec Softball. Games are played from early May through late August at the Fairgrounds softball complex.
-Team entry fees are due on or before Wednesday, March 15. Pay at the Park and Rec Office.
-Player fees are due before the first night of play

Pavilions available for rent!

Pavilions are available at Brown Park, Dartts Park (small and large), Fairgrounds Park, Gainey Park, Jaycee Park, Kaplan's Woods Parkway, Manthey Park (small and large), Mineral Springs Park, Morehouse Park (large and Warsinski Chalet), and Owatonna Soccer Complex.

Pavilion Reservation

Reservations can be made at the Parks & Recreation office up to a year in advance. Rates vary depending on pavilion size and length of rental. Both the reservation fee and refundable damage deposit must be paid at the time of reservation.



Playing in adult team athletics can increase your motivation to engage in the community and to be physically active. Owatonna Parks & Recreation offers adult programs in the Summer and Fall seasons. Check out our brochure February 21st for all upcoming adult programs!

OUR MISSION:

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



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Explorers gain life experiences



Submitted photo

The Emergency Services Explorer Post 007 SWAT team brought home a couple of trophies in mid-January after competing in SWAT competition in Chandler, AZ. Everything that a SWAT Officer carries the local Explorers had.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff riter

Blooming Prairie Police Officer Dan Peach, 22, was not even born when the Emergency Services Explorer Post 007 was founded in 1988. Now, Peach, who himself was an Explorer at age 15, is an advisor to the group with founder Rick Ellingson. Peach and Ellingson are both part-time officers in Blooming Prairie and in Janesville. Peach can also be found working at B to Z Hardware in Blooming

Prairie. Ellingson is a full-time paramedic for the Gold Cross Ambulance Service. Explorers are between ages 14-20 and they typically join the program to find a career path, says Peach. Members of Post 007 are from Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Medford, Waterville and Janesville. They represent Steele, Rice, Waseca and LeSueur counties. Peach and Ellingson say the Explorers purpose is to teach and show youths what is out there for emergency services

career opportunities. Some of these opportunities include these careers: police work, paramedic/EMT, firefighter, military and dispatcher. “It’s cool to mentor the young kids and by working with them, we can show them a life experience,” Peach said. A life experience was gained by the Explorers in mid-January when they motored to Chandler, Arizona to participate in SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) competition. More than 100 teams participated.

Part-time BP officer Shane St. John also attended with the Explorers group. The group brought home a couple of trophies, competing in these categories: active shooter in workplace setting; water borne operations; officer down rescue; high risk search warrants; tactical EMS; bomb disarming and hostage rescue. Real scenarios were presented to the Explorers. Peach said his group faced the Orlando shooting events and also an ISIS situation. “This trip was not a vacation, it

was an eye opening experience,” Peach said. The Explorers did have the opportunity, however, to visit Las Vegas and see Los Angeles. The Explorers enabled Peach to visit New York, Boston, Florida and Colorado during the time he was deciding what career to follow. This summer, the 007 Post will trek to Alaska on a 16-day venture. The group plans to visit the Alaska State Patrol and hopes to meet with Canadian police, fire and ambulance personnel. “We hope to get some

fishing and sight seeing done, too,” Peach said. Funds for these trips are gained through lots of fundraising, Peach and Ellingson said. Explorers do security during the day at the Steele County Fair and clean up the grounds at night for a stipend. To learn more about the Explorer Post 007, go to its Facebook page at Tactical Emergency Services Explorer Post 007.

Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel members turn scientists

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff riter

“Kids are having way too much fun,” laughed Donna Maixner while playing with robotics at an Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel meeting on a recent Wednesday night. Two Blooming Prairie Elementary School teachers, Kim Lea and Rachel Harberts, brought a 50-minute classroom setting to the BP City Center. This was a spinoff from a partnership established between the school and Arkema, a global chemical company located on the north side of Blooming Prairie. Since 1996, an Arkema science teacher program has benefited hundreds of teachers and thousands of students across the United States. Teachers Lea and Harberts last August spent a week at the Arkema Inc. Science Teacher Program hosted on site at Arkema. They partnered with

Arkema scientists to learn innovative ways to teach basic science concepts. During the four-day long science camp, Arkema scientists and teachers explored grade-specific, classroom-tested, professionally published hands-on science kits. Arkema purchased 12 LEGO© Education WeDo 2.0 elementary science kits for the elementary school. The 12 kits are used by 24 students at a time. Lea and Harberts brought the kits and iPads to the Arkema CAP meeting to give members hands-on appreciation for the science project. Participants were challenged to make their robot go forward or backward, to make the robot talk and to make the robot change colors. The mini robots are named Milo. ET-like sounds were heard throughout the conference room as CAP members met the

challenges given to them and celebrated small victories. “The hope is to have the kids in grades K-3 build on one another,” said teacher Lea. She told about one class taking on the project of building a street sweeper for use after the Blooming Prairie Fourth of July celebration. When the program is fully implemented, 300 students will be involved, said Lea and Harberts. “The kids are having fun with it and learning at the same time,” Lea said. Following their experimentation with the small robots, CAP members were asked how they believed the program benefits young students. “It helps them with problem solving,” responded CAP member Sandy Bass. “I think it can be very addictive,” Maixner said. “It really makes the kids think,” commented Dawn Gross, CAP member. “It makes



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

David Price, right, plant manager of Arkema of Blooming Prairie gives some robotics tips to two Blooming Prairie High School students Alison Pryor and Elijah Baker. The two students, members of the Arkema Citizens Advisory Panel and other CAP members had some hands-on training with a LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 science kit at a recent meeting.

kids want to learn,” replied Blooming Prairie High School senior Elijah Baker. Teacher Lea said students sometimes find the process difficult but they work through it by being highly motivated. Harberts said kids collaborate with one another in the LEGO project. One student remarked, “I was an engineer today,” said Lea. Legos bring a new facet of learning that levels the playing field, said Lea. BP Elementary School Principal Chris Staloch, in attendance at the fun night,

commended teachers Lea and Harberts for their work. “They dedicate tons of hours outside of the school day to this project,” he said. Staloch said BP elementary kids are learning life skills with this LEGO program. Arkema Senior Administrative Assistant Sandra Mayzlik recently send out invitations to 26 area schools to determine interest for the science camp next August. Six teachers are chosen. Three schools will be selected. David Price, Arkema

plant manager, said Blooming Prairie is guaranteed a slot in the program. The science camp explores these areas: solar, soils, small animal and electricity. Teachers are partnered with a mentor from the Arkema plant. The sessions are held in the conference room at Arkema. Teachers receive a stipend for attending and their schools receive a \$500 grant to replenish kit materials. Cost of the kits purchased for students is borne by Arkema.

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EMPLOYMENT
Wellington Adult Care has a full time day position available working with elderly residents. We are a home and community based facility. We provide 24 hr care. Applicant must be 18 years old have a valid drivers license, and pass a background check. Experience preferred but will train the right person. For application and interview Call Bill or Janie Hill @ 507-374-2198 or 507-319-4521. 5tfc

Part time bartender/ waiter to work flexible hours Mon.-Sun. Must be at least 18 yrs. of age and able to start work at 4 p.m. Will train. Pick up application at 505 Frontage Rd NW or send application/resume to Byron American Legion. P.O. Box 687 Byron, MN 55920 6tfc

Part time help needed. 12:30-5:30 M-Fri. Must be able to do bookwork & lift. P&P TV and Appliance. Call 634-7007. 7-9nc

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NEW child care in Kasson has openings for all ages. Open 24/7. 507-301-2810 (call or text) crystalkay110@gmail.com 6,7c,8nc,9c

FOR RENT
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Please note applicants must complete both the Merit application online and the Mower County application.
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PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The February thaw continued over the weekend melting the ice covering rivers and revealing patches of grass all over the county. Monday saw temperatures remain well above freezing.

Tuesday



High: 39°
Low: 19°

Friday



High: 54°
Low: 36°

Wednesday



High: 35°
Low: 27°

Saturday



High: 54°
Low: 37°

Thursday



High: 46°
Low: 33°

Sunday



High: 59°
Low: 49°

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Amelia McKenna is NRHEG's Panther of the Week.

She is the daughter of Joshua Babcock and Emily McKenna who reside in New Richland. She is in Mrs. Ihrke's 2nd grade class.

Amelia is a gem! She is hard working, responsible,

and puts 100% effort into everything she does. Amelia is so kind and is ALWAYS a good friend to others. She is a great example of Panther Pride in our classroom!

Amelia likes to sing, color, and read. Her favorite books are the A-Z Mysteries and her favorite food is pepperoni pizza.

Keep up the great work Amelia!



Pet of the Week: Buttons

Buttons is a 7-year old Yorkie/Maltese mix. He was recently surrendered due to some major life changes by the owner who's had him his whole life.

Buttons is full of energy (but not in puppy-way) but also enjoys his snuggle time with any and all family members. Buttons walks well on a leash and is potty-trained. He even rings a bell to let you know he has to go. He loves to chase and be chased around the house endlessly.

He LOVES socks and can get pretty territorial about them. He also loves to play 'keep-away' with toys and will 'fake-bite' as a

form of play.

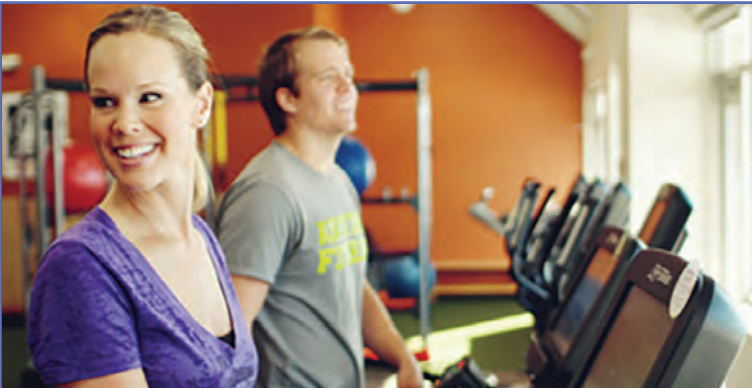
Buttons will be great in a home with older children. Buttons doesn't mind other dogs when walking, but we're not sure how he will do in a home with other dogs. He would probably do best in a family as an only do—or possibly one other well adjusted dog—to insure he gets some quality time and attention.

Buttons currently sleeps with his foster in bed, but his previous owner crated him—which he doesn't mind. We don't recommend crating him overnight because doing so seems to cause some mental regression

to some fearful patterns that cause Buttons to isolate and entrench.

Buttons does have an aggression (snarling, biting) issue when it comes to his things (bones particularly). The aggression/crabbiness happens more often at the end of the day after 8pm. He's gotten better and his fosters continue to work with him. His new family will need to continue to work with him on behavior modification to assist him in redirecting the aggression.

For more information on adopting Buttons visit our website www.smalldogsmnnesota.org



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Soybeans & corn field agronomists report on 2016 weed issues, control and 2017 strategies

Think Different

Field reports from Winfield United agronomists cited numerous weed control issues and solutions:

Herbicide-resistant weeds becoming more severe in every Midwest state.

Resistance to herbicide groups like 2 (ALS), 5 (triazines), 14 (PPOs) and 9 (glyphosate) are most severe.

Higher rates of preemergent, residual herbicides along with timely post residual applications were most successful. And rotation among “effective” modes of action is critical.

Scouting and attention to field by-field detail of weed resistance can help reduce the weed seed bank.

Every Midwest state continues to report growing herbicide-resistant (HR) weed problems in soybeans; fewer issues in corn. “Farmers who haven’t changed their weed control programs in the past couple of years had the most problems in 2016,” says Ryan Wolf, Winfield United agronomy services manager from Sheldon, Iowa. “Farmers who used higher rates of preemergent herbicides and added metribuzin to their preemergence tank mixes had the most weed control success. Timely post applications also performed well,” he adds.

Soybean weed challenges

Such HR weed issues echoed across eight states and beyond, according to Winfield United field agronomist reports to our inquiries. Waterhemp, marestail, giant ragweed, kochia and the expansion of the dangerous Palmer Amaranth pigweed continue to evade control by more herbicide groups.

“We are seeing more farmers adopt herbicide resistance management strategies because resistance to several herbicide site of action groups like 2 (ALS), 5 (triazines), 14 (PPOs) and 9 (glyphosate) are present across Illinois,” says Glenn Longabaugh, Winfield agronomist service from Hazleton, Ind.

Wolf says that resistance to glyphosate and Group 14 (PPOs) herbicides caused the biggest waterhemp control problems in Iowa and South Dakota in 2016, along with glyphosate-resistant kochia and marestail. “When weather delayed application past the recommended control window, Group 14 herbicides failed to achieve kochia control,” he said.

Across Indiana, farmers were “surprised by the explosion of pigweed populations in their fields, which has been building for several years,” says George Watters, Winfield United agronomist from Noblesville, Ind. He cites herbicide histories that allowed for past weed escapes and

the spreading of weed seed by combines as culprits in this all-out attack in many fields during 2016.

“Growers have learned that nearly 100% of the waterhemp and Palmer amaranth populations are now resistant to glyphosate (Group 9) and ALS (2) herbicides. And several populations are becoming resistant to foliar application of PPO (Group 14) herbicides,” Watters adds.

In the upper Midwest, glyphosate-resistant weeds like waterhemp, marestail, pigweed (giant and common) continue to move northward in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. “It’s been difficult for farmers and salespeople to acknowledge the growing problem of glyphosate- and triazine-resistant weeds in the upper Midwest, which makes it hard to establish an effective weed prevention plan,” says Todd Cardwell, Winfield United senior agronomist from River Falls, Wis.



Weather delays

Delayed or missed preemergence herbicide applications played a role in weed escapes during 2016. “In other cases, the weather turned dry after early applications and control of waterhemp was reduced, causing farmers to fight glyphosate- and ALS-resistant weed escapes with primarily one mode of action – PPO herbicides” said Al Bertelsen, Winfield agronomist from Red Wing, Minn. “Wet conditions or other factors sometimes delayed PPO herbicide applications until target weeds were too tall for effective control.”

“Effective” modes of action

Attention to detail and good scouting is key field data for future weed control success. Winfield United recommends three “effective” modes of action each year to fight resistant weeds. “If glyphosate-resistant weeds are present, glyphosate cannot be counted as one of the three modes of action used; and same for other resistant weed classes,” Wolf says.

Agronomist Cardwell takes it a step further, stating that growers must create a holistic, long-term plan that accounts for problematic weeds across all crops in a

rotation, by field. “This will help control the weed in all crops,” he says.

Along with this strategy, Bertelsen recommends timely applications of PPO herbicides when weeds are small to greatly improve weed control in soybeans. “Just don’t forget to spray using higher volumes and select spray nozzles that increase weed coverage,” he says.

Don’t cut costs

Yes, it’s tempting given grain prices, but cut rates or weaker herbicides easily lead to partial control and more HR weeds. An investment in a strong herbicide program may be daunting to some farmers, the alternative of weeds taking over a field is far costlier, given the continued multiplier of HR weed seed added to the soil for future years.

“A typical crop protection budget is usually only 9% to 12% of overall crop input budget. However, cutting the herbicide program by 10% (or 1% of total

of quality adjuvants will also be important in keeping aggressive weed species at bay.

“In addition to a good preemergence herbicide program, many farmers are also considering either LibertyLink soybeans or the new dicamba-tolerant soybeans for 2017,” says Allen Pung, Winfield United master agronomy advisor from Portland, Mich.

Agronomist Watters cautions that while the Xtend technology with XtendiMax herbicide on Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans allows for the use of special dicamba formulations over the top to help control emerged weeds, farmers should not rely on it as a substitute for overlapping residual herbicides. And farmers must follow new, stringent application guidelines to reduce off-target movement and sensitive crop injury.

Regarding control of the aggressive Palmer amaranth species, a complete herbicide resistance management program is needed that incorporates: crop rotation, multiple effective modes of action, overlapping residuals, timely applications, full labeled rates, a complement of adjuvants, and physical removal where applicable.

Corn issues in 2016

Across the Midwest, weed resistance in corn isn’t as big an issue as in soybeans. “Corn growers do a good job of keeping their fields clean because there are herbicides they can use in corn that cannot be used in soybeans,” says Rickard.

Winfield agronomists cite giant ragweed, waterhemp, cocklebur and morningglory as the biggest herbicide-resistant weed challenges in corn.

Overall, Indiana agronomist Watters found that growers were able to manage resistant species fairly well in corn due to still having several effective herbicide groups available for application. “Premixes and/or other combinations of growth regulators (Group 4), triazines (Group 5), shoot inhibitors (Group 15) and HPPDs (Group 27) can still do a good job of controlling weeds in corn.”

Watters says the outbreak of giant ragweed and several other large seeded broadleaves in Indiana was a result of favorable weather and rainfall conditions that encouraged additional flushes later in the season.

In Wisconsin cornfields

MAXIMIZING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING FOR PROFIT

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Cardwell saw high populations of common and giant ragweed thanks to an unusually wet season; rain decreased the longevity of soil-applied chemistries and kept farmers out of their field for long periods of time, allowing the weeds to grow quickly. “There’s also a growing population of triazine-resistant weeds, making atrazines less effective than they have been in previous years,” he adds.

Although weather affected herbicide performance this year, agronomist Longabaugh believes that many corn weed problems were due to using a single-pass herbicide program, stand voids, and continuous use of single site/mode-of-action.

Minnesota farmers battled giant ragweed and tall waterhemp in cornfields this year, reports Bertelsen. In addition to herbicide resistance, he says a large seedbank of these two weeds in both corn and soybean fields are causing widespread issues. “Both weeds can germinate over long periods of time, and the germination period may outlast many soil-applied herbicides, allowing the weeds to escape late in the season after the herbicide application window is past.”

Corn strategies for 2017

To combat weed issues in corn, Bertelsen urges farmers to scout corn later in the season for weed escapes and control weeds when they are small. Controlling weeds in drowned-out spots will help lower weed seedbanks and decrease weed pressure in future

years, notes Bertelsen.

“The best strategy for season-long weed control in corn is to start clean with burndown or tillage, followed by a residual herbicide program close to planting and followed again by a sequential postemergence treatment,” says Watters. “Some growers have also found good results by split-applying their residual herbicides.”

Regarding no-till, Wisconsin agronomist Cardwell says farmers had successful weed control in no-till fields using burndown applications last fall, which made their in-season treatments much more effective. “One dollar spent on weed control in the fall is worth at least seven dollars in the spring. Reduced-till or no-till environments have a different weed spectrum, and in these environments, fall applications are very cost-effective.”

Finally, Winfield agronomists cannot emphasize enough the importance of a scouting program – designed to 1) identify where specific weed issues are taking place, 2) to recognize resistant weeds right away, and 3) to maximize weed control through early herbicide applications. This will help farmers stay on top of weeds throughout the 2017 growing season, notes Bertelsen.

“While some farmers may be hesitant to spend the additional money needed to control resistant weeds now, keeping weeds in check will help avoid even bigger, more costly problems in the future,” Wolf says.

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Legal Notices

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: August 6, 2014

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,329.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Corey Aldrich and Jayna Aldrich, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.

SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed September 5, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000398583

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Nine 9, in Block Ten (10) Village of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 122 E Main Street, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 14-100-1009

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$82,943.47

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: March 16, 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 September 16, 2017, or the next business day if September 16, 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: January 19, 2017

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Assignee of Mortgagee

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BY
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Diane F. Mach - 273788
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DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-171

Estate of
Connie Jorene Gray,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 20, 2017, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 107 W. Main Street, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, December 19, 2016, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Eydie M. Hauer, whose address is 2927 Rose Street, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT,

/s/ Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
1/26/17

Erin Veiths
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
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Attorney License No: 0268045
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2/7, 2/14

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-2111

Estate of
Alfred Benjamin McAdams,
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 20, 2017 at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 107 West Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Daniel McAdams, whose address is 716 Walnut Street, Mantorville, MN, 55955 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

BY THE COURT,

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court
2/03/2017

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
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2/14, 2/21

Defending the joy

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Jilted lovers call this the “winter of our discontent.” For those in love, it is a time to offer “baby speak” to your significant other and watch as all those around you get sick stomachs.

To the remaining yet unaffiliated, it is an exciting time to explore dating sites, send anonymous Valentines cards and use the holiday excuse to find the love.

It is a winter holiday that has traditionally added some color to the otherwise dreary landscape here on the frozen tundra. It puts us into a more amiable mood on the heels of getting no love from a member of the rodent family in Punxsutawney a few weeks back.

Although nobody can trace the roots back to when this day was first adopted, there is much speculation and some interesting concepts, wives’ tales and general confusion as to if and why we celebrate, whose holiday it is, and for that matter, should we celebrate it.

Some like to go back in time to wild and wacky Rome where, from Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. It was quite a dark and medieval time where goats and a dog



were sacrificed, women were beaten in hopes that it would bring fertility and on at least two occasions, martyrs both coincidentally named Valentine were slain in different years during the third century.

Sounds more like the “holiday of 50 shades” than what we know today as Valentine’s Day. In fact, there is a faction of people that will not participate in the holiday because they feel that it’s the celebration of pagan customs.

That’s like saying two plus two equals salmon.

If, in fact we commemorate the death of the martyrs named Valentine, then certainly that more epitomizes the true spirit of their cause to love even unto death.

Christ Himself said that there was no greater love than a man who would lay his life down for his friends. If that thought rings true in your Valentine’s Day celebration, then perhaps you can justify the participation.

I sit back, though, and think about the month of February and Valentine’s Day which falls each year on the 14th. Of course, they were around long before Rome stamped it with its debauchery. Back in the B.C., the month was Adar. The Jewish month of February. In the leap year, it’s followed by an encore month of Adar Beit. (Two Februarys. Twin groundhogs? Jk)

Since time was recorded the month was always considered and appointed a month of celebration and happiness.

Notice that was long before the pagans got ahold of it, so, yeah. No. It wasn’t their holiday, but it was just another day to bogart the joy, and thus, if you refuse to celebrate because of what the pagans did, you are like a kid who gets mad, takes his ball and goes home. No celebration. No joy. No soup for you.

The Jewish Talmud actually says, “when the month of

Adar arrives, we increase in joy” to welcome a season of miracles.

I can see that! As in... it will be a miracle if this cold weather and Minnesota wind ever cease. A month of joy followed every third lunar year by another month of Adar. A double portion of joy every third year.

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears. No need to beat the women, kill the goats, slaughter the dog. It’s a month of joy. That is most likely what the Valentine boys were doing back in Rome, simply reminding the nation as to the reason for the season of joy and miracles.

Rome informed those Valentines that it was not, in fact the season to be jolly and with their deaths they set a precedent that there would be no more joy.

So, for what it’s worth, the real spirit of Valentine’s Day is defending the joy. It’s honoring the love and giving yourself away. It’s sharing your heart (or heart candies with messages) and putting a smile on someone’s face because you cared enough to defend their joy. You cared enough to spend your time eradicating their “all alone.”

You may not have a “sweetie” this year – so my advice is to find someone who has lost their joy. Someone alone in a hospital bed or a nursing home. A place where you can be the champion of their moments, restoring the purpose of the day. For all others, remember that old Mark Twain quote and let it be the star that guides you this month. “To get the full value of joy, you must have someone to divide it with.”

If you can joy in the journey, then surely the miracle will be seen in the destination. Yeah. I wrote that. And remember. Be careful out there.



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Habitat for Humanity hosts youth night

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area is excited to host their first DIY Youth Night on Friday, Feb. 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. at The RetroFit Companies 1010 Hoffman Dr. NW.

Youth will be building a “Take Your Boots Off Bench” to take them home or donate them to the affiliate. This event is free and family-friendly. Youth, ages 12 and under, will need adult accompaniment throughout the event. Space is limited. Call Ellen at 507.446.0112 or email communityengagement@habitatswa.org to register.

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area is holding a Give Ten Campaign through the month of February. Can \$10 really make a difference? Your \$10 can be help break the cycle of a family moving from place to place trying to secure a safe and affordable place to live. Your \$10 can help improve children’s health and performance in school. Your \$10 can help provide a “hand up and not a hand out” to a family looking to become responsible homeowners with an affordable mortgage. Your \$10 can help a child

know he or she has a safe place to go home. Your \$10 can buy new hammers and screw drivers for the job site. Your \$10 can buy four studs for the house.

You be the judge. Does \$10 really make a difference? Our goal is to raise \$5,000 before the end of February. Donate today. Online: www.habitatswa.org Mail: P.O. Box 292, Owatonna, MN, Drop Off: 108 W. Vine St. Owatonna, MN.

About Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area

Steele County Habitat for Humanity was founded

in 1993 by a group of community members intent on addressing the affordable housing needs in the community. Waseca County joined the affiliate in 2008. Together they have built or rehabbed 22 homes providing safe, decent and affordable housing to over 30 adults and 60 children. This affiliate will begin the 23rd home build this spring in Waseca. Our mission is building capacity to put God’s love into action by providing affordable home ownership in Steele-Waseca area through a community of volunteers.

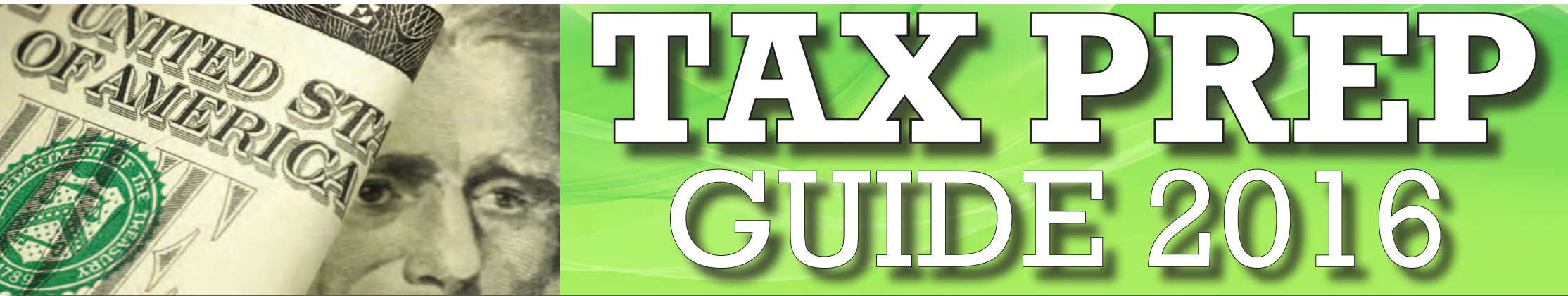
Visit the website at www.habitatswa.org to learn more or check them out on Facebook www.facebook.com/habitatswa

About Habitat for Humanity International

Habitat for Humanity International’s vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat has helped more than 4 million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes since 1976.

Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and supports a variety of funding models that enable families with limited resources to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer visit habitat.org.



Identity Theft remains on “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams

The Internal Revenue Service today issued a filing season alert warning taxpayers and tax professionals to watch out for identity theft at tax time and highlighted the crime as a top scam in the agency’s “Dirty Dozen” series.

The Dirty Dozen is compiled annually by the IRS and lists a variety of common scams taxpayers may encounter any time during the year. Many of these con games peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns or hire tax professionals.

Tax-related Identity theft – with its related scams to steal personal and financial data from taxpayers or data held by tax professionals – remains a top item on the Dirty Dozen list because it remains an ongoing concern even though progress is being made. Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses a stolen Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund.

The IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry have joined as the Security Summit and enacted a series of safeguards that are showing results. In 2016, the number of taxpayers reporting stolen identities on federal tax returns fell by more than 50 percent, with nearly 275,000 fewer victims compared to a year ago.

To continue these efforts, the Security Summit partners applied more safeguards in 2017 and are continuing to seek new and expanded ways to reduce identity theft. Because of these successes, criminals are devising

more creative ways to steal personal information to impersonate taxpayers.

“The Security Summit partnership continues to develop and strengthen tools to stop fraudulent returns from getting into the tax system,” said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. “We’re calling on taxpayers to do everything they can to protect their private information because criminals continue looking for new and more sophisticated ways of beating the system. We also encourage tax professionals and others in the private and non-profit sectors with access to large amounts of sensitive information to watch out for identity theft schemes.”

“IRS Criminal Investigation works diligently to uncover Identity Theft schemes and halt the flow of taxpayer monies that undermine the US Treasury,” said Shea Jones, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-CI, St. Paul Field Office. “IRS CI special agents are masters of uncovering sophisticated schemes and bringing the fraudsters to court.”

During fiscal year 2016, IRS Criminal Investigation helped send more than 600 identity thieves to prison. The courts continue to impose significant jail time with the average months to serve in fiscal year 2016 at 40 months — the longest sentencing being 25 years.

In the St. Paul area, the following criminals were recently sentenced for their roles in Identity Theft schemes:

Minnesota Couple Sentenced For Multi-Million-Dollar Income Tax Refund Fraud Scheme

Mark Arlin Hammerschmidt, and his wife, Ornella Angelina Hammerschmidt, of Prior Lake, Minn. were sentenced to 135 months and 48 months in prison, respectively. In addition Mark Hammerschmidt was ordered to pay \$1,832,986 in restitution and Ornella Hammerschmidt was ordered to pay \$45,365 in restitution, for their roles in orchestrating a multi-million-dollar tax fraud scheme. From January 2011 through February 2013, Mark and Ornella Hammerschmidt operated an immigration and tax preparation business, called American Group, located in Shakopee, Minn. and Winter Garden, Fla., which they utilized to prepare and file more than 1,000 fraudulent federal income tax returns. The defendants attracted customers to American Group by misrepresenting their professional credentials and certifications. Most notably, Ornella Hammerschmidt falsely represented herself as a licensed immigration attorney. As part of the scheme, the defendants attempted to conceal their involvement as fraudulent return preparers by intentionally not signing the tax returns on the part of the form meant to be signed by paid preparers. The defendants also falsely reported their business addresses and bank accounts controlled by them as the addresses and bank accounts of their taxpayer clients. Many of the defendants’ clients were non-or-limited English speakers, who relied on the defendants to properly and legally prepare their taxes. In addition, Mark

Dirty Dozen	Tax Filing Season	EITC	Scams	Exempt Orgs
				
Dirty Dozen includes falsely padding deductions Avoid the temptation to falsely inflate deductions or expenses on tax returns.				
Docena Sucia incluye deducciones falsas Evite la tentación de inflar falsamente deducciones o gastos en declaraciones de impuestos.				
Dirty Dozen home page Check out the list of Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2017 and previous years.				

Hammerschmidt obtained the personal identification information (PII) of hundreds of Guatemalan citizens and then prepared and filed with the IRS applications for Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (“ITINs”) in the names of the Guatemalan citizens. Once he obtained the ITINs, Mark Hammerschmidt filed multiple years’ worth of false tax returns in the Guatemalan citizens’ names, seeking refunds based on false information. Mark Hammerschmidt also used the PII to file false Minnesota state income tax returns. In connection with this part of the scheme, the defendant sought approximately \$1.8 million in tax refunds based on the fraudulent tax returns he filed.

Minnesota Man Sentenced for Using Stolen Identities to File False Tax Returns

Ayotomide Ajifowobaje, of Bloomington, was sentenced to 110 months in prison and three years of supervised release for using stolen identities to file false tax returns. Between at least

May 20, 2014, and Feb. 17, 2015, Ajifowobaje purchased stolen personal identifying information (PII) of more than 450 individuals. Using this PII, Ajifowobaje and his co-conspirators “washed” stolen identities to determine whether a legitimate tax return had already been filed by the victim taxpayer. If none had already been filed in the victim’s name, Ajifowobaje would create and electronically file a fraudulent tax return using the victim’s true identity, but containing fraudulent information. Ajifowobaje then set up fake email addresses to track the status of the return and expected refund. To collect the refunds from the IRS, Ajifowobaje purchased hundreds of debit cards and activated them using the same stolen identities that he used to file false tax returns.

Security Reminders for Taxpayers

The IRS and its partners remind taxpayers they can do their part to help in this effort. Taxpayers and tax professionals should:

- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on the computer. Use strong passwords.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening phone calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations

such as a bank, credit card company and government organizations, including the IRS. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

- Protect personal data. Don’t routinely carry a Social Security card, and make sure tax records are secure. Treat personal information like cash; don’t leave it lying around.

“Everyone should guard their personal information by protecting their computers and using extreme caution when viewing emails or getting surprise phone calls,” Koskinen said. “We also encourage people to share this information with their friends and family. We all know someone who is challenged by technology, and some easy, common-sense steps could help protect these people from identity theft.”

The IRS understands that undoing the damage caused by identity theft is a frustrating and complex process for victims. While identity thieves steal information from sources outside the tax system, the IRS is often the first to inform a victim that identity theft has occurred. The IRS is working hard to resolve identity theft cases as quickly as possible. For more information, see the special identity theft section on IRS.gov.

For more information, see the special identity theft section on IRS.gov.

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Wash your car like a pro to protect its value

Vehicle owners know maintaining a vehicle can be a lot of work. Taking the time to properly care for a vehicle can prolong its life expectancy and help owners avoid breakdowns and other issues along the way.

Regular washing is an aspect of vehicle maintenance that some may classify as a purely cosmetic benefit. Certainly a car wash can keep the vehicle looking its best, but there are other advantages to washing as well. Washing offers preventative maintenance for the car's paint and can help prevent rust and corrosion resulting from dirt, acid rain and road salt. Rust can compromise hydraulic brake and fuel lines, as well as many moving parts in the chassis and frame. Corrosion of electrical connectors and other parts under the hood can lead to leaks, electrical shorts and a host of additional problems. It's easy to see how washing the car is more essential than one might have suspected.

If you live in an area with a high amount of dust or industry, you may need to wash your car as frequently as once a week. Drivers who live along or near coastal areas may need to wash their vehicles frequently to combat sea salt buildup. Garage-kept vehicles may be able to go longer between washes, but in general washing a vehicle every two to three weeks is a good rule of thumb. In addition, a good sealant will protect the paint and other trims throughout the year.

The following are some other car-wash tips to follow.

- Always use a proper washing soap solution. This will preserve the car's finish better than other homemade soaps. Avoid using dishwashing liquid, which can strip protective wax coatings.
- Be prompt when cleaning off bugs, sap and bird droppings that may stick to the paint and become difficult to remove over time.
- Wait until a car has cooled down before washing. Heat speeds up the drying of soap and water and can make it more difficult to clean.
- Always use a clean, non-abrasive sponge. Resist the urge to move the sponge in circles as you clean. Doing so can create noticeable swirl scratch marks. Instead, move the sponge lengthwise across the body panels and hood.
- Keep a separate rinsing bucket to clean the sponge or washing mitt so that dirt is not mixed into the clean, sudsy water.
- Consumer Reports suggests using a soft squeegee to remove most of the water on the body of the car after washing and rinsing. Blot up any extra water with a chamois.
- Wax the car every season to ensure it has maximum protection. In between, apply a liquid spray wax to touch up spots. Water beading is not an ideal indicator of whether or not the car needs a coat of wax.
- Don't forget to pay attention

to the interior. Vacuum the carpets regularly to prevent ground-in dirt and routinely clean the upholstery with a product specific to your vehicle's interior, whether that interior is leather or fabric.

Protecting a vehicle investment involves keeping the car clean. Know the right ways to help a car or truck look and perform like new.



Use a clean sponge and proper cleaning solution when washing your vehicle. Move the sponge lengthwise along the body panels.

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CommunityLiving

Obituaries

Linda Mast, 68 of Blooming Prairie

Linda Mast, aged 68, died peacefully Feb. 3, 2017, at Methodist, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, after a brief struggle with cancer. Linda was born Jan. 31, 1949, in Grafton, North Dakota, the daughter of Kieran (Corky) Whalen and Ione Whalen. She was preceded in death by her father, Kieran (Corky) Whalen. Linda is survived by her husband Charles (Chuck) Mast; sons, Ronito (Ron) Mast of Owatonna, Rolando (Lon) (wife Kim) Mast of Owatonna, Reynaldo (Rey) (wife Maria) Mast of the Philippines; her mother, Ione Whalen of Owatonna; her brother Steve Whalen (wife Judy) of Owatonna, three nieces and one nephew; and a number of other relatives and close friends. On Dec. 29, 1973, Linda married the love of her life Charles Mast. They made their home in Blooming Prairie for 37 years.

Chuck and Linda adopted three boys from the Philippines in 1984. She was a caring, loving wife and mother. There will be a memorial service for family and friends Feb. 18, Saturday at 1 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church, 434 First Street SW, Blooming Prairie. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be sent in her name to Charles Mast, 33820 875th Avenue, Blooming Prairie.



Phyllis K. Wencil, 66 of Owatonna

Phyllis K. Wencil of Owatonna died Feb. 8, 2017, at her home of natural causes. Mass of Christian Burial is set for Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, at 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Litomysl. Friends may greet the family from 9:00 until the time of service at the church Monday. Phyllis was born March 4, 1950, in Owatonna the daughter of Anton and Bernice (Wilson) Spinler. She attended Owatonna High School and graduated in 1968 there. Phyllis was united in marriage to Larry Wencil June 10, 1972, at Christ the King Church in Medford. She worked at Jostens for several years. She was



riage to Larry Wencil June 10, 1972, at Christ the King Church in Medford. She worked at Jostens for several years. She was

a stay at home mom while raising her children. Later Phyllis worked at Owatonna Public schools in food service. She taught religious education at St. Mary's for many years. Most recent worked for the Owatonna Clinic in records keeping. She was a member of the V.F.W. Auxiliary. Her life interests include crossword puzzles, cross stitching, making baby blankets. Phyllis will be missed by her husband Larry, children Jason Wencil, Darren (Lori)

Wencil, Michelle Wencil, all of Owtonna and Kyle (Amanda) Wencil of Claremont. Six Grandchildren Riley, Brice, Brea, Kylie, Khloe, Anton. Her siblings Darlene (Albert) Liverseed of Owatonna, Deloris Fisher Medford, Larry (Sandra) Spinler of Morristown, Joan (Lowell) Hellivek of Medford. Preceded in death by her parents, one brother Don and brother-in-law Mark Fisher. Memorials may be directed to the Faribault School for the Blind.

Irene May (Brown) Wiesjhan, 96 of Owatonna

Irene May (Brown) Wiesjhan, 96, of Owatonna, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Irene was born May 18, 1920, in Somerset Township, Steele County, the daughter of Frank and Olga (Johnson) Brown. She was baptized by Rev. O.G. Dahlager, June 20, 1920, at the parsonage in Lemond Township and confirmed at First Lutheran Church of Hope by G.J. Bretheim Oct. 21, 1934. Irene attended all eight grades at District #12 and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1938. Irene worked as a waitress at Mac's Caf , Owatonna Hotel, Arnold House, Enterprise Laundry and Jostens doing defense work during WWII. On Sept. 4, 1944, she was united in marriage to George Wiesjhan at the First Lutheran Church of Hope by Rev. C.T. Olson. In 1951, they moved to a farm by Hope. She also was a bookkeeper at the Speltz Elevator and Hope Co-op Creamery. Irene's strong faith and dedi-



cation to First Lutheran Church was shown through her church work; serving as Sunday School teacher, President of Women of the ELCA, member of the Ruth Circle, quilting group, Altar Guild, Church Treasurer and Kitchen custodian. Baking was Irene's pride and joy. She shared many of her favorite recipes with her family and friends including her special popcorn balls, brownies and her many angel food cakes. She also enjoyed her garden and the plentiful harvest every year. She received Grand Champion for her canned beef and received Cham-

pion awards for her pickles and peach sauce at the Steele County and Mower County Fair. Irene loved her family and getting together for family gatherings. She enjoyed traveling and visiting her son and family in Texas, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin. In 2007, her son moved next door and those distant trips soon turned to daily visits with shared coffee, desserts, and reminiscing about the old days. Irene enjoyed her "Scrap Booking," a project her husband, George, started many years ago and she proudly continued. She would spend hours and days collecting and updating her scrap books with newspaper articles with a collection of news, family histories and changing events throughout Steele County. In other books, she had a collection of history from the area towns, all of which she gladly shared. Irene is survived by her son, Glenn and Linda (Bates) Wiesjhan of Owatonna; grandson, Gregory and Bobbie Jo (Miller) Wiesjhan of Madison

Lake; granddaughter, Kimberly and Robert Finley of Rochester; great grandchildren, Nicolas, Mitchell and Riley Ann Wiesjhan and Morghyn May Finley; nephew, David Vaith of Owatonna; great niece, Penny (Ptacek) Humpal of Columbia, Tennessee, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Olga (Johnson) Brown; husband, George (July 31, 1999); grandson, Darrin Robert Wiesjhan; daughter-in-law, Sharon (Schultz) Wiesjhan; sister, Irma Vaith; brother-in-law, Frank Vaith and niece, June (Vaith) Ptacek. Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 11, at First Lutheran Church of Hope with pastor Sandy Miller and Pastor Dick Hegal officiating. Interment will be in the Zion Lutheran Cemetery, Lemond Township. Memorials are preferred to Zion Cemetery Association Ellendale, First Lutheran Church of Hope or donor's choice. Michaelson Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Signe V. Pelinka, 99, formerly of Blooming Prairie

Signe V. Pelinka, age 99 of Ormond Beach, Florida, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died peacefully Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017, at Seaside Manor in Ormond Beach. Signe was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie where she was active in the annual First Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner, and W.E.L.C.A. She was also a member of Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and past president of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary. Signe enjoyed sewing, cards, family gatherings and traveling to visit family. Signe is survived by her daughters Joanne (Jim) Mackey of Mount Dora, Florida, Mary Sue Pelinka of Ormond Beach, Florida, and Lana (Scott) Dittrich of Owatonna; sons-in-law Tim

wedding cakes and cakes for all occasions. She was also known for baking the most delicious lefse in the Blooming Prairie area. Signe was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie where she was active in the annual First Lutheran Lutefisk Dinner, and W.E.L.C.A. She was also a member of Blooming Prairie Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and past president of the Blooming Prairie American Legion Auxiliary. Signe enjoyed sewing, cards, family gatherings and traveling to visit family. Signe is survived by her daughters Joanne (Jim) Mackey of Mount Dora, Florida, Mary Sue Pelinka of Ormond Beach, Florida, and Lana (Scott) Dittrich of Owatonna; sons-in-law Tim



Molacek and John Haithcock; 10 grandchildren; six great grandchildren; sister-n-law Lou Benson of Minneapolis; nieces and nephews, cousins and extended family. She was preceded in death by

her parents; husband Hubert July 10, 1982; daughters Carol and Connie; brothers and sisters-in-law Kenneth and Dorothy Benson, Orville and Ella Benson, and Herbert Benson; sisters and brothers-in-law Margaret and Fred Robinson, Inez and Sam Harms, and Thelma and Charles Goettling. Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Rev. Lindsay Stolen officiating. Interment will be in the St. Columbanus Church Cemetery in Blooming Prairie. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Dale E. Hensrud, 63 of Owatonna

Dale E. Hensrud, age 63 of Owatonna, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2017, at his home in Owatonna. Dale Eugene was born Dec. 11, 1953, to Clifford and Marion (Ingvaldson) Hensrud in Owatonna, Minnesota. Dale graduated with the class of 1971 from Blooming Prairie High School. He was united in marriage to Debra Cornelius May 27, 1972, in Ellendale. Dale and Debra raised their family and resided on their rural Blooming Prairie farm. They later divorced. In addition to his farming, Dale was employed with Peterson Implement of Bloom-



ing Prairie, Farmstead Foods of Albert Lea, and for many

years with A.J. Lysne Contractors of Owatonna. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and enjoyed playing poker and his trips to the casino. Dale treasured time spent with his grandchildren. Dale is survived by his daughter Angela (Matt) Ringhofer-Halverson of Owatonna; sons Travis (Allison) Hensrud of Blooming Prairie and Paul Hensrud of Owatonna; 5 grandchildren Tristan Ringhofer, Dustin Hensrud, Brianna Hensrud, Alyssa Ringhofer and Hailey Hensrud; brothers Dwayne (Judith) Hensrud of Medford and Robert (Marge) Hensrud of Kenyon; com-

panion Janet Wutschke of Owatonna; nieces and nephews, cousins, extended family and friends. Dale was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Darrell at infancy. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Feb. 10, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie with Reverend Christopher Miller officiating. Interment will be in Westfield Cemetery, rural Blooming Prairie. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: 14th Haley Ryks Jim Severtson Jon Peterson Rita Goodnature Janis Haberman Owen Braaten Harley Haley Doug Krell 15th Elvin Alwes Emily Iversen Steve Glynn Raylee Miner Elijah Peterson 16th Mark Swenson Maveda Peterson Sophia Johnson Jerry Ingvalson Bernadine Peterson Mary Jo Wallace Eloise Yvonne Jenzen 17th Blake Christianson Derek Ingvalson	Thomas Farr Dawn Gross Brandy Munson Jeff Schiech 18th Amy Snider Maynard Johnson Rod Koster Carly Jo Iversen Holly Ann Olson Jayden Peterson 19th Jason Jensen Lance Lembke, Jr. Madysan Slowinski Riley Thompson Diane Boyd Carly Jo McIntash 20th Scott Krejci William Butler Miayna Davis Debra Paulson 21st Stuart Yentsch Avis Krampitz Lila Schiller Brian Betlach	22nd David Goodnature Julie Lembke George Ressler Jayden Peterson Mervin Nelson Allan Trotman Kelly Krell Anniversaries: 15th Kurt & Barb Blome Galen & Dorothy Peterson 17th Mark & Diane Lembke 18th Tom & Paula Ressler 22nd Marion & Joan Mast 25th Cork & Steve Drexler
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SEMCAC senior menu

Feb. 15 Chicken Alfredo Lasagna Peas and carrots Fresh salad Cranberry chews	Feb.17 Chilli Con Carne Crackers Pears/grated cheese corn muffin chocolate yumyum	salad chocolate cherry bar Feb. 21 Veggie soup crackers shredded turkey on a bun Mandarin orange salad gingerbread
Feb. 16 Baked Ham ALT: beef patty Sweet potatoes Scalloped corn Fresh Fruit	Feb. 20 Enchilada casserole Spanish rice corn	

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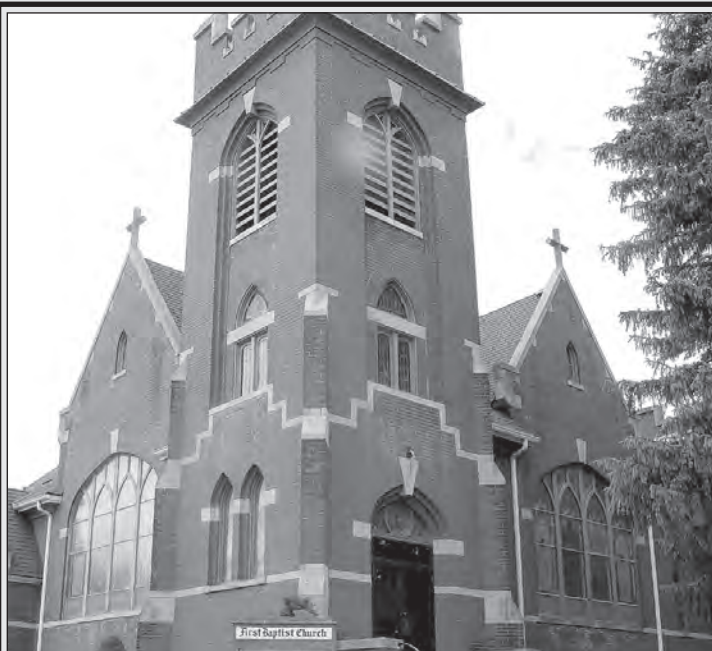
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Area Church Spotlight

First Baptist Church, Blooming Prairie, MN

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www.kernelrestaurant.com

Pastor's corner: Embrace love

The month of February stands out as the warmest of the winter months.

Oh, not in the actual temperature of the weather, but in the warmth of human affection. February, it has been reported is the most popular month for couples to become engaged.

With Valentine's day just around the corner many minds are turned to subjects of an amorous nature. It is only fitting then that we take a moment to consider the greatest love story of all time; the love of God toward man kind.

The First Epistle of John records in fourth chapter and tenth verse these words, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our

sins." In the nineteenth verse he reiterates "We love him, because he first loved us."

While we were without hope, and separated from the presence of God by our sins the Lord in His mercy and for the sake of His great love reached out to man and payed the penalty of our trespass. This payment was through the personal sacrifice of Jesus Christ by His atoning death on Calvary.

The Apostle Paul clearly states in the book of Romans that this incredible act of love was accomplished while we were the enemies of God. What a phenomenal love story.

Even more astonishing this gift of God's love is made freely available to all who will accept it by an act of simple faith. "By

grace are ye saved through Faith.

It is the gift of God; Not of works lest any man should boast." It is a story of the transcending and restorative power of the love of God.

This act of God not only was able to redeemed mankind, but also made each recipient the child of God through a personal relationship with God.

What then should our reaction to this wondrous truth. John gives all who have accepted God's offer the following challenge. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

This month of February would be a truly appropriate time for one to accept God's loving gift of grace if you have done so already.



If you are a recipient of His love, then let each of us fulfill the command and act as God did in a loving manner toward all!

If God could love those who were His enemy, surely those empowered by His love, and recipients of His grace can act lovingly toward those with whom we disagree.

**Pastor J. Matthew Fennell,
First Baptist,
Blooming Prairie**

Area Church Schedule

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621

firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
Pastor Sandy Miller
(507) 451-3854

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN—LCMS
2500 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
The Rev. Mark Rosenau, the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
(507) 451-4125

www.goodshepherdowatonna.com
Services: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. &
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

9651 SW 75th Street Ellendale
(507)465-8366

Family Choir 9:00-9:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Education
9:15 a.m. Sunday, Worship 10:15 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474

Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN—ELCA
30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin
Pastor Lindsay Stolen
(507) 583-2038 or (507) 437-3000
www.roglutheran.org

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna
Pastor Kirk Griebel
(507) 451-2720

www.redeemerowatonna.org
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404

sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net

Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy
Communion, Sunday Morning at
10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion
offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday
of each month. Sunday School 9:00
a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
104 First St. S.E., Hayfield
The Rev. Paul Hauschild
(507) 477-2248

www.trinityhayfield.org
Services: 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN—LCMS
57403 300th St., Waltham
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN—LCMS
202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale
Pastor Jesse Krusemark
(507) 567-2272

Service: 8:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
106 Third St. S.E., Geneva
Pastor Kristen Venne
(507) 256-4288

Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165

Worship 8:30 AM
TRINITY LUTHERAN



CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165

Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org

Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.

Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

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

MOLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
7618 NE 84 Ave, Kenyon
Pastor Nancy Edwardson
(507) 789-6666

(Sept. - May) 10:45 a.m. Worship
(June - Aug.) 9:00 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Catholic

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

Reconciliation: Before Mass

Adoration: Thursdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784

stcolumbanuschurch.com

Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. Sunday.

Office hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.litomysl.webs.com

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

with Children's Church

Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday

Family Faith Formation and Adult

Bible Study after Mass with noon

potluck: 2nd Sunday of month Fairh

formation for Kindergarten thru

Confirmation: every Wednesday

evening 6:30 p.m.

Annual turkey bingo, Sunday, Nov. 20

7 p.m.

SACRED HEART PARISH

810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna

The Rev. Adam McMillan,

Parochial Vicar

(507) 451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org

Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,

8:30 a.m., & 10 a.m.

Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sunday

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday

Adoration: Thursdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH

512 S Elm, Owatonna • 507-451-4845

Fr. Kevin Connolly

Deacon Patrick Fagan

Sat. Mass: 4 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Reconciliation 3-5:30 p.m. Saturday

Daily Mass 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri

(Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday)

Adoration Chapel avail Mon-Fri

7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. key fob

required after hrs or wknds

Christian

Christ Community Covenant Church

540 18th St. SE, Owatonna

Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor

507-451-1032

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Connections 10:15 a.m.

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Owatonna Campus

422 W. North Street, Owatonna

Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson

507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

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(507) 835-8726

Service: 10:45 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday

ELLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 Sixth St. N.W., Ellendale

Pastor Randy Cirksema
(507) 684-2731

www.ellendaleumc.org

Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

Free home style meal on the first

Sunday of the month through Dec.

2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m.

followed by the free meal at

11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

815 E. University, Owatonna

Loren Olson, Pastor

Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor

(507) 451-4734

www.owatonnaumc.org

Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sunday

Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Church School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

130 East Bridge St. Owatonna,

Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

Sundays 10:00 AM

Coffee Fellowship starts at 9:30 a.m.

Reformers Unanimous Meetings

Fridays at 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH

30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224,

Hayfield

Pastor Aaron de Neu

(507) 477-2255

www.cedarcreekchurch.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH

2002 Austin Rd.

Pastor Doug Jones

(507) 363-3099

www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com

Sun 10 a.m. English Service

10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone

2 p.m. Spanish Service

Wed. 7:00 Bible Study

Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna

Pastor Scott Peterson

(507) 721-1366

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Gateway Connection: 7 p.m. Saturday

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Owatonna Campus

422 W. North Street, Owatonna

Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson

507-254-8514

www.destinycc.org

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

SIMPLE CHURCH

Pastor Todd Lundgren

507-451-5661

Sundays 9:30

Meeting in the Country Goods

building across the

freeway from Cabela's.

Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH

13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie

Dennis Martin

(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216

Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

and 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

A NEW CAR Dealer STEERS INTO STEELE COUNTY



Julie and Greg House of Stewartville have taken over ownership of Walser Automotive in Owatonna. The dealership's name has changed to House Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac. We look forward to serving Steele County and the surrounding area for years to come with great service and small town values.

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