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STEELE COUNTY TIMES



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BP Education auction raises $70,000



Staff Photo by Howard Lestrud

Lily Evans, six-year-old kindergartener of Mrs. Ostrander at Blooming Prairie Elementary School, displays a book her class did for the BP Education Foundation silent auction. More than 300 items were auctioned last Saturday at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"It's just plain amazing," said Julie Noble, president of the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, when reflecting on the 14th annual BP Ed auction held last Saturday night, March 25.

Noble and Sue Zwiener, founder of the auction idea, reported funds raised from a silent auction and a live auction at about $70,000. Last year's total of $80,000 stands as a record for the annual BP Ed Foundation event.

The money raised is "just half of the story," Zwiener said. All auction items are donated, thus a clear profit is realized on everything auctioned and that's the other half of the story.

"The generosity and level of support for the Foundation and for Blooming Prairie schools is unbelievable," said Zwiener. "We're just so excited about how much the town cares about their kids," she added.

The silent and live auctions drew huge crowds at The Pizza Cellar and at The Cue Company in Blooming Prairie. Noble and Zwiener thanked all the donors, the buyers and the many volunteers who worked the auction. The auctions went until 12:30 a.m. on Sunday.

It was estimated that 300-plus items were donated, said BP Education Foundation President Julie Noble and Secretary Karen Fouarge. There were 175 live items and more than 200 silent items.

Many of the donated items were handmade creations of adults and students. Students at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School helped make about 25 project items for the silent auction.

All donated items were printed in a special booklet given to all bidders.

A new twist was added to the auction this year. Tickets at $50 each were sold with the winner getting the chance to pick any item on the auction list. Sandy Jones was the winner. She picked the four airline tickets at any place in the continental United States. The tickets were donated by Minimizer.

Zwiener said the crowd "was ecstatic" when Jones was announced as the winner. "She puts in so much time working with the elementary kids on

AUCTION
Continued on page 3A

Hagedorn speaks on Walz's run

First District Republican congressional candidate Jim Hagedorn, who surged to within 2,547 votes (50.3%-49.6%) of defeating incumbent Rep. Tim Walz in the 2016 election, issued the following statement concerning Rep. Walz's intention to run for governor of Minnesota:

"Congressman's Walz's announcement that he will run for governor is another example of how the Hagedorn campaign continues to build momentum from our razor-thin 2016 election.

"The National Republican Congressional Committee has already targeted Minnesota's First District for takeover and our campaign is enjoying exceptionally strong early fundraising in this first quarter of 2017.

"Running in an open seat only increases my will to work exceptionally hard and personally engage southern Minnesotans in one-to-one conversations to earn their trust and votes.

"I will continue to stand for commonsense conservative solutions to secure America's borders, protect our nation from Islamic supremacists, reform the federal government to expand our rural economy and create high-wage jobs and defend our God-given rights."

Medford debates radon and sod woes

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At the Monday Medford city council meeting, city administrator Andy Welti reported high radon levels had been found in the city building.

While looking for the air filter for the council chamber's furnace, it was discovered that the current furnace cold air return was constructed of concrete pipes that run underground and end in holes filled with gravel.

When a radon test was conducted of the area, the level was found to be 7.8 pCi/L. The EPA recommends action be taken when the level reaches four. The infected space is currently shuttered off, so the radon level is temporarily alleviated. There is no way of knowing what radon levels have been in the building in the past.

The proposed long-term solution is to seal off the current vent, and install above ground ducts for a new cold air return system.

Councilor Chad Merritt recommended also buying a new furnace, since the current one is over 20 years old. Welti was concerned that deliberation over a furnace would slow down the needed repair to stop the radon leak. The proposed cold air return system will still work if the furnace is replaced in the future.

The council unanimously approved the installation of the cold air return system.

In other business, the city-installed sod along the North Boulevard of Central Avenue is dying in some places and residents are requesting the sod be replaced on their properties.

The sod was originally placed in 2015 and found satisfactory both at the time of installation and the following spring. At the time it was installed, the city mailed out a letter of recommendations to residents on how to care for the sod.

Assessing the damages, "It's home by home," said Welti, "the care practices decide what happens to the lawn." He said a local landscape company did not recommend re-sodding, as it was not a long-term solution. Without proper care, it might go bad in two years again.

"It's just a matter of how it was cared for," Councilor Marie Seaton agreed. Councilor Keith Maas said, "You can definitely tell who took care of it, and who doesn't."

Mayor Lois Nelson was concerned that some areas had a harder time than others because of how the soil was compacted.

Welti's initial recommendation was providing grass seed as a one time offer to the affected residents.

"I disagree with providing grass seed," Maas said. He was concerned it would set a precedent. If the grass seed didn't work, the city would be expected to keep providing options.

Actresses bare talents



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Merlin Players, under the direction of Julianna Skluzacek, are preforming Calendar Girls at the Paradise Performing Arts Center in Faribault. It tells the story of a group of woman who, in honor of friend's late husband, pose nude for a calendar to raise money for charity. The play is a heartwarming take on friendship and hope in the face of loss.

Director Skluzacek chose the role for its body positive message, and it's multiple roles for older women. "You're not going to see these women on the stage very often," she said, "there just aren't the roles for them."

The show is a fun, and thanks to some clever staging, family-friendly play. It runs through April 1st.

The calendars girls pictured from left to right: Alane Bendtsen, Bev Cashman, Sharon Gearin, Felicia Crosby, and Susan Dunhaupt

Valesano lobbies for school meals

Next week, Rachel Valesano, RD, director at Owatonna Public Schools, will represent the district and state of Minnesota at the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) 45th annual Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington, D.C. (April 2-4) along with over 900 other school nutrition professionals from across the country.

New regulations and rising expenses have increased the cost of preparing school meals, forcing local school districts to shoulder the financial burden. SNA members will urge Congress to oppose school meal block grants, expand USDA Foods to support the School Breakfast Program, and provide practical flexibility under a few of the nutrition standards for school meals. Block grants break the promise

SCHOOL MEALS
Continued on page 3A

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Opinion

Our view

We live and we learn

We are all human beings. The key word being, human. We go through life, learning. At the end, we'll ponder and reflect. The great question that we will all ask ourselves is, "what did we learn?"

We laugh, we cry, we make mistakes, we pick ourselves up and go on. The adage, "just don't do it again" is folly. If anyone reading this has never made the same mistake, then perhaps this world is just not perfect enough for you.

In the midst, we must try to remember to keep our fingers to ourselves. As evidenced in history, pointing them never really accomplishes anything to the fruition of projects. AND, if you've ever had one pointed at you – it can be as scary as a weapon of mass destruction.

We look, then, for excuse, denial, blame to name a few that will act as a balm to attack. All items within the human spirit that can take the focus off finishing as a team.

This past season in the midst of the madness, there was a basketball team that had fought hard to stay with a very superior team. They were in it until the end. A freshman made a costly mistake and the timeout was called.

There was still time to plan. There was more than enough time to rectify. It was an opportunity to rally the young troops, but the coach, instead took that precious time to tear down rather than to build up. He cajoled and emotionally whipped that young man. The coach was still in the player's face as the rest of the team walked, much befuddled and bewildered, back onto the court.

That young team fought hard and lost by a few points.

In our town we have some major and perhaps painful decisions to make concerning the much maligned Public Works Complex. If we change our focus in crisis to covering our backs, beating each other up and blaming people past and present, then surely the ones who will pay the price will be the taxpayers themselves.

We are human. We make mistakes. We face tough obstacles in life. Hopefully we will learn from coaches who will educate and not exterminate.

Our time would better be spent trying to find a solution rather than fighting one another. The fight is not to defend our pride, but to defeat an insurmountable obstacle. There is a championship at stake in Owatonna and it's time to rally the team.

And very simply. If it's not broken, don't fix it, but if it is broken, find a way to the solution.

Letter to the editor

Bill would pave the way for more and larger factory farms

In rural Minnesota, we know farmers are facing record low prices and our communities are suffering because of that. Legislators should be working to figure out how to help family farmers get through these tough times. Instead, I see bills designed to help the biggest corporate-backed operations get bigger and take away the rights of neighbors.

In Minnesota, factory farms over 1,000 animal units have to do environmental review before they are built. Senate File 1016 by Sen. Weber and House File 1456 by Rep. Swedzinski proposes to DOUBLE this to 2,000 animal units! One thousand animal units is the very largest sized feedlots in Minnesota and is equal to 3,333 hogs, 714 dairy cows, 1,000 steer or 200,000 chickens. One thousand units is so large that last year only nine proposed factory farms had to do environmental review before being built.

Environmental review is extremely important because it evaluates the potential harm, before a project is built to see if it can be minimized. It also means neighbors get to know what is being proposed and get a chance to comment on it before permits are issued and construction begins. If you are going to store millions of gallons of raw liquid manure in one place you should be required to do it right. That means doing an environmental review. If this bill passes, the factory farms that are 900 animal units now can double in size without doing environmental review.

Senate File 1016 by Sen. Weber and House File 1456 by Rep. Swedzinski are about helping the very largest factory farms, at the expense of rural communities. That's wrong! Let your legislators know today that they should oppose this bill to keep family farms and rural Minnesota strong.

Brad Trom
Blooming Prairie



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Overcome with relief over spring break

They probably won't go down as the most exciting or sexiest spring breaks for my college- aged children. But then again I tend to feel spring breaks are far overrated any way.

I am often amazed at how many parents of teenagers and even younger kids make a big splash about spring breaks and often try to outdo the next family with going somewhere exotic or halfway across the country.

And with college kids on spring break destinations from Florida, to Texas, to Colorado, to Mexico and dozens of other places near and far, it can quickly turn into a parents' worst nightmare.

Perhaps there is some slight jealousy brewing within me because I never had a full-fledged spring break back in my high school days. We usually had a couple days off at Easter, but no other spring break. And when it came to college for me, I was busy working to pay for my way through college.

At least with college students, there is no doubt that drinking is a big part of the Spring Break culture.

According to a University of Wisconsin study, which is the college where my son attends, 75 percent of college males and about 43 percent of females reported being intoxicated on a daily basis during spring break. Nearly half of the males and more than 40 percent of the females also reported being drunk to the point of vomiting or passing out at least once during break.

Statistics like those make me real uneasy. Spring break is basically a time for full-throttle partying and making parents regret they pissed away tuition probably better-spent financing a beachfront property.

But relief quickly set in when I discovered what both of my college-aged children did for their spring breaks. I actually found it to warm my heart. They both skipped the sandy beaches and ski slopes to benefit their studies and their futures without any influence from their old man.

My daughter headed into the armpit of the Midwest, aka Detroit, Mich., for an alternative spring break mission trip helping the homeless. This was the second mission trip she has taken during her college career.

As for my son, he ended up at home tackling projects for his college classes and working on getting his finances in order to continue with his dream of attending business college. I helped him with some writing projects, which, of course, is one of my specialty areas. I think he was home more this past week than he had been in the entire previous year combined.

We were able to spend some real quality time together doing really not much of anything.

It also gave me the perfect chance to reflect on how much he has matured into a fine young man. He has really changed over the past two years since leaving home and heading off to college. It's rewarding for me as a parent to see how much his maturity level has risen over that time period.

No sooner had my son arrived back at college and he was already texting me about how much he appreciated me and everything I have done for him not only over spring break but his entire life.

With all the negativity in the world today, life really doesn't get much better than a heartwarming message from one of the kids expressing their appreciation. It made me realize what a blessing my children bring into my life.

I hope more parents will enjoy their children going in hot pursuit of hanging low for spring break and focusing on what really matters most in life.

Guest Column

Pooches surprise lawmakers in St. Paul

By PEGGY BENNETT

You already know that I'm a dog person. We had a surprise in St. Paul as Secondhand Hounds and Uber teamed up to bring puppies to the State Office Building last week. We had such a fun event, and even made a short video of some lawmakers with these cuddly pups. It was a needed reprieve during a busy week.

Last week was important as we unveiled a number of our larger budget bills. One of the biggest is our $1.3 billion tax relief proposal. At the top of our priority list is providing tax relief, and our proposal would do that with relief targeted toward middle class Minnesotans.

I have heard from so many seniors who are asking for some relief on their Social Security taxes. I am happy to say that the single biggest part of the $1.35 billion in relief would come as a reduction in the state tax on Social Security income. The legislation would raise the income limit for Social Security to be taxed, a move that would benefit our aging population, especially those on a fixed income.

One of my favorite components of the tax bill gives property tax relief for our farmers who are struggling under the weight of property

GUEST

Continued on page 3A

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2 National Awards
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2 State Awards
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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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower.... $42
Elsewhere in Minnesota..... $44
Out of state..... $46

Second Front

Auction work pays off

AUCTION: from page 1A

their projects for the auctions," Zwiener said.

Let's look at some of the high bid items:

•Utility shed constructed by BPHS class, $2250

•Autographed University of Minnesota football helmet signed by Coach P.J. Fleck, donated by Mike Nealy, $1600

•Blossom boys basketball birthday party for six, $1600

•Pickled eggs, donated by Margaret and Billy Noble, $200

•Vintage telephone donated by Cindi and Darrell Hansen, $450

•Variety of baked goods went anywhere from $150 to $400

•BP Natural Beef (Aaron Anderson, Paul Smith, Jared Smith) donated quarter beef with processing. Jared Smith bought the item and donated proceeds to the community Backpack program.

• 2 Vikings tickets for 2017-18 game TBD, donated by Pete and Mary Kittelson, $525

• Pheasant hunt, donated by Mark Larkoski, KDC, Smooth Moves and Chad Christianson, $650

•Handmade gun cabinet, donated by Butch Anderson, $750

•Luau,Donated by Rick and Chris Klemmensen, Jay Klemmensen, Jan Pederson, $800

•Basketball autographed by U of M coaches Richard Pitino and Marlene Stollings, donated by Roger and Joanne Sorenson, $550

Mystery prize raffle tickets were sold and the winner received a significant prize of $1200 in merchandise from Brick Furniture.

Announcers, auctioneers and ring men for the live auction were: Jason Iacovino, Chris Kubal, Lianna Doocy, Steve Seykora, Mark Dittlevson, Dennis Jensen, Justin Krell, Johnny Kraling, Dave Thompson, Jeremy Simon, Matt Kittelson, Josh Toquam, Mike Studer and Dustin Doocy.

In addition to all items donated, the Foundtion also received some cash and item donations as follows: Cynthia and Charles Halstenson; Shirley Magnuson; Arkema; Floor Tech; Mark and Sandy Larkoski; Smooth Moves Seats aka H2O on the GO; Federated Insurance; Worlein Funeral Homes; Barb (McDonald) and Thomas McWhirter; KDC Inc.; The Bakery; Sportstitch; Jamie Klemmensen and Nick Nelson.

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 Klemmensen, 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.

The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the eduction experiences of the students of ISD 756.

Proceeds from the auctions will be used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. About 50 are allotted each year, Zwiener said.

The funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, robotics team at high school, lego project at the elementary school, etc.

"It was a long night, but it takes a long time to make that much money in one night," Zwiener theorized. "It just goes to show you that it takes an entire town to raise our children and Blooming Prairie wants to have the best for our kids," she added.

Auction #14 is in the books and planning now starts for #15 to be held in 2018.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Everything from a homemade gun cabinet to an autographed University of Minnesota football helmet were auctioned off at the Blooming Prairie Education Foundaation's 14th annual auction Saturday night, March 25.

Proposal to help farmers

GUEST: from page 2A

taxes that are 10 times the average home owner. The House GOP proposal would help farmers by easing how much they pay for the school bond portion of their taxes. I like this provision because it doesn't hurt schools (it will actually help them), but creates a fairer system for farmers. With such an agriculture rich area in southern Minnesota, this provision would be a big help to many of our friends and neighbors who help grow the food that comes to our tables.

Thank you for your calls, emails, and visits. Again, please continue to call or email my office if you need anything. I love hearing your views and suggestions, and will get back to you as soon as possible. Please stay in touch.

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

SNA hopes to increase regulation flexibility

SCHOOL MEALS: from page 1A

that America's students will have consistent access to the nutrition they need to succeed.

SNA members will discuss an expansion of USDA Foods for the School Breakfast Program and practical flexibility under federal nutrition standards for school meals.

To ease menu planning challenges and appeal to diverse student tastes, members of SNA will ask their local representatives of Congress and USDA members to maintain Target 1 sodium levels and restore the initial requirement that at least half of grains offered through school meals be whole grain rich.

SNA members will also call for an independent study of the federal child nutrition programs to reduce regulatory and administrative complexities.

LAC's "Charge to the Hill" on Tuesday, April 4, will allow Valesano and other attendees to meet with their members of Congress to discuss the importance of school meal programs and share SNA's 2017 Position Paper, which urges Congress to oppose any effort to block grant school meal programs and help restore the fiscal solvency of these programs.

"It's an exciting and important opportunity for some of our School Nutrition professionals to meet with local legislative representatives at LAC and discuss the issues that directly affect the children of Minnesota," said MSNA President Julie Powers. "We strive to educate our representatives and the public on the importance that every child have access to healthy school meals."

Valesano and members of the Minnesota School Nutrition Association have April 4 appointments scheduled with local representatives, including:

·Congressman Jason Lewis

·Congressman Tom Emmer

·Congressman Keith Ellison

·Congresswoman Betty McCollum

·Congressman Collin Peterson

About School Nutrition Association:

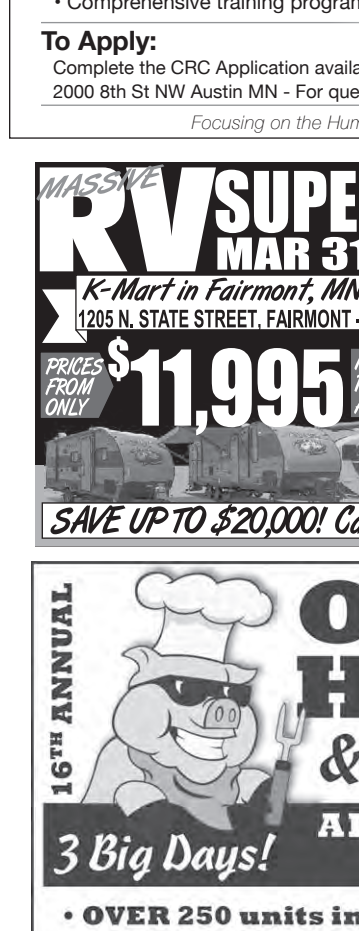
The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing 57,000 school nutrition professionals across the country. Founded in 1946, SNA and its members are dedicated to making healthy school meals and nutrition education available to all students. To find out more about SNA's Legislative Action Conference, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/ LAC.

Lucky Finds Winners

Congratulations to:

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STEELE-DODGE BUSINESS

Standing the test of time

By **MARK DELAP**
Managing Editor

They say that Ace is the place to go for a helpful hardware man. In the case of Arrow Ace Hardware & Paint in downtown Owatonna, it is the place for a helpful hardware staff. All dedicated to home improvement in a place that has been established as a hardware store for over 60 years.

At 208 N. Cedar Ave., you will find former OHS grad, Michael Bail, the youthful, but experienced manager of Arrow Ace, who could epitomize the story of "local boy makes good." Bail, who began as an employee of the store, worked his way to the top with hard work, dedication and a "can do" attitude.

They say that cream rises to the top and you don't have to separate it from the milk. Bail's peers and management noticed his leadership qualities and steadily promoted him until he stands atop a store that is ready to burst at the seams.

"I began working here, and over a period of time, other employees I was working with and the management in charge noticed a lot of potential in me," Bail said. "And when the opportunity to manage this store arose, they overwhelming chose me and asked if I would accept the position. And I did."

After two and a half years, Bail is navigating a small ship though a sea of 21st century progress where larger home improvement chains have sprung up overnight and have driven many mom and pop hardware stores by the wayside.

Certainly Ace Hardware has a large national name and reputation, but their image has remained consistent in marketing themselves as the neighborhood hardware store you can trust with employees that you know and personal service that is second to none.

A little neighborhood hardware store in the central hub of downtown. Something you don't see very often as the big box stores have moved into locations outside of America's neighborhood areas for ease of access, parking and room for expansion.

With the downtown area of Owatonna thriving and reinventing itself as being the central hub and rallying point of the town, why not a hardware store? It's easily accessible in a central location and what an option for husbands who are accompanying their wives to the shopping district.

The hardware store has been downtown for as long as many can remember. Once owned by a man they simply refer to as "Morrie" owned two hardware stores back in the day.

"The coolest thing I heard about Morrie was that he had anything that you could be looking for, you could find it here," Bail said. "Give him 10, 15 minutes upstairs and he would bring it down for you."

"Morrie" was a man that didn't have anyone remembering his last name, but never forgotten was his reputation to dedicated service. In the annuls of time it's only a guess as to how many home improvement projects and assorted widgets, gadgets, pipes and paint that he put into Owatonna homes and businesses.

"I believe he had two locations, from what I understand," Bail said. "And he would find himself spending the night here, many nights."

For a young manager to tell that story as one of his favorites speaks to the dedication and enthusiasm he has for the business.

As for what has been gained in his short tenure as manager, Bail reflects with great wisdom. "Though you have a small space to deal with, there's great potential in small things."

Dave Neiman who now owns 10 hardware stores including the Arrow Ace in downtown Owatonna originally purchased the hardware store back in the mid-80s. It has established a loyal following and Bail says that it's the friendships formed and customer service that keeps people coming back.

The company does well in its downtown location and is now going to expand to create even more space and more parking. On that property west of the current location, in the 100 block of West Vine Street sits a building known by Owatonna residents as the "Arnold house." That structure was built in 1866 by B. L. Arnold which was incepted as a hotel. The land and structure were purchased by the Owatonna EDA with land fund money, for $185,000 from Minnetonka – Equity Bank who had owned the property for 10 years.

The city has agreed to demolish the building and the selling of the property to Nieman for $1. Nieman will then erect a new building that has over 10,000 sq. feet of space and ample parking.

In a world where the misnomer is that the internet is filled with nothing but truth and bigger is always better, Bail counters with the mission statement of his company. "The main goal of the owner of Ace Hardware global," Bail said, "his goal is to be the most helpful hardware store on the planet. And through that mindset, that's how we operate. Customers come first and in at any capacity that we can help them, we do that."



Photo by Mark DeLap

Manager Michael Bail stands on the future site of the new Arrow Ace Hardware complex that will be located where the Arnold House now stands. The Arnold house is slated for demolition in the spring of this year and will give way to a bright new addition to downtown Owatonna.



Photo by Mark DeLap

Michael Bail, manager of Arrow Ace Hardware can help you wage the war against weeds and all other home improvement foes that my come your way.

Byron Funeral Home offers 'Macken' touch

By **RICHARD JOHNSON**
Managing Editor



Photo by Richard Johnson

Visitors mingle on March 24 during an open house for Byron Funeral Home and Cremation Services. The business is owned by Dan and Tim Macken, who also own Macken Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Rochester.

Macken Funeral Home, established in 1909 in Rochester, has expanded west with a new facility: Byron Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

The business, owned by Dan and Tim Macken, hosted an open house March 24. It is located just off Highway 14 at 1620 Voll Dr. NW, Byron.

It features a large visitation room, plus a crematorium and preparation room in an 8,000 square-foot building.

It is the city's first funeral home.

"We just decided that Byron, which didn't have a funeral home, could use the same quality and service we give the people of Rochester," said mortician Peter Macken, Tim's oldest son. "And we're lucky, because one of our morticians (Jay Czeczok), is a resident of Byron.

"We're just happy to be here," he said, "because all the buzz that is Byron - we want to be along with it. They're young and they're happy and proud."

The funeral home opened in mid-January, but staff decided not to hold an open house until finishing touches were complete, Czeczok said.

He and Macken are especially impressed with the architecture and interior design, supplied by Alyssa Fordham Vagt of CRW Architecture and Design Group, Rochester.

"I think the biggest thing is just the modern look," Czeczok said. "A lot of people who come into this place, they're just amazed by the openness. It doesn't remind them of a funeral home. And definitely the architecture – they've just done a great job.

"It's a growing community," he said. "There's a need for it, and it's just good to be able to serve the people where they live."

Macken said Byron Funeral Home may eventually open a chapel on land it owns which adjoins the current facility.

"We are here to serve," he said. "It makes me proud. My great-grandpa (business founder Dan Macken, who died in 1963) would be happy that we're still helping people the way he helped people in Rochester."



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Exploring and inspiring with a purpose

The Steele County Historical Society is seeking interpretive volunteers to act as tour guides, building docents and interpreters for the 2017 tour season in the Village of Yesteryear and the Steele County History Center. This is your chance to explore and inspire.

Tour Guides lead groups of visitors building to building through the Village of Yesteryear and History Center, sharing stories and historical detail about the buildings, artifacts and the people of Steele County.

Building Docents are stationary in one building, and act as a building host, delivering commentary on the buildings and the exhibits for large group events, such as Extravaganza, SCFF and Christmas in the Village.

Interpreters communicate historical information using multiple interpretive techniques, including taking on the persona of a Steele County figure, dressing in period costume and doing demonstrating of how things were made or functioned.

Three training sessions are scheduled: April 3, 10, and 17 at 1 p.m. Each session is identical, and will include classroom training and tour.

Qualifications include enjoyment in working with people, are enthusiastic about history, able to speak in front of crowds, willing to attend training, love to learn, be at least 16 years of age, and can commit to doing at least one tour twice a month, which on average lasts 2 ½ hours.

Please RSVP for one of the three training sessions. For more information please call 507.451.1420 or email MaryAnne.Higgins@steelehistorymuseum.org.

The Steele County Historical Society is a nonprofit educational and cultural institution established in 1949. Its mission is to preserve and share Steele County history today for the generations of tomorrow. The Society collects, preserves and tells the story of Steele County's past through museum exhibits, research, collections, tours, educational programs and book publishing.

Bandit Big Rig Series features Average Joes

Bandit Big Rig Series driver Chris Kikelhan knows all about racing, but he still considers himself just a normal guy.

"Being a small fleet owner and participating in the Bandit Series gives me a chance to enjoy something competitive in the same field as I work in everyday," Kikelhan said.

Kikelhan drove the #01 Sundance truck to victory at Hickory Motor Speedway last fall, and he'll never forget the feeling.

"People waited around long after the race," Kikelhan said. "We were standing over by the fence and they're trying to call me over for an autograph! It was crazy. I'm just an Average Joe having a blast."

Kikelhan is one of several small fleet owners participating in the Bandit Big Rig Series.

Allen Boles owns and operates Jupiter Enterprises out of North Carolina, but he also drives the #3 Volvo in the Bandit Series.

"It's unreal. The fans treat us like stars, but we're just out there having fun," Boles said. "It's pretty cheap, too. If you've got an old truck lying around, all you have to do is throw a cage in it, weld some bumpers on and put a fuel cell on the back. Turn the key and have a great time."

"There's also a $50,000 purse for each race, so you've got a great opportunity to win some of your investment back," Kikelhan said. "Win a couple features and you're probably out ahead!"

For a look at the 2017 schedule, visit the Bandit website at http://www.banditseries.com.

About Bandit Big Rig Series

The Bandit Big Rig Series returns big rig tractor truck racing to the short track in the United States. The series was designed to be affordable and accessible for anyone wishing to put together a race team.

For additional information please contact Brian Madsen at (507) 676-6627, email brian@banditseries.com, and visit www.banditseries.com.

Chamber picks MainStreet director

A volunteer of the MainStreet program has been chosen as its new director.

On Thursday, the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce announced Shirley Schultz would be taking over the MainStreet program beginning April 10.

Besides being a volunteer for the program since 2013, Schultz has also been active with the chamber for many years.

"Schultz is passionate about the success of downtown Owatonna and has a desire to make it even better," Chamber President Brad Meier said in making the announcement. "She is a great fit to move the vision for downtown forward."

She is a realtor with Parkside Realty.

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Owatonna city employee wages for 2017



In February, the Steele County Times published a list of salaries for all government employees working for Steele County.

This week the Times is publishing a list of salaries for all city government workers employed by the City of Owatonna.

City administrator Kris Busse tops the list with an annual salary of $124,738 followed by police chief Keith Hiller at $111,509. Rounding out the top four are Kyle Skov, city public works director, at $110,074 and Rhonda Moen, finance director, at $107,400.

Below is the complete list of city employees and their monthly earnings:

NAME	DEPARTMENT	MONTHLY WAGE
ABDI, MOHAMED F	POLICE	$2,281.07
ABRAHAMS, JESSICA M	PARK & REC/HUMAN RESOURCES	$3,692.00
ACKERSON, JESSE Y	POLICE	$4,924.40
AMMENTORP, EMILY V	POLICE	$4,784.00
ANDERSON, ERIC F	PARK & RECREATION	$6,071.87
APPEL, SHEILA A	POLICE	$2,214.33
ARDOLF, TRAVIS R	POLICE	$4,784.00
ARETT, BRUCE S	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,612.40
BAUERNFEIND, NICHOLAS J	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
BEAVER, DAVID J	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$6,071.87
BECK, KENNETH W	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$6,397.73
BENTLEY, WENDY A	POLICE	$4,511.87
BERG, CHRISTIAN J	POLICE	$5,342.13
BEYER, BRIAN A	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
BLAHA, JOHN P	PARK & RECREATION	$4,806.53
BOKELMANN, NANCY A	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$6,071.87
BOUTELLE, LISA L	LIBRARY	$2,259.23
BOWMAN, STEVEN J	POLICE	$5,342.13
BROWN, JUSTIN D	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,250.13
BROWN, RYAN K	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	$7,328.53
BURBANK, DAVID	CITY COUNCIL	$650.00
BUSSE, KRIS M	ADMINISTRATION	$10,394.80
CALLAHAN, ALAN P	POLICE	$4,784.00
CALLAHAN, NICOLE M	PARK & RECREATION	$4,511.87
CARSTENSEN, BRIAN N	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,371.47
CHRISTENSEN, JASON M	POLICE	$5,203.47
CLAWSON, JEANETTE K	ADMINISTRATION	$4,806.53
DEETZ, THOMAS L	FINANCE	$6,234.80
DETTMANN, RANDY J	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,550.00
DEVINNY, GEORGE A	POLICE	$6,397.73
DINGMANN, JOSEPH J	PARK & RECREATION	$2,281.07
DOTSON, NATHAN	CITY COUNCIL	$650.00
DREHER, ABBY M	POLICE	$4,784.00
DRENTH, ANDREW J	POLICE	$6,234.80
DUB, KIMBERLY A	POLICE	$4,612.40
DUCHENE, TRACY M	POLICE	$6,397.73
DUSHAW, BRADLEY J	PARK & RECREATION	$4,421.73
EARL, MICHAEL W	POLICE	$5,342.13
EBELING, JAMES P	PARK & RECREATION	$8,063.47
ELLIS, LEON R	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,924.40
FELL, CLARK H	PUBLIC WORKS	$6,902.13
FISCHER, ANDREW C	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,291.73
FRANDLE, BRUCE A	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,550.00
GERHARTZ, BRANDON D	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
GERHARTZ, DAVID A	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
GILGENBACH, CASSANDRA M	LIBRARY	$5,584.80
GORSKI, LYNN A	HUMAN RESOURSES	$7,328.53
GRIFFITH, GENE A	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
GUSE, DIANE M	FINANCE	$4,511.87
HAFSTAD, RICHARD A	PARK & RECREATION	$5,063.07
HALVERSON, MATTHEW D	FIRE	$4,421.73
HANSON, KAREN L	LIBRARY	$2,506.83
HANSON, KELLY J	FIRE	$5,480.80
HARDY-HAGEN, SANDRA A	LIBRARY	$1,570.40
HEDBERG, LEAH J	POLICE	$2,214.33
HENNEN, ADAM J	POLICE	$5,203.47
HERMEL, BONNIE L	FIRE	$4,511.87
HILLER, KEITH E	POLICE	$9,292.40
HOFMEISTER, RANDY F	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
HOUN, LARRY J	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$4,250.13
HUNT, JOEL M	POLICE	$5,342.13
JOHNSON, BENJAMIN R	POLICE	$5,203.47
JOHNSON, MICHAEL J	FIRE	$8,063.47
JOHNSON, TRAVIS T	POLICE	$4,017.87
JORGENSEN, HOLLY R	LIBRARY	$1,570.40
KAMHOLZ, KOREY K	FIRE	$4,806.53
KATH, MARK C	PARK & RECREATION	$3,659.07
KATH, MARLIN D	FIRE	$5,480.80
KERN, KURT K	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$1,303.47
KEYES, ELLIOT P	ENGINEERING	$5,908.93
KIEL, KEITH F	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,806.53
KLECKER, TROY D	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$8,340.80
KLEIN, MICHAEL J	PARK & RECREATION	$4,491.07
KNIEFEL, ROBBE J	POLICE	$6,397.73
KNOPICK, KEVIN D	PARK & RECREATION	$3,659.07
KNUDSON, MARY J	PARK & RECREATION	$5,323.07
KNUTSON, RONALD J	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,806.53
KOPP, KRISTEN A	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$4,511.87
KOZIOLEK, ANTHONY R	ENGINEERING	$5,193.07
KRUEGER, BONNIE R	LIBRARY	$6,071.87
KRUSCHKE, GREGORY W	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$6,165.47
KUNTZ, THOMAS	CITY COUNCIL	$850.00
LAGER, DARLA K	LIBRARY	$6,071.87
LEHMANN, RODNEY J	PARK & RECREATION	$1,780.48
LOWERY, RENEE P	LIBRARY	$6,345.73
LUBAHN, DAVID A	LIBRARY	$4,402.67
MAAS, KEITH P	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,550.00
MACFADYEN, SCOTT L	PARK & RECREATION	$4,374.93
MATEJCEK, JASON R	POLICE	$6,071.87
MCGUIRE, KIMBERLY M	LIBRARY	$1,854.67
MENDOZA, ISABEL C	LIBRARY	$2,077.23
MICHAEL, MELISSA J	POLICE	$4,924.40
MILLER, BEVERLY J	LIBRARY	$3,659.07
MILLER, WES A	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
MOE, KEITH H	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,550.00
MOEN, RHONDA L	FINANCE	$8,950.93
MONSON, CAROLE L	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,140.93
MUNDALE, JEFFREY E	POLICE	$7,572.93
MUNNS, THOMAS P	POLICE	$5,981.73
NELSON, CHAD M	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,550.00
NELSON, DEAN M	PUBLIC WORKS	$6,730.53
NELSON, PAUL J	PARK & RECREATION	$4,399.20
NELSON, ROBERT D	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
O'CONNOR, TIMOTHY J	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	$5,900.27
OELTJENBRUNS, MATTHEW D	POLICE	$5,342.13
OKERBERG, JEFFERY	CITY COUNCIL	$650.00
OLSON, RICHARD W	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,924.40
ORDORFF, DYLAN D	POLICE	$4,784.00
PEKURI, WILLIAM C	ENGINEERING	$6,524.27
PERKINS, DUANE D	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,784.00
PETTERSON, JASON G	POLICE	$6,397.73
PETTERSON, JOHN D	POLICE	$5,342.13
PICHNER, JEANNE F	FINANCE	$1,483.73
PROKOPEC, JOSHUA D	ENGINEERING	$5,193.07
QUINLAN, DERRIK J	POLICE	$4,784.00
RADEMACHER, BRADLEY D	ENGINEERING	$5,584.80
RANEY, KEVIN	CITY COUNCIL	$750.00
RASMUSSEN, JOAN M	LIBRARY	$2,581.58
RELLER, WENDY K	PARK & RECREATION	$3,981.25
RETHEMEIER, ERIC G	POLICE	$7,980.27
RICKERL, SANDRA I	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$4,511.87
RINGHOFER, THOMAS D	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
ROBERTS, PAMELA S	POLICE	$4,511.87
ROBINSON, BRANDON M	LIBRARY	$2,380.56
ROSENAU, COURTNEY M	PARK & RECREATION	$2,409.19
ROSENAU, WILLIAM R	PUBLIC WORKS	$5,063.07
RYG, COLTON J	POLICE	$2,281.07
SCHMOLL, JARROD W	FIRE	$4,806.53
SCHROEDER, DAVID M	POLICE	$4,113.20
SCHROHT, BRADLEY J	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,511.87
SCHULTZ, LOWELL	CITY COUNCIL	$800.00
SCHUMAKER, ZACKARY T	POLICE	$5,203.47
SCHWANKE, MARK E	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$5,451.33
SEGNER, RONALD E	ENGINEERING	$5,981.73
SEIFERT, RUBIN G	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	$5,747.73
SEXTON, MARIE P	LIBRARY	$4,511.87
SIMONSON, DRAKE T	PARK & RECREATION	$2,281.07
SKALICKY, CHRISTINA J	LIBRARY	$2,017.17
SKOV, KYLE A	ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS	$8,883.33
SMITH, MICHAELA M	POLICE	$4,784.00
SMITH, RICHARD H	PARK & RECREATION	$6,389.07
SORENSEN, JOSHUA D	POLICE	$6,397.73
SPANDE, ROBIN R	LIBRARY	$2,687.53
STICKEN, JASON R	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	$5,621.20
STOYKOVICH, STEVE M	PARK & RECREATION	$4,678.27
STRODTMAN, RICHARD A	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
SUMMER, DANIELLE J	PARK & RECREATION	$2,214.33
SVENBY, BRENT	CITY COUNCIL	$650.00
THOMAS, BRUCE E	FIRE	$5,480.80
TRUELSON, TIMOTHY W	PARK & RECREATION	$6,071.87
ULRICH, TODD A	FIRE	$4,806.53
VAITH, BRADY T	POLICE	$5,342.13
VAN OSDALE, ANDREW J	POLICE	$4,924.40
VAUPEL, JACOB R	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
VOGEL, ALEXANDRA M	POLICE	$4,645.33
VOSS, DOUGLAS	CITY COUNCIL	$650.00
WAGNER, DANIEL D	PARK & RECREATION	$3,314.13
WAGNER, WILLIAM M	PARK & RECREATION	$2,077.23
WILKER, JESSE A	PARK & RECREATION	$5,908.93
WITT, RONALD J	PUBLIC WORKS	$4,491.07
WOLTERS, LYNN L	PARK & RECREATION	$4,399.20





Avoid aches and pains when gardening

People who have not spent much time in a garden may not consider this rewarding hobby much of a threat to their health. But as veteran gardeners can attest, gardening can contribute to nagging aches and pains that can force even the most ardent green-thumbers indoors.

Gardening is a physical activity that, despite its peaceful nature, can be demanding on the body. Thankfully, there are several ways that gardening enthusiasts can prevent the aches and pains that can sometimes pop up after long days in the garden.

• Use ergonomic gardening tools. Ergonomic gardening tools are designed to prevent the types of aches, pains and injuries that can cut gardeners' seasons short. Gardening injuries can affect any area of the body, but injuries or aches and pains affecting the back, wrists and hands are among the most common physical problems gardeners endure. Look for ergonomic tools that reduce the strain on these areas of the body. Even arthritis sufferers who love to garden may find that ergonomic tools make it possible for them to spend more time in their gardens without increasing their risk for injury.

• Alternate tasks. Repetitive-strain injuries can affect gardeners who spend long periods of time performing the same activity in their gardens. By alternating tasks during gardening sessions, gardeners can reduce their risk of suffering repetitive strain injuries. Alternate tasks not just on muscle groups worked, but also level of difficulty. Remember to include some simple jobs even on busy gardening days so the body gets a break.

• Take frequent breaks. Frequent breaks can help combat the stiffness and muscle aches that may not appear until gardeners finish their gardening sessions. Breaks help to alleviate muscles or joints that can become overtaxed when gardening for long, uninterrupted periods of time. When leaning down or working on your hands and knees, stand up to take breaks every 20 minutes or the moment aches and pains start to make their presence felt.

• Maintain good posture. Back injuries have a tendency to linger, which can keep gardeners indoors and out of their gardens. When gardening, maintain good posture to prevent back injuries. Gardening back braces can protect the back by providing support and making it easier for gardeners to maintain their posture. Tool pouches attached to gardening stools or chairs also can be less taxing on the back than gardening belts tied around the waist.

Gardening might not be a contact sport, but it can cause pain if gardeners do not take steps to prevent the onset of muscle aches and strains when spending time in their gardens.

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- Polish Home Luncheon

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PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS

Tuesday
High: 56º
Low: 35º

Friday
High: 48º
Low: 29º

Wednesday
High: 50º
Low: 31º

Saturday
High: 53º
Low: 33º

Thursday
High: 41º
Low: 29º

Sunday
High: 54º
Low: 34º

Information provided by The Weather Channel

PANTHER OF THE WEEK

Sophia Williams is the daughter of Scott and Melissa Williams and they reside in New Richland. She is in Mrs. Ihrke's 2nd grade class.

Sophia LOVES to learn! Her passion and desire to learn is contagious to those around her! Sophia is tender hearted and her care and concern for others runs deep. She is always willing to help someone in need.

Sophia shows "Panther Pride" every day by being positive, safe, respectful, and responsible.

Sophia enjoys dancing, playing piano, riding bike, spotting license plates on cars, reading, and writing. Her favorite food is fish and lo mein (not together), and her favorite book is Life with Lily.

Great job Sophia!



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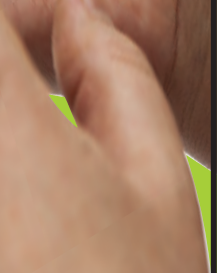
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Hometown Living

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Keep your eyes on changing skies



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Jerry Ibberson instructed SKYWARN volunteers on what to look for when tracking tornados. He broke down the different parts of a storm and how they can be used to anticipate its movements.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

"Storms always change." The projected words were emblazoned across a screen overhead, as a crowd gathered for Steele County SKYWARN's annual storm spotter training session.

The session instructed volunteers on the movements of storms and gave them their first insight into the knowledge necessary to safely and effectively track storms.

SKYWARN is a volunteer organization of trained storm spotters, who report on weather conditions ranging from wind gusts and hail size to cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Operating from the Owatonna Fire Department, Steele County SKYWARN is the central point the information is relayed too before its distributed to the National Weather Service, 911 Dispatch, and local media outlets, as well as emergency management agencies.

The limitations of radar for close-to-ground reporting make these storm spotters a valuable link in tracking storm movements. SKYWARN makes sure all of its volunteers have the necessary training to know what they're looking at and how to safely navigate it.

"We need feet on the ground with eyes on the sky," said Jerry Ibberson, a current member of SKYWARN who was leading the session.

Of the 50 people in attendance, half of them are already SKYWARN volunteers. As storm season kicks off, they were there for a refresher course and a chance to meet new recruits.

Ibberson said of the new people in attendance usually 10 become active volunteers for them. SKYWARN has 65 members on its call list. Of those 65, five to 30 are active at any given time.

When a storm begins to form, volunteers who answer the call are sent to pre-designated "sweet spots" that have good vantage points and nearby shelter. From their position, they report on how the storm is developing.

While the watchers report on a variety of weather, on the plains of Minnesota, tornados are the biggest threat. Storm season in Southern Minnesota kicks off in March and runs into October. Tornado frequency peaks in June. With the tornado in Clarks Grove only a few weeks ago, this storm season hasn't wasted any time in getting started.

The first training session focused largely on safety while tracking storms. Ibberson ran the audience through several

SKYWARN
Continued on page 3B

Lions and tigers and bears oh my

LITTLE THOUGHTS ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK DELAP

A family tradition that was forged over a generation ago in my family brought me back to my childhood last Saturday in Medford. Each year, our whole family would look forward to the television broadcast production of The Wizard of Oz which usually came on a Sunday in March or April and on more than one occasion it happened on my birthday.

Mom would make ham sandwiches and birthday cake and we would talk about the event all weekend. The TV show… not my birthday. Back in the stone ages, we didn't have remotes on our television, we had to time our bathroom breaks during the commercials as there was no pausing the show, and the rule in our house was that we had to watch it with all the lights off.

It got to be an even greater event when we got our first color television set. Sixteen years before I was born, wind was a very popular theme at the Academy Awards. Gone with the Wind won the best picture, and The Wizard of Oz got a nomination along with two Oscars and three other nominations.

Last Saturday, I had to work. I had to cover four events that day, and though it was a busy day, it was a good day. We had no popcorn with grease stains on the bag, mom, dad and brother are gone, two other siblings scattered around the world.

But magically and for one of the best birthdays in years, I had a chance to go to Oz. There were flying monkeys up and down the aisles, munchkins dancing up a storm not 20 feet from me and a twister that was as creative as I'd ever seen in an onstage performance. But most special to me was that I was transported back to a more innocent time. A time when the echoes of anticipation made me feel like 8 years old again.

Back to my childhood. Back to those songs that my mom would sing along with, and lines the family would laugh and quote by heart year after year. And that shrinking feeling in the pit of every young child's stomach when that bike became a broomstick and we heard that first shriek from intimidating green lips.

And the feeling. You know. That feeling when Dorothy wakes up in her own bed at the end of the story and Uncle Henry and Aunty Em are right there welcoming her as she realizes that her heart's desire was in those that surrounded her.

It's one of the most endearing movies of the 20th century and is shared by generations and families to this day as we all go back to remember that time with family.

I'd heard that this was one of the hardest stage plays to pull off because of the elaborate and enduring nature of the film itself. Some stage plays have died in the can because there is simply no equal to the movie. I wondered how they could pull this off? A group of high school and junior high students.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The Medford High School cast of the Wizard of Oz came together for a private curtain call at the matinee last Saturday. Members of the cast shown are, the Wicked Witch of the West, Cassie Larson, Scarecrow, Ben Sutcliffe, Henry Gail, Austin Von Ruden, Dorothy, Rachel Bluhm, Tin Man, Greg Larson, Aunt Em, Kristina Niner, Lion, Jacob Gasner, Professor Marvel, Michael Kanne and Glinda, Madie Cloutier

I sit here in my study on Sunday afternoon and I am still as speechless as the cowardly lion when he was awarded his courage. How did they do it? Students involved in a three-hour musical production in an age where kids can't go through dinner without checking their electronic devices.

I suspect it had something to do, first of all, with the casting. Shelly and Grant Fitzgerald are a one-two marital punch of creativity, technology and

HOME
Continued on page 3B



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Buying local takes the cake

Stephanie Underdahl and fiance' Dalton Wanous from Owatonna ask about the choice of cupcakes prepared for them in what has become a popular trend among those deciding on which wedding cake to choose. Confections by Karen, a local epicurean delight was created by Karen Peterson, a Blooming Prairie baker and entrepreneur who provides bride and groom cake tastings as one of her many services. On this day, the bride and groom sampled the ever popular wedding cupcakes and opted to choose a variety for their upcoming wedding. Underdahl said that the "salted carmel cupcakes were to die for." Look for updates on local businesses in *The Time*'s progress tab this April.

Masons support veterans



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 recently donated $3,500 from a public auction to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial. Accepting the check for the Memorial Committee are, from left to right: Tom Peterson, Ken Vermilyea, Doug Miner, Marilyn Meshke, Sandy Jones and Tom Walters.

Blooming Prairie Living

Pastor Jeff Sandgren joins First Lutheran as interim

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Small towns are not foreign to Jeff Sandgren, new interim senior pastor at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

In fact, Sandgren grew up in a smaller community than Blooming Prairie.

Sandgren was raised in Center City, located about 40 miles north of St. Paul. It is a city with less population than Blooming Prairie. Blooming Prairie has a population of just under 2000 and Center City has a population of just over 600. He and his two siblings are graduates of Chisago Lakes High School.

"We have lots of lakes, trees and Swedes in Center City," Pastor Sandgren remarked.

Coming to Blooming Prairie as an interim pastor, Sandgren, 56, now recognizes more of a populous dominated by Norwegians. He started his new pastoral assignment with wife Lisa on Ash Wednesday, March 1.

During their short stay to date, Pastor Jeff and Lisa have found temporary living quarters in Blooming Prairie and they have "hit the road running" in respect to involvement in this southeastern community, Pastor Sandgren says.

Sandgren brings over 30 years of pastoral experience to Blooming Prairie.

It is a bit ironic that Sandgren has landed in this southeastern Minnesota area. Following graduation from the Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, Sandgren thought he might be called to southeastern Minnesota. During seminary school, he had served one year as an intern pastor in Glenville, a small southeastern Minnesota community.

The direction of his first pastoral call actually turned northwest to Harvey, North Dakota, a community 70 miles from Minot and with a population of just under 1800. He served there from 1987-90. "My wife made a point of telling me not to take her to North Dakota," Sandgren recalls.

The next call for Pastor Sandgren came to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley where he served from 1990-96. The church counted 1200 members when Sandgren served there. The church now has a membership nearing 10,000 members.

His next call took him back to North Dakota to Olivet Lutheran Church of Fargo, where he served 20 years from 1996-2016. Olivet averages a weekly attendance of 700.

The Sandgrens left Olivet Lutheran Church in 2016 when he began work with Heartland Hospice of Minneapolis as its spiritual care coordinator. He also was open to a potential call as a senior pastor or for an interim position.

"Taking the hospice job was a new challenge and an opportunity to be closer to our kids," Sandgren relates. "We left on good terms from Olivet and just thought it was time to move on," he adds.

Sandgren said his hospice work was very rewarding in walking with people on holy ground. "People in hospice have a readiness to be open and engaged in discussion," Sandgren points out.

Sandgren received telephone calls from Susan Miller of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and from Barry Olson, president of First Lutheran of Blooming Prairie. The calls informed him of an interim opportunity in Blooming Prairie.

Sandgren interviewed with the First Lutheran executive team and was then offered the senior interim position. "The role of an interim is to serve as a bridge of where the church has been and where it is called to go," Sandgren said.

"It seemed like a pretty good match for us, so here we are," Sandgren smiles widely.

Synod guidelines dictate that interims cannot accept a call to the interim church they are serving, thus he will serve in the interim capacity until a senior pastor is called to First Lutheran.

Pastor Sandgren said he is very impressed with the gifted staff at First Lutheran. "Pastor Heidi (Heimgartner) is a very skilled pastor, a superstar in my assessment," Sandgren said.

Sandgren also compliments the lay leadership at First Lutheran with its many resources to serve the community and beyond the walls of the congregation.

Calling his leadership style synergistic, Sandgren says he prefers collaborative leadership which allows for creativity. He refers to a book, "Leadership Jazz" by Max Depree, saying it emphasizes stepping up and setting the tempo and at times, also letting the band swing.

"In every congregation, you can feel the heart beat," Sandgren believes.

Preaching is a favorite responsibility for Sandgren. He says he tries "to breathe in" enthusiasm in his sermons and messages to the congregation.

"I am pretty authentic and strive for authenticity. I hope there is harmony between what we say on Sunday and do the rest of the week. That's discipleship which God breathes into all of us."

Most rewarding for Sandgren in his pastoral work is "that you get to see people experience an epiphany or eureka moment and see the light bulb go on when it pertains to God's grace. The love of God is for His people and is nothing short of miraculous."

Sandgren says it is a privilege for him to walk with people in sharing their greatest joys and sorrows.

A challenge for Sandgren,he says, is when people "get stuck" personally. He said there are six words he prefers not to hear from a congregation: "We never did it that way." He says God is calling us to the future.

"We have a living savior in us and must look to the rising sun for new hope, new life, new chance and a new day."

Sandgren credits Lisa, his wife of 36 years, with keeping him pointed toward the church. "I may have wandered off, had it not been for her," he says. At one time, he was thinking he wanted to be a stock broker.

The Sandgrens are college sweethearts, both attending Augsburg College in Minneapolis. "Lisa is the best thing that happened in my life and she has been an amazing partner."

Lisa has a degree in elementary education. She teaches piano and served 12 years as director of children's ministries at Olivet Lutheran.

Pastor Jeff and Lisa have four children: son Joel, active in the horticultural business in Oregon; Sarah, bilingual educator in Minneapolis Public Schools; Naomi, second year teacher in New Prague and Rebekah (Willy), senior at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

When not in the pulpit, Sandgren loves all idioms of music. He also reads widely, thrillers, novels, science (physics) and current events.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

PASTOR JEFF SANDGREN

First Lutheran of BP will sponsor "Ending Well" workshop

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

A free workshop on making plans before the end of life is being offered on Saturday, April 22 at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

The workshop is from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and is sponsored by the First Lutheran Church Memorial Committee.

Pastor Chris Miller, First Lutheran's recent bridge interim pastor, will return to Blooming Prairie to lead the workshop entitled "Ending Well."

The workshop is designed for those who have not thought much about making plans for their funerals, or didn't get around to it

Pastor Miller asks: "Have you wished that you were better prepared at the time a loved one died?" He says many are not equipped to make decisions at the end of life and could use some guidance.

Topics to be covered include funeral service planning, common questions everyone asks, testimony or tribute writing (i.e. obituaries and eulogies, and information about designating gifts to the First Lutheran Church Memorial and Endowment funds.

Pastor Miller is the author of "Saints I Have Known and Buried: Tributes That Help Define Their Legacy and Sermons for Their More Difficult Funerals."

For more information, contact Pastor Jeff Sandgren at First Lutheran Church, 507-583-6621.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Advance your priorities in Washington

By DOUG LOON

Minnesota businesses have their hands full navigating the global economy and dealing with circumstances out of their control. That's why the Minnesota Chamber and our local chamber partners work every day at the Legislature to bring certainty to rules and regulations and to advance policies to strengthen the business environment.

Though our primary focus is at the State Capitol, we keep our eyes peeled on the nation's capital, too. Actions there can have an equally significant impact on everyday business operations. We invite you to join the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Executives and business leaders June 14-16 in Washington D.C., to meet firsthand with federal lawmakers.

President Trump promised sweeping actions as the nation's new chief executive, and he's wasting no time His administration is gaining more and more of attention of Minnesota businesses. Look at a sampling of headlines.

"Mexican border tax could throttle Minnesota farmers." "Some Minnesota businesses concerned with immigration order." "NAFTA, Minnesota and what comes next?" "Minnesota regulators feel caught in middle as Feds pare rules." "Minnesota health care groups don't back GOP replacement bill."

The national dynamics have changed significantly as the Trump administration and Congress give greater visibility to critical business issues ranging from tax reform, trade and immigration to health care, the regulatory environment and infrastructure investment. The debate and uncertainty around issues like these gives some urgency to business advocacy in Washington. Organizations like the U.S. Chamber and National Association of Manufacturers can't do this on their own. They need the grassroots muscle that comes from when you talk with our congressional delegation.

We had a hugely successful Business Day at the Capitol. With more than 600 business leaders from across the state joining together in St. Paul to meet with their elected officials, the statewide business community's agenda before the Legislature received a big boost.

The next stop is our annual trip to Washington, D.C. We look forward to another strong showing of Minnesota business leaders. As a business leader, employer and constituent, you are in a distinctive position to advise lawmakers on decisions that will help keep Minnesota businesses strong and help grow our state's economy.

Details are being filled in, but our Washington agenda will include meetings with key administration and agency leaders plus appointments with the Minnesota congressional delegation. We will coordinate a "Minnesota dinner" for our attendees. If you are interested in receiving the agenda and registration information, please contact Jennifer Byers at jbyers@mnchamber.com.

Together we will make an impact and advance policies to make Minnesota ready for the future.

Doug Loon is president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

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Cancer Corner

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

Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Strike Out Cancer benefit baseball game set for April 10

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Spring is officially here and a sure sign of spring is the sound of a baseball bat hitting a small, round baseball.

The signs of spring will be evident when the Blooming Prairie Blossoms baseball team plays Medford on Monday, April 10 with a special game designed to benefit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

The special event, Strike Out Cancer, is a joint effort between Blooming Prairie baseball and Medford baseball to raise money to fight cancer. The game will be played at 5 p..m. at the BP baseball field.

"Everybody has been affected by cancer in some way through their lives, whether directly or indirectly, and our Strike Out Cancer game is just a way to help support those who are fighting cancer and to honor those who have beaten the disease," said Matt Kittelson, BP baseball coach.

"We also want to remember those who we have lost to cancer," Kittelson emphasized.

The games also a chance to teach young high school baseball players about the importance of helping others and giving their time and efforts to their community, Kittelson said.

Blossom baseball players are selling 12-inch by 18-inch flags to the general public at $10 each. Names of friends or loved ones, or inspirational messages, can be written on the flags. The Strike Out Cancer flags will be on display in the grass outside of the baseball field, as well as on the fences during the game and throughout the week.

The flags are pre-made and are available by e-mailing Kittelson at mkittelson@blossome.k12.mn.us or by calling 507-327-5660. The team will be installing the flags the weekend before the game.

In addition to the display of pink at the field, the plan is to have two special guests throw out the ceremonial first pitch before the game.

"We are also inviting anyone from the community who has fought, or is currently fighting cancer to come to the game and be recognized as a group at home plate following the fourth inning.

Pink T-shirts will be on sale to the public at $10 each. All of the proceeds from the sale of shirts goes to the BP Cancer Group as well.

Chips, pop, and hotdogs will be available at the game for a free will donation to the BP Cancer Group.

The idea of this community event is not new, Kittelson said. It's something that various sports programs undertake in their communities, he explained.

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Owatonna Living

Relics unearthed at historical society

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

It's one thing to see rock formations that are thousands of years old, but to actually see artifacts that were created by the hands of human beings that far into our past has always had a strange attraction to most folks.

The Steele County Historical Society Hosted the Gopher State Archaeological Society Artifact Show in Owatonna last Saturday. The free event was open to the public and offered a spectacular array of artifacts from all over the Midwest.

From the collection of Orlin and Evan Schmidt, there was an impressive display of 17th and 18th century Native American pieces including arrowheads, stone pipes and primitive tools. There were many hunters displaying what they had captured from the past, showing off their finely polished implements of hunters from centuries past.

Shawn Pelot, better known as "Whiskers" boasts himself as a metal detectorist and amateur archeologist. He had an impressive display of both Woodland Indian artifacts from Minnesota and even some earlier items from the Paleozoic era. Among his treasures was an ax head that was said to be over 7,000 years old.

One of his favorite pieces was an ancient iron tomahawk pipe ax. Although he wouldn't divulge his hunting ground, it was in a similar area in Nicollet County where he had uncovered several primitive fishing hooks and tinklers, many of which were still found with the hair and porcupine quill still attached.

"There's nothing like it," Pelot said. "Once you find that first piece, you're hooked." He mentioned that as the earth churns each day, it is bringing to its surface hundreds of years of civilization that is yet to be revealed.

the Science Museum of Minnesota was also at the show, promoting its archaeological survey of Dakota County. The effort was seeking to summarize what is known about the early human occupation of the county and update the State Archaeologist's site file about the status of known archaeological sites.

Exhibitors came from all over the Midwest as was the case with Dan Maas who specializes in antique American Indian items. His collection included arrowheads, medicine bags, carvings, Knife River flint and several garments and bags with intricate beadwork.

Finally, one of the most interesting displays at the show was an 85-year-old man, donning an Indian hat and spouting Norwegian songs and quips. Perhaps it could have spun a lead that read, "did you hear about the little Norwegian man selling Indian artifacts?"

Stanly Folia, whose father's name was Ole' Lee Folia (true story) had some impressive American Indian relics including a buffalo bow from the 1700s and a war lance. In addition, he had some incredible beaded bags, some planting bags, some medicine or holy bags and some ceremonial shawls and wraps that were used in planting ceremonies and pre-hunting ceremonies.

"I was married for over 30 years," Folia said. "My wife got Alzheimer's disease and died and this hobby gives me something to do. I collect most from collectors and auctions, and am so fascinated by the history of each piece."



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Evan Schmidt was at the Steele County Historical Society's artifact show last Saturday in Owatonna. Here Schmidt is holding up an ancient club that was used in both ceremonial rituals and hunting.

Looking at the arrowheads and implements that were everyday staples for the time period, shows how far civilization has come and how each generation learned and created and forged out its existence on this earth.

Spotting critical to rural areas

SKYWARN: from page 1B

weather conditions and the appropriate response.

When watching thunderstorms, remember lighting can strike within ten miles of them. If you feel your hair stand up or your skin begin to tingle, seek shelter immediately.

Never cross a flooded roadway. It only takes six inches of moving water to knock a person or a car off the road, and one foot of water will float a car.

Tornados can be especially difficult to safely navigate.

"Tornado behavior can be erratic," Ibberson warned. The funnel can become rain-wrapped making its exact location difficult to pick out in the midst of a storm. Multi-vortex tornados have multiple funnels that spotters need to be wary of.

Dave Purcell, who was assisting Ibberson, has been working with extreme weather since 1982.

"Keep your head on a swivel," Purcell said warning people that storms can form all around you. A video was a played of a couple tracking a tornado only to have to pack up and move when another dropped down behind them.

To counter the danger, the duo impressed upon everyone how crucial storm reporting is. When the tornado struck Clarks Grove, no one reported it. As a result, no sirens went off there or in Geneva, where the storm moved next. The more rural the area the more important spotters become in giving warning.

If you're interested in becoming a watcher, visit http://www.steelecountyskywarn.org and learn about upcoming training events and meetings.

The people of Steele County can take comfort that, when the weather turns for the worst, there are volunteers with their eyes on the sky.

There's no place like Medford

HOME: from page 1B



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Greg Larson got a heart last Saturday and lived happily ever after in Oz. But, Oz never did give nothin' to the tinman that he didn't already have.

infectious enthusiasm. But the casting. That Medford lion was channeling Burt Lahr and after listening to Dorothy's opening monologue I was tempted to ask her if she'd seen the movie one too many times. And if anyone knows where I can get a paw autograph from Sammy McCarthy – he was the best Toto I'd ever seen.

It was spot on. As were the other parts. The humility and soft-spoken nature of Tinman, the comedic timing of Professor Marvel, the voice of Glinda, and Ben Sutcliffe literally morphed into a scarecrow right in front of our eyes. There was not one student that phoned it in. It was almost spooky as this production grabbed us and spun us to Oz.

And when that witch appeared, I got a chill. She was so good and so convincing that, if I could, I wouldn't let my son date that girl in real life.

There were things in the play at Medford that I had never seen in this stage play. Not on Broadway where my brother performed nor the Los Angeles theater in the round production. Red/Orange umbrellas for the poppy scenes was both haunting and delicate and we were all mesmerized when that motley crew chased that dragon onstage.

Choreographers, Kyra Rahn and Taylor Theisen brought a seamless and brilliant stream of dances that caused the play itself to progress effortlessly from scene to scene, and the portrayal of the tornado in wispy costumed tiny dancers was breathtaking. Fences blew, the house began to pitch, and to quote Mr. Baum, "oh what happened then was rich."

The special effects were jaw dropping. From the actual fire loads the witch was throwing to the ball appearing down the auditorium wall into smoke where Glinda appeared, to the great Oz himself in fire on the big screen, to his departure in a hot air balloon basket rigged on castors. It was simply an amazing job by set coordinator Grant Fitzgerald.

Strong voices onstage, beautiful lyrics hitting the high notes, costuming that would have been colorful even in black and white and a cohesive team of teens, juniors and adults that brought the miracle to Medford.

It truly was a big-time production in the small town of Medford.

But the proof, for me, would be in the final scene. Dorothy convinced us that there really is, no place like home and it put a tear into an old man's eyes. I was given the special birthday gift of going home again, if only just for a little while.

Bravo, Medford. Bravo.

FOR SALE

Blooming Prairie Industrial Park
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Farmers and Merchant State Bank
Jim (507) 583-6688
Cell (507) 456-8464

Property Type:	**Building 2 Size:**
Industrial Commercial Buildings	3,144 SF
Zoned:	**Land Area:**
Commercial Industrial	1.72 AC (74923.2 SF)
Building 1 Size:	**For Sale Price:**
3,840 SF	$226,000



Sale Notes:

Building 1- Is 48-foot by 80-foot with in-floor heat, clear span shop, 3 insulated doors, 2 doors aligned so trucks can be unloaded inside and drive out. With 16-foot side walls. A 4-foot concrete wall around the perimeter for protection and walls are insulated with washable commercial freezer panels.

Building 2- Is a smaller shop previously used as office space. Includes cold storage, a loading dock, and what was a small wood working shop. The building needs some work to be usable.

With 1.72 acres there is plenty of space to expand. The property may be slit up if desired. Financing is available to a qualified buyer.

Ask about our sign-on BONUS – up $1,000!

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LPN's over $20.00/hr
CNA's over $14.50/hr
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- Evening shift (2pm-10:30pm) extra $1.00/hr
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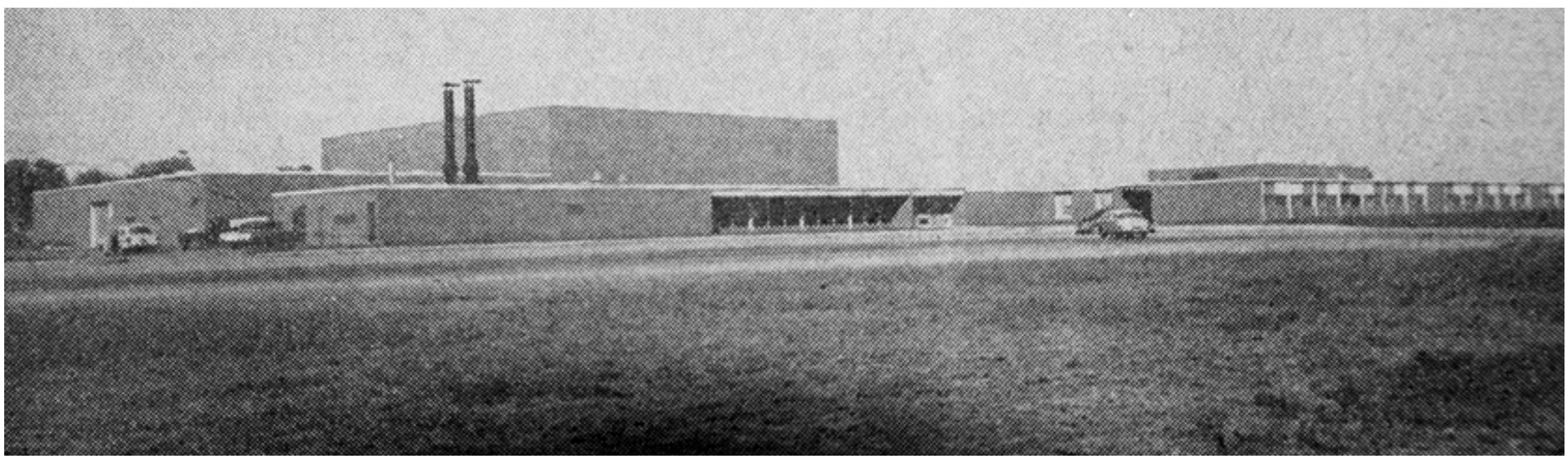
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www.fieldcrestcare.com | inquiries@fieldcrestcare.com



Academic Letterwinners



7th grade

Jaydon Brown
Bobbie Bruns
Isabella Heiber
Colin Jordinson
Larissa Judy
David Kartes
Asha Lighthizer
Josie Lorenz
Emily Miller
Xavier Rennie
Lauren Schammel
Bradley Simon
Isabelle Sunde
Carson Wacek
Melanie Winzenburg

8th grade

Ashleigh Alwes
Maggie Bruns
Maren Forystek
Charlie Heimerman
Shyane Jorgenson
Allison Krohnberg
Emily Kubicek
Luke Larkoski
Rose Michaud
Reese Millam
Megan Oswald
Joseph Pirkl
Rachael Riley
Kiya Thompson
Wyatt Voss
Isabella White

9th grade

Riauna Bishop
Gemini Johnson
Adam Larson
Jarrett Larson
Baylee Sorensen
Dondi Stender
Viridiana Villarreal
Julia Worke



Congratulations on exceling in Blooming Prairie's 150th year!

10th grade

William Cardenas
Colton Ivers
Riley Millam
Rachael Oswald
Seth Peterson
Payton Simon
Micah White

11th grade

Ethan Arett
McKenna Hein
Jerrin Jax
Mitchell Oswald
Salome Ramirez
Jesse Schewe
Samantha Wurst

12th grade

Elijah Baker
Thomas Braaten
Kylie Forystek
Kaci Gwilt
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Rose Johnson
Marissa Larson
Carter Millam
Taylor Peterson
Alison Pryor
Alicia Ptacek
Leah Schiefert

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Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

misgen auto parts
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150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

Leaving a legacy

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

As you wander the mature graveyard in Blooming Prairie, the voices are silent, but for some, the legacy stands the test of time much better than the weathered markers that sit in testimony above the remains.

There are stories to be told and tales of the men and women that helped to shape our small town.

Many have wondered about the stories of those who helped forge us into the patchwork quilt that we are today. Stories of people who loved Blooming Prairie so much that they were born here, worked here and died here.

Stephen Severson was not only a voice from the past, but a published voice from the past. He was one of the first newspaper men who helped birth our hometown newspaper back in 1893 in the midst of a depression. Much of the reason we have a newspaper today is due to his diligence, hard work and refusal to let the odds beat him. Whether those odds were a national depression or a technical printing problem.

His life speaks of a dedication to family, to community and to a life rich and full.

Born to Sever O. Severson and Ellen Bergetta (Olson) Severson. Sever Severson in his own right was a very colorful character, born in Voss, Norway in 1839 and migrated to America when he was 4 years old. It may have been timing or fate, but he grew up in a country on the verge of the Civil War, and as he came of age, he spent almost three years in the bloody conflict. In 1872 he came to Blooming Prairie, and found the love of his life who was the daughter of Quaker parents who owned a fish shipping business. He worked as an engineer until his death in June 1891.

On November 4, 1884, they became proud parents of Stephen. He was born in the only town he would ever call home. Stephen was the successful face of the Blooming Prairie Times where he worked for 38 years and in 1916 he was married to his wife, Amelia Josephine Skalisky. She went on to be one of the local telephone operators at the community phone switchboard. She, like her husband spent over 37 years in service to the community.

When the local newspaper took on new owners in 1939, Severson went on to continue a successful printing business out of his home and remained a respected printer and member of the community until his death in 1948. His wife Amelia retired from the telephone company in 1954 and remained a prominent citizen until her death in 1962.

Spent 38 Years In One Shop



S. S. SEVERSON

Lived All His Life In One City, Worked 38 Years In Times Shop

Stephen Severson Has Achieved Record Attained By Very Few

Stephen Severson holds a record which is attained by few men in the course of a lifetime.

Born in Blooming Prairie he has spent practically his entire life in his home town and has given 38 years of uninterrupted service to The Blooming Prairie Times. He has seen newspaper publishers come and go, eight or nine of them altogether and four inside of a year but Steve continues on and has become something of an institution around The Times office. When most people, and especially old timers, think of The Times office they think of Steve. If this veteran of newspaper building wasn't around The Times office many people would question whether it really was a legal publication.

There are few jobs around a newspaper which Steve hasn't done or couldn't do and for a time he was just about the whole newspaper, soliciting the advertisements, writing the front page news and the locals and society items and then setting up what he had solicited and written and then kicking it out on the press. Through good days and bad Steve kept the newspaper coming out—sometimes when a machine broke down or an advertisement was late in coming into the office—the paper was a little late but it always came out.

Steve was working in the West Hotel back in 1897 when he learned that Walter Bucksen who was then publishing The Times needed an apprentice. He applied for the job and got it and he has been connected with The Times every day since that time.

During all these years he has seen the newspaper business develop from hand set type to machine composition and from hand power to motors. Steve has seen the newspaper come up through the years and has played an important part in its building.

Steve has many unusual qualities which have won for him the respect and goodwill of his home community. It is doubtful if anyone has ever seen him lose his temper. His patience is remarkable and his capacity for friendships is immense. Everyone who has ever worked on The Times always insists upon seeing Steve as soon as he returns to town and the interest is always returned in good measure. He is a hard worker and at one time he succeeded in putting the whole paper out almost single handed.

For 38 years he has worked faithfully and good naturedly in the printing and publishing of this newspaper—a record equalled in few shops in the country. His life, he has given to the up-building of The Times and it has been a certain, dependable, cheerful, useful service such as any publisher would appreciate.

P. H. Tallman, photographer; B. Betlach, meat market; G. H. Johnson, meat market; Joe Ruzek, shoe store and repair shop; Tom Morton, blacksmith; Geo. Taylor, shoe store; L. S. Ulland, furniture and machinery; James Birgin, dray line and Dr. J. A. Kent, dentist. The business people nearly all became my friends before the expiration of the arbitrary six months allotted me in a threat.

Add to the above mentioned business concerns eight saloons running wide open day and night, including Sundays made Blooming Prairie pretty much a typical, frontier town. In the fall when the farmers were bringing in grain and other products it was indeed a lively village. But times were not as good as that liveliness would indicate. Here are the market reports for September 15, 1897—Wheat, 95c; flax, 96c; Oats, 15c; barley, 18c; rye, 30c; corn, 25c; flour $1.10-1.35; timothy seed $2.00

(Continued on Page Four)

S. S. Severson Dies Tuesday

(By T. P. Fagre)

Stephen S. Severson was born Nov. 9, 1884, at Blooming Prairie and lived here until his death at his home Tuesday morning, Jan. 20th, at 2:30 o'clock. He was the son of Sever O. Severson and Ellen B. Severson. Received his education in the village public school. He was aged 63 years, 2 months and 11 days.

He was united in marriage to Amelia Josephine Skalisky on Nov. 30, 1916. To this union were born two daughters, Mrs. Raymond (Delores) Renchin and Mrs. Louis (Margery) Wenci, both of Blooming Prairie.

Surviving are his wife and the two brothers, a brother, Otto C., of Livingston, Montana, and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father on June 16, 1891, and his mother on May 1, 1925. Mr. Severson was a member of the local Masonic and Modern Woodman lodges.

Funeral services are being held today (Thursday) afternoon, Jan. 22, at 1:30 o'clock at Blooming Prairie funeral chapel, and at 2 o'clock at the Community Methodist church, with Rev. Clare Karsten officiating and Walrath & Hess directing. Interment will be made in Blooming Prairie cemetery. The pallbearers will be Gilbert Johnson, Jay Beal, John Colbert, Oscar Underwood, Frank Ilk and Wesley Derby.

Mr. Severson was of a genial disposition, pleasant to all, witty and humoristic, well-met by his friends, who were many, especially among the business people.

He was unfortunate in contracting diabetes 17 years ago, but heroically carried on in the printing establishment he had at his home. To add further to his affliction, he was stricken with partial blindness in June, 1947, and Mayo specialists found it necessary to remove one eye. He became practically totally blind during that year.

The deceased had been a printer for 38 years under eight or nine different owners of the Blooming Prairie Times and for about 20 years was foreman of the printing department during the 24 years the paper was owned by Theo. Fagre.

On January 8th he suffered a severe heart attack which was followed by a stroke a few days ago, which closed the book on his busy life.

The undivided sympathy of this community is extended the family in their deep bereavement.



STEPHEN SEVERSON

Mrs. John Diesch Rites Held Tues.

Mrs. John Diesch, life-long resident of Ripley township, passed away at her home about 7 miles northeast of Blooming Prairie early Thursday morning, Jan. 15th. She was aged 51 years, 5 months and 18 days, and was born March 27, 1896. Mrs. Diesch had been in frail health since last August. She underwent a major operation 2½ years ago and never completely recovered.

Besides her husband she leaves to mourn three children, two sons Gordon and Stanley and a daughter, Lucille. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Erickson.

Mrs. Diesch spent her entire life on the farm in Dodge county where she quietly went about her duties as a faithful wife and mother. Her death will be deeply felt not only by her immediate dear ones but by all whom knew her.

Funeral services were held in Blooming Prairie Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 20th, at 2 o'clock at the First Lutheran church with Rev. Fitzgerald, of Dodge Center, pastor of Westfield Lutheran church of which the deceased was member, officiating, and Walrath & Hess, local morticians, directing. Interment was made in Blooming Prairie cemetery. Casketbearers were Elmer Trom, Oscar Lindquist, Glen Schmeling, Albert Yentsch, Louis Beattie and Ammett Filley.

P. C. A. Now Farmer Owned



Submitted photo

Stephen Severson stands by the old Blooming Prairie Times printing press. It was a press he helped man for almost 40 years.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

One of Stephen and Amelia's granddaughters still resides here in Blooming Prairie. Terri Norland is seen here at the family plot in the Blooming Prairie cemetery.

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

Munchkin Market & Family Fun Fest!

Saturday, April 22 from 9am-12pm at the Four Seasons Centre-East Arena

Youth ages 6-15 are selling toys, games, books, sporting goods, and more. Family Friendly vendors are welcome to purchase a booth.

Family Fun Fest Entertainment includes: bounce house-inflatable obstacle course-inflatable skee ball and knock it off! Plinko, hoop shoot, bean bags, tennis, prizes and MORE!

- **Brooktree Clubhouse is open Tuesdays 12-5pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays 7-12 until the course opens!**
- **Check the City of Owatonna website for all employment opportunities part-time and seasonal!**

Ways to Register:

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

Upcoming Events

March 31: Brooktree League deadline
April 1: Boat and Water Safety: FREE class
April 4: Coaches meeting for Youth Soccer at Four Season's Centre
April 8: Pre-Season evaluations for Little League
April 18: Summer Brochure Released
April 22: Annual Munchkin Market/Family Fun Festival at the Four Season's Centre 9am-12pm
April 24: Adult Softball schedule handout, Annual Meeting, mandatory managers meeting
April 25: Summer registration begins
April 26: Lifeguard Training April Class begins
May: Lake Kohlmier Beach will open end of May with no lifeguards on duty
May 1: Brooktree League play begins
May 5-7: Corky's Earlybird Slowpitch Softball Tournament
May 9: Deadling for youth t-ball and squirt ball
May 14: Mother's Day Special at Brooktree Golf Course
May 20: Party in the Park – 11am-1pm Manthey Park
May 20: Brooktree Humane Society Tournament
May 26: Two-Four-Fun at Brooktree Golf Course
May 29: Memorial Day-All City Offices Close
May 30: Little League Baseball kickoff at the Four Seasons
May 31: T-ball and Squirt Coaches meeting
May 31: National Senior Health and Fitness Day
June 2: River Springs Water Park Opening Day
June 8-9: Steele County Safety Camp
June 14: Flag Day-Veteran's Special at Brooktree Golf Course
June 16: Movie in Central Park
June 17: Brooktree Young Life Tournament
June 18: Father's Day Special at Brooktree Golf Course
June 30: Two-Four-Fun at Brooktree Golf Course
July 8: Ken Bey Football Tournament at Brooktree Golf

Parks and Recreation Contact Information:

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



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Standard poodle puppies, AKC, black, blue, parti, trained, shots, champion bloodlines, $1800. 507-273-3652. 15p

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Blood Clot patients, if you have experienced any serious problems with an IVC filter, call 507-201-8964 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

KASSON, 1 br apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, equal housing opportunity, call 507-634-4188. 42tfc

Great Western Apartments, Hayfield. 2 bedroom apartment, 2nd floor, includes utilities, laundry onsite. Available immediately. Call (507) 796-0152 or (701) 330-9788. 9tfc

1 BD~ CLAREMONT Free applications & tours! Minutes from Dodge Center & Owatonna. 507-398-6027 or 507-451-8524 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd 507-451-0704 Equal Housing Opportunity. 12-13-14c;15nc

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Have you taken Invokana and suffered any serious side effects? Call 507-573-4551 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

Dave Stevenson Sharpening Service- Sharpening everything that cuts! Drop off/pick up available at Kasson & Dodge Center Hardware Hanks. Phone or text 507-269-9601. 10tfc

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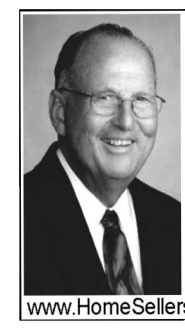
GIVEAWAY

FREE-HP 2800 Inkjet Business Color Printer call 634-7503 15tfc

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PT bus driver needed in Kasson area, must have CDL license. M-TH 5 hrs/day. If interested call Mike at 507-634-4330. 8tfc

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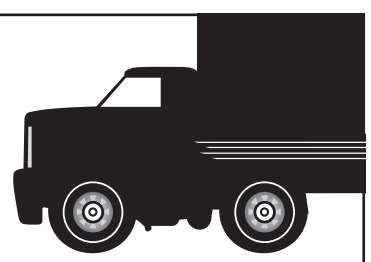
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Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge, a leader in offering treatment programs to those battling addiction, is seeking individuals to fill our openings for Men's Recovery Coaches. When you work for MnTC, you're not merely filling a job. You're actively participating in a mission that is alive with purpose! You get the opportunity to see lives, families and dire circumstances transformed. Imagine ending the work day knowing that what you've done is meaningful, significant and rewarding.

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Lead and supervise clients in the year long, faith based program on the residential housing floor and transport clients to all program functions.

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Mn Adult & Teen Challenge

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Minimum Qualifications:

Must be free of chemical use problems for at least the two years immediately preceding hire.

Must have or obtain 12 hours of training in co-occurring mental health problems training within six months of hire.

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Streetfire Ministries

Area Church Spotlight

Streetfire Ministries, Blooming Prairie, MN

Pastor's corner: A hin of oil

This past weekend we heard a teaching on the tabernacle of Moses. It has everything to do with foreshadowing the ministry of Christ. From the 12 stones that rested upon the high priest, representing the tribes of Israel – to the chest of Christ Himself which pulls His own close to His heart. What really spoke to me was what the priest had in his hand when he entered the Holy of Holies.

He could not come into the presence of God empty-handed. The recipe' from God's lips to the priests was as follows in the 30th chapter of Exodus. This is what God requested that they bring into His presence. "Take thou also unto thee principal spices, of pure myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half so much, even two hundred and fifty shekels, and of sweet calamus two hundred and fifty shekels, And of cassia five hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, and of oil olive an hin: And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary: it shall be an holy anointing oil."

What stands out most is… a "hin" of oil. That is approximately ONE GALLON. Now, perhaps I should go into a discourse of how olive oil is gathered, but suffice to say, oil only comes when the olives are "pressed" in an oil press. Oil requested of the Lord is gained only through trauma. Trials. Testings. Sorrows. Bruising… as in, "he was bruised for our iniquities"

I don't think I need to define what He went through, and as His priests (And hath made us kings and priests unto God – Rev 1:6) we too will walk with a degree of trial and sorrow while we are here. How come bad things happen to good people?

The pressing we go through yields the oil that we need to anoint and to overcome. When we come into His presence, it is the "evidence" of what we've gone through. An evidence that we didn't skate through this life, but because of our faith and our belief, we have been pressed. AND… He got us through it.

And not just a little pressing. A gallon. To properly find out what THAT takes, do a search on gaining a gallon of extra-virgin olive oil.

The Apostle Paul knew something about "the press" of this life as he wrote to the Corinthians, "that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:"

When we come into His presence we come clothed in His righteousness, and our hands full of victorious oil. Evidence that He was faithful to take us through. Evidence that "we made it." By His grace, we made it.

And that, is the ultimate praise.

Pastor Mark DeLap
Streetfire Ministries

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
Jeff Sandgren, Interim Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
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. Comtemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

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

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

Catholic

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays during Lent: 6:15 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration; 6:45 p.m.
Stations of the cross.

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sun m.
M n.



Christian

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

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

Full Gospel

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

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

Methodist

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

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

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

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 Unamimous Meetings
Fridays at 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224, Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(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 CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

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.

Mormon

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
404 31st St. N.W., Austin
Bishop Rick Bremner
(507) 433-9042
Service: 9 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Presbyterian

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
109 E. Main St., Hayfield
Pastor Steven Robertson
(507) 477-2631
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

Seventh-Day Adventist

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
2373 Seventh Ave. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Robert Brauer
(507) 340-7143
Service: 11 a.m. Saturday
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Saturday

UCC

CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 Main St. S., Medford
Pastor Louise Bender
(507) 451-4596
Confirmation: 9 a.m. Sunday
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 10 a.m. Sunday

Assembly of God

VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
702 Third St. S., Ellendale
Pastor Patrick Stitt
(507) 684-3421
Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
vibrantlifeag.com

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

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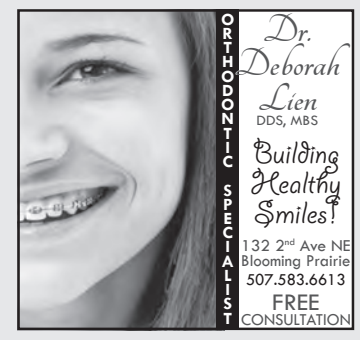
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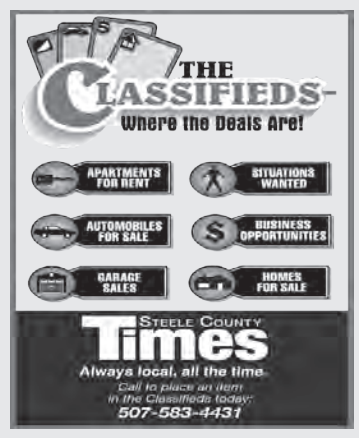
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Community Living

Obituaries

Michael Albert Liverseed, 58 of Medford



Michael Albert Liverseed, age 58, of Medford, died March 25, 2017, at his home. Friends may greet the family from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at the Medford Funeral Home and one hour before the funeral mass at the funeral home.

A funeral Mass is set for 11 a.m. Thursday, March 30, at Christ the King Church, Medford. There will be a Medford/Deerfield Knights of Columbus rosary recited at 7 p.m. at the funeral home Wednesday.

Liverseed was born to parents Albert and Darlene (Spinler) Liverseed, on Dec. 20, 1958, in Owatonna. He attended and graduated from Medford High School in 1977.

He started his working career in construction with his uncle Don Spinler, until he received a job offer from Jerome foods, which later became Jennie-O. Liverseed was employed with Jennie-O for 33 years and resided at the Merton Turkey Farm for the past 20 plus years as a training farm manager.

He was a member of the Medford Knights of Columbus. Liverseed enjoyed pool tournaments, pool league, and in his later years mentoring some of the young pool players, he also enjoyed taking money from his friends and family in card games.

Family was very important to Liverseed; he was very generous with his time in regards to all his nieces and nephews. Along with his big heart, he had a great appreciation for his family especially his mother and father.

He will be missed by, parents Albert and Darlene of Clinton Falls Township; siblings, Robert (June) of Owatonna, Deborah Rouse of Keokuk, Iowa, Denise (Bruce) Born of Owatonna, Diane (Brian) Schaffer of Prior Lake, Renee (Doug) Staehnke of Cannon Falls, John (Dawn) of Owatonna, Philip (Jamie) of Owatonna;

In addition, he had 25 nieces and nephews; 27 great-nieces and nephews; and one sister-in-law, Ramona of Faribault.

He is preceded in death by, one brother, Gregory; niece, Wendi Liverseed; and an infant niece Ava Liverseed. Memorials can be directed to the family. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.medfordfuneralhome.com

Alfred "Alfie" Wondra, 69



Alfred "Alfie" Wondra was born Oct. 26, 1947, in Owatonna the son of Alfred and Elaine (Jensen) Wondra. He attended High School in Blooming Prairie graduating in 1965.

After high school Wondra worked road construction for his father's company, Wondra Construction and he also farmed at that same time. He worked until the early eighties when due to health concerns was unable to continue.

He was an avid collector of vintage cars, farm equipment, motorcycles and heavy equipment. Enjoyed cruising around the county. He will be remembered for his many visits with family and friends.

Wondra taught his nieces and nephew how to maintain their tractors and lawn mowers. He was always grateful to his personal care attendants over the years.

Wondra is survived by his siblings, Judy Molloy of Faribault, Tom (Rosie) Wondra of Owatonna, Mary (Doug) Goff of Blooming Prairie, Pat (Larry) Motl of Ellendale, Joe (Terry) Wondra of Blooming Prairie, Ann (Steve) Winzenburg of Blooming Prairie.

Wondra is preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother, a niece Amanda and a brother-in-law, Mike. Memorials may be directed to the family and the family will select a charity in memory of Wondra. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com.

Clinton LaVerne Christianson, 96 of Blooming Prairie



Clinton LaVerne Christianson, age 96 of Blooming Prairie, died Sunday, March 19, at Prairie Manor Care Center with family members at his side. Clinton was born April 16, 1920, to Ingebret and Betsy (Egtvet) Christianson on the family farm in Udolpho Township, Mower County as the youngest of 10 children.

Clinton attended Country School District 119 in Freeborn County. On Nov. 10, 1943, he was united in marriage to Adeline Kerling at St. Augustine Catholic Church Parsonage in Austin.

In their younger years, they enjoyed roller skating and playing cards with friends. The couple farmed together until 1998 when they sold the farmhouse and moved into Blooming Prairie.

After retirement, they enjoyed casinos, country drives and many road trips with friends to various parts of the U.S. Clinton enjoyed talking with anyone about anything – especially farming. He was known for his unique sense of humor.

Clinton is survived by his spouse Adeline of Prairie Manor, Blooming Prairie; his daughters Kathryn (James) Govostes of Sandy, Utah, Darlene Christianson of Blooming Prairie, Marsha (John) O'Neil of Andover, Minnesota; four grandchildren, Nicole (Joaquin) Avila, Jenna Govostes, John O'Neil and Joseph O'Neil; four great-grandsons, Leevi Avila, Avery Avila, Joshua O'Neil and Jack O'Neil.

In addition, sister-in-law Frieda (Raymond) Christianson of Blooming Prairie, many nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Ingebret and Betsy Christianson; nine siblings, Leon Christianson, Berthel Christianson, Ruby Christianson, Irene Filley, Paul Christianson, Kenneth Christianson, Nordean Christianson, Borghild Detwiler and Raymond Christianson.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 24, at Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church in rural Austin with pastor Lindsay Stolen officiating. Visitation was held from 4:00–7 p.m. Thursday, March 23, at Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home and one hour before the service at the church.

Interment was held in the Red Oak Grove Cemetery, Austin. Memorials can be directed to Prairie Manor Care Center, Red Oak Grove Lutheran Church or recipient of donor's choice.

A special thanks to the staff at Prairie Manor for the wonderful care they gave Clinton during the last 2 ½ years of his life. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Irma D. Mueller, 94 of Austin



Irma D. Mueller, age 94 of Austin, died Monday morning, March 20, at Primrose Assisted Living in Austin. Irma Doris Meyer was born July 12, 1922, near Waltham, Minnesota, to Arnold H. and Eleonora (Wuertz) Meyer.

She was baptized July 17, 1922, at the home of her parents near Waltham, and confirmed May 17, 1936, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waltham. Irma attended parochial school at Trinity for grades 1-8, and graduated with the class of 1940 from Austin High School.

Irma worked at the Hormel plant for three years and April 8, 1945, was united in marriage to Vernon C. Mueller at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waltham. Irma and Vernon farmed until March 1968 when they moved into Austin.

For several years, she worked at St. Olaf Hospital in the kitchen, and later became a tax receptionist and preparer for 33 years. She was an active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Austin where she was involved in the Altar Guild, Circle, Ladies Aide and the church's 'Cheers' for many years.

Irma and Vernon later became members of St. John's Lutheran Church. She enjoyed sending cards to the sick, having company and playing 500, camping and crocheting. Irma was always ready to give a helping hand when and where needed. She dearly loved her family.

She is survived by her husband Vernon C. Mueller of Austin; son Richard (Elaine) Mueller of Des Moines, four grandsons Timothy (Ronda) Mueller of Des Moines, David (Wendy) Mueller of Des Moines, Marshall (Becky) Anderson of Mansfield, Texas, and Michael (Carryn) Anderson of North Liberty, Iowa.

In addition, 10 great grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter; two brothers James (Carolyn) Meyer of Rochester and Robert Meyer of Waltham; sister Theadale (Robert) Eggleston of Marion, Wisconsin, and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; son Charles Mueller and daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Ronald Anderson; brother, Arnold and a sister-in-law, Florence Meyer.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 25, at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Austin with pastor Robert Bailey officiating. Interment followed in Oakwood Cemetery.

Visitation was held from 4:00 to 7 p.m., Friday, March 24, at the Worlein Funeral Home in Austin and for one hour before the service at the church Saturday. Services pre-arranged and performed by Worlein Funeral Home of Austin. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

28th
Kevin Eischens
Lori Miller
Trig Klemmensen
Elaine Vermilyea
John Humphrey
Gary Thorson

29th
Emerson Nelson
Phillip Ramsey
Rhonda McCabe

30th
Krysta Harshbarger
Darrell Hansen

31st
Robert Salinas, Jr.
Alec Ille
Oliva Kruger
Debbie Schwake
Jerry Young

1st
Roger Anderson
Michael Ressler
Hulio Rivera-Escandon
Nicole Block
Davyll Smith

2nd
Luke Miller
Pat Wehner
Dale Ramsey
Brian Nelson
Larry Lindquist
Naomi Erickson
Mark Thoen
Whitney Ann Farr
Reid Jensen
Isaac Chester Nelson
Harold Ulrich

3rd
Thomas Schneiderit
Tara Lindquist

4th
Hannah Garcia
Robert H. Olson
McKenna Hein

Anniveraries
28th
Rick & Lisa Hocking

1st
Pat & Tammy Wehner

2nd
Brian & Lois Nelson
Alicia & Derek Levon

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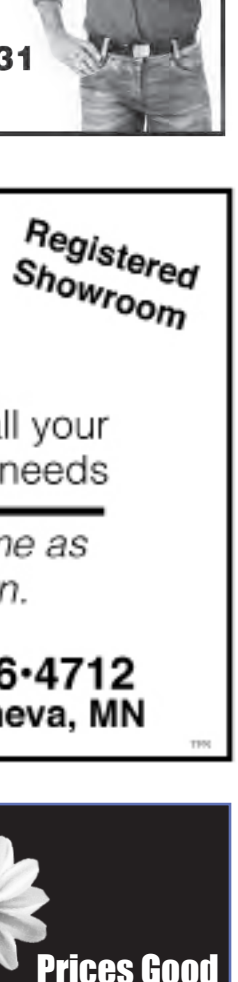
SEMCAC senior menu

29th	30th	31st
Pork Lion medley	Baked chicken	Lemon pepper cod
Green beans	Mashed potatoes	ALT: Sliced turkey
Dinner roll	Italian Green beans	Baked Potatoes
Strawberry shortcake	Mixed Fruit cup	Orange glaze carrots
		Batter bun
		Flavored Ice cream

***Editor's note:** We apologize for being unable to provide April 3 and 4 lunch menus.

The menu for April was not delivered to the ***Steele County Times.***

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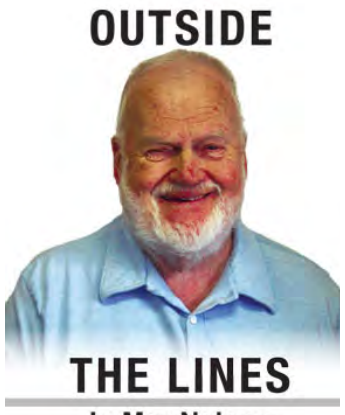
Column: Light the lamp, 3C

Hometown Sports

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OUTSIDE THE LINES



LeMar Nelson

Welp, my bracket is toast

I seriously doubt that very few communities can come together and raise over $75,000 for education projects in a school district in an afternoon and evening as the local Education Foundation did this year. With an afternoon silent auction and a raucous evening live affair, Blooming Prairie demonstrated once again that it sincerely believes in the local school system and the value of education for the students in the district.

It was amazing to witness, and kudos go to the foundation, the auction organizers, all the volunteers who worked on the project, and the bidders who ultimately made the event the success it was. Thanks to all.

Post season honors

The first of the area daily papers All-Area teams have been released, and Rocky Hulne's Austin area team includes a couple of Awesome Blossoms. Girls basketball fielded an unusually strong contingent of excellent players in the area this season, and, but BP's Marissa Larson was named to the Second Team All-Area.

Larson averaged 14 points per game and 8.3 rebounds, and almost two blocks per game. Senior BP guard Kylie Forystek made the Honorable Mention list, although her season was cut short by injury and illness. She averaged averaged points a game and had 76 assists, and 32 steals on the year.

Another BPHS student received some well deserved notice last week when Todd Walkingstick interviewed student athlete Elly Strunk in a segment on the "Owatonna Live" website. Strunk provided excellent answers to his questions regarding her career for the Dodge County Wildcats hockey team and her career in softball at Blooming Prairie. The senior athlete will continue playing both hockey and softball at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

March Madness

My picks to win the NCAA tournament deserted me in droves. I still have Gonzaga alive, but all my other picks to reach the final four went down over the weekend. I have no confidence that Gonzaga will prevail., which simply means as as a prognosticator of results, I suck.

I do have to give one last tip of the hat to BPHS graduate Taylor Hagen, whose University of Northern Iowa team compiled a 26-9 season record and earned them a chance for a tournament game against DePaul University as an at large team. Enjoy the competition and root for your favorite. For me, go Blossoms.

DREAM SEASON



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Top: NRHEG seniors' Tyler Raimann (43), Chad Agrimson (5) and Oakley Baker (21) hold up the fifth place trophy to the fans after the Panthers defeated Lake City 77-66 in the Class AA state consolation championship game at Gangelhoff Center Friday. Baker scored a game-high 40 points and reached 2,000 for his career in the win. Bottom: Tyler Raimann celebrates by hoisting the trophy toward the NRHEG fans.

NRHEG's Oakley Baker reaches career milestone, drops 40 as Panthers finish first state berth with a 5th place finish

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul - In his final high school game as a Panther, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva's Oakley Baker was 37 points shy of eclipsing the 2,000-point mark for his career.

Guess it was a good thing that the senior saved his best game for his last.

Scoring a game-high 40 points, Baker not only reached a career milestone, but cemented the 2016-2017 boys basketball squad into school history as the Panthers downed Lake City 77-66 in the consolation championship game Friday afternoon at the Gangelhoff Center.

"We lost that first game, but we came out, played as hard as we could these last two to end it on a high note," commented Baker. "Two wins in a row, it's nice to end your career with a couple wins than a loss."

Panthers head coach Pat Churchill, who was named Section 2-AA Coach Of The Year, simply added, "I've been very fortunate to be around these guys. They worked their butts off and accomplished something that they wanted. I was just along for the ride."

Baker had the hottest hand on the court. It didn't matter where he shot from, or the possible double-team that awaited, he was just on his game. Although, it took me a minute or two in the first half to find his stroke as he missed his first three shots.

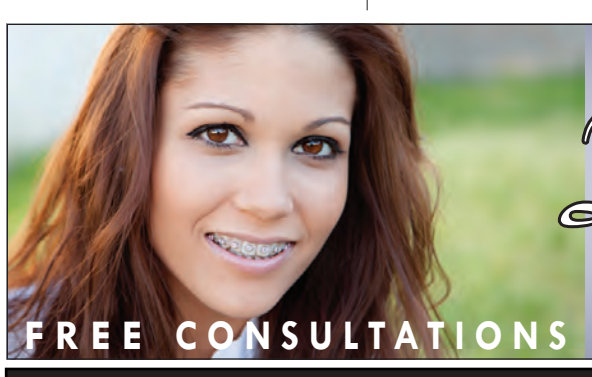
After hitting a turn-around three from the corner to give the Panthers a slim 11-8 lead, the senior appeared to find his stroke for good. The Panthers' offense would explode for a 20-4 run, extending the lead to a commanding 31-14 lead. Of those 20 points, Baker contributed 11, to include a pair of deep treys from beyond the arc.

"My dad has always said that somedays they won't go in, somedays they will, you just have to continue to play with confidence," Baker added. "They were a great shooting team, so I feel like that helped me step up my game a bit."

The future Johnnie finished his career with 2,003 points and was named to the Class AA

BOYS
Continued on page 2C





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NRHEG roars past Breckenridge



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Panthers' guard Oakley Baker (21) dribble between Cowboys' defender during the second half of NRHEG's 65-47 state consolation semifinal win over Breckenridge Thursday. Baker had a game-high 22 points in the win.

3 Panthers reach double figures led by Baker's 22 points

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – After Wednesday night's heartbreaking overtime loss to second-seeded St. Cloud Cathedral, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva head coach Pat Churchill said that he fully expected his team to come out ready to play against Breckenridge in the consolation semifinals Thursday.

They did just that.

Led by Oakley Baker's game-high 22 points, the Panthers topped the Cowboys 65-47 in the Class AA consolation semifinal to cement a spot in the consolation final at Concordia Univeristy-St. Paul.

"We came out defensively and I thought we did a really job making things tough for them," commented Churchill. "Offensively, we were clicking a little bit; got things going right from the beginning and we were able to play with a lead all night."

NRHEG led from the opening tip and never looked back. In fact, there was a lone tie at 2-2 in the contest just a minute into the first half, after Benji Lundberg's layup gave the Panthers a 4-2 lead, that seemingly changed the game. That isn't to say that there weren't a few struggles for the Panthers. Both teams struggled with happy feet as they appeared to try and push the tempo against one another resulting in a total of 21 turnovers and 13 fouls between the two teams. For the game, the two teams combined for 28 fouls (NR 12, B 16) and 31 turnovers. Churchill noted that the high numbers were to be expected with Breckenridge's pace.

"It's easy to get caught up in the way they want to play, so I tend to have to tell the kids to slow down, we'll get a shot, but the kids were excited and made some plays tonight," he added.

With a healthy dose of Baker, NRHEG jumped out to a 17- 4 lead as the Cowboys struggled to generate any offensive rhythm early. The 'Big 3' for the Panthers was working in the first half, scoring nearly half of the team's 30 points at the half. Baker led all scorers at the half with 10 points.

Despite only scoring four points in 26 minutes of play, senior Tyler Raimann continues his strong surge down low in the postseason. He registered three blocks and grabbed seven defensive rebounds, helping to lead the team to a demoralizing 26 defensive rebounds for a total of 31. The Cowboys were just as dominant on the defensive boards, grabbing 16 to help reach a total of 28.

"When he's one the floor, he makes us that much better of a team," commented Churchill.

The Cowboys managed to generate a 13-2 run in large to the play of Noah Christenson, scoring seven of his nine points during the span. Christensen would be the offensive bright spot for the Cowboys, scoring a team-high 15 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

Baker picked up where he left off before the half, scoring seven of the Panthers 15 points to start the second half. The Panthers outscored Breckenridge 33-28 in the second half. Aside from the defensive rebounds, NRHEG was effective from the charity stripe, shooting 81.3 percent. To add insult to injury for the Cowboys, NRHEG held them scoreless for the final two minutes of the contest.

Lundberg's game-tying buzzer beater not enough as NRHEG falls in OT

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Minneapolis – For its first ever trip to the Minnesota Class AA state tournament, the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys basketball team and its 'Big 3' sure knew how to rise to the occasion.

Down 54-51 with 5.5 seconds left on the clock, NRHEG guard Benji Lundberg hit a fade away three-pointer to force overtime against the second-seeded Crusaders.

Sadly, that was the climax of the Panthers' bid for a state title.

Missing seniors Tyler Raimann and Oakley Baker for overtime, second-seeded St. Cloud Catherdal outscored NRHEG 16-5 on thier way to a 70-59 win, dashing any hopes of a state championship run for NRHEG Wednesday night at Williams Arena.

"Those two are pretty important pieces to our team," commented Panthers head coach Pat Churchill. "And it's not like those kids didn't want it, we just didn't have the firepower without those two on the floor."

Churchill immediately added, "I'm really proud of the kids with how they battled and how they fought their way back to give them a chance."

The game started back-and-forth and ended in regulation the same fashion. Prior to Lundberg's game-tying shot, the Crusaders held a slim 52-51 lead after Jason Jongbloedt's shot attempt was blocked. Occurring during that time was Baker picking up his fifth foul of the game which forced a pair of free throws on the other end-extending the lead to 54-51.

Just a minute into the four-minute overtime, Raimann picked up his fifth foul in similar fashion. Missing both of their starting big men, the Panthers struggled mightily to slow down St. Cloud Catherdal's Mitchell Plombon and Michael Schaefer. In the final four minutes, the two juniors combined for 14 of the Crusaders final 16 points, much of which came from the charity stripe. Plombon finished with a 25 points and Schaefter added a game-high 33.

Their bigs played really well; they shoot really well," commented Churchill. "Tyler (Raimann) came and battled on the boards and went right at them – he's a warrior and he played his heart out tonight. It's just too bad they couldn't give him six fouls."

After starting the half with a 27-22 lead, St. Cloud Cathedral quickly established a 10-point lead after NRHEG hit a cold spell. In the second half's first seven possessions for the Panthers, they managed to registered just five points.

Then, like many of NRHEG's games in the postseason, Lundberg provided a spark.

Scoring four straight points, the junior guard managed to get the Panthers within three. Lundberg also had a hand in a small surge to end the first half, scoring the half's final four points. He would finish with a team-high 18 points.

If Lundberg was the spark in the second half, then Raimann was the surge. As the Crusaders went scoreless for eight-straight possessions, Raimann took over – scoring 10 of the Panthers next 14 points – to give NRHEG the slim 43-42 lead. Raimann finished the contest with a double-double, scoring 13 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

After falling behind early in the first half, NRHEG leaned on the shoulders of its final piece to the 'Big 3' in Baker. Despite going 2-for-6 from beyond the arc in the first half, the St. Johns commit was able to record eight points, to include a big bucket late in the half that cut the lead to 21-17.

As tough as it is for a team to lose a game like that, especially if it's the programs first ever trip to the state tournament, Churchill noted that his team will regroup and be focus for the consolation bracket.

"We got a chance to play tomorrow, (Thursday) and I expect these kids to come out and play the way they played all year. I fully expect us to be ready to go and play hard," he added.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

NRHEG'S Benji Lundberg (4) drives to the basket in the second half of the Panther's state quarterfinal loss to No.2 St.Cloud Cathedral Wednesday. He had a team-high 18 points.

Panthers earn a fifth place finish

BOYS: from page 1B

All-Tournament team.

After a Tigers' timeout, Lake City was poised to mount a comeback. In a first half that was more like a three-point contest, the Tigers hit four-straight from beyond the arc to finish the half while Baker managed to drain one in the final three minutes of the half. Lake City and NRHEG combined for 26 total attempts from three-point land in the first half, connecting on 11.

"They can shoot. Those boys from Lake City can shoot the basketball," commented Churchill. "And it's not just one; they have three or four guys that can shoot it."

NRHEG took a 37-26 lead into the half, but managed just four points in the first three minutes of the half as the Tigers continued to try and claw back. Lake City made a 10-3 run to cut the lead to 44-36 off the hot hand of Mitch Marien. After scoring 11 points in the first half, Marien added 8 in the second to finish with 18.

The Panthers generated off a 9-0 run to quickly extend the lead to 53-36 after Tyler Raimann made a key block to spur the run. Raimann continued his dominance down low, recording 10 rebounds, three blocks and 15 points. NRHEG would create another quick run late to extend the lead to 63-48, again sparked by a Raimann block.

However, Lake City was destined to go down shooting.

After connecting on just four attempts from beyond the arc in the first half, the Tigers caught fire in the second half connecting on eight attempts. Nathan Heise, Marc Kjos and Reid Gastner joined Marien in double figures, scoring 11, 18, and 13 points respectively. The four Tigers combined for five-straight attempts with under two minutes to cut the game to 71-66.

At the line to shoot two free throws, Baker recorded his 2,000th point with 44 seconds left in the game as NRHEG was able to add the final 10 points of the game from the line.

The Panthers end their banner season with a 30-3 record.

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It's time for the NHL to end 'dream teams' in Winter Olympics



As of Tuesday, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman reiterated the league's stance on participating in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, saying, "As things stand right now, people should assume we are not going."

This shouldn't come as news to fans that enjoy watching the sport's elite players compete for their respective countries. The NHL has held this stance for quite some time now, despite wanting to participate in Beijing in 2022. Bettman noted that its disruptive to the season, which is easily understand since the NHL will basically shut down for almost a month as the league's top players would go.

It's also been reported that the IOC – who has paid for the insurance, travel and other accommodations for players attending the event in the past – has recently pulled out financially. Now, this is something I can understand why the britches of NHL brass are in a bundle.

Not only would the league be required to temporarily shut down the season, which would be in the peak of some teams trying to make that final push for wild card slots, but now they would have to fork out what I would assume to be roughly in the $15 to $20 million ballpark for its players.

I may be wrong, but isn't that what sponsors are for?

Now, there has been a report that Bridgestone is trying to get a deal done that will assume the role of what the IOC has done since 1998. Until that deal is reported complete or talks permanently diminish, I can understand Bettman's 'beef' with the IOC and understand even more the business decision as to why he doesn't want NHL players to play in the Games.

If I can suggest though, I want you all to pause before you continue reading to think about some of the greatest moments from the Olympics. I can be the popular favorite or your personal one.

Is it the Miracle on Ice? What about T.J. Oshie's shootout performance against Russia in 2014?

While I wasn't even alive at the time, thanks to the power of YouTube and Disney's "Miracle," I can say that the game from 1980 (Team USA versus the USSR) would probably be at the top of my list. Despite the numerous games I've seen since I started following the sport. And here's why: those 20 players didn't have an NHL contract to lean on. In fact, some of the players from Team USA wound up having NHL careers in the years following the events in Lake Placid.

The storylines – the Cold War, the USSR embarrassing the NHL all-stars in the months prior, the undefeated streak of the Russians – were too intriguing not to get hooked.

More importantly, it may be the game itself. The USSR scored and the U.S. fired right back, being able to find an archived broadcast of the game of YouTube will be one of the best videos I have ever watched on that site.

When Mike Eruzione fired that wrister in the slot to give the U.S. the final lead of the game, I was excited like a child seeing candy. Heck, by the way I was acting you could have thought I was reminiscing on past memories. Lastly, to hear the famous call of "Do you believe in Miracles?" by Al Michaels was the coolest thing to hear, even if it was just an archived broadcast.

"A few years later, the U.S. began using professional athletes at the Games - dream teams. I always found that term ironic because now that we have Dream Teams, we seldom ever get to dream."

- Team USA head coach Herb Brooks

So, with that said, if Bettman and the NHL plan to stay their ground, the federation should revert into using amateur players. Now, this can create somewhat of a complication as well. If owners are not interested in letting their star players play in the games, is it the same protocol for their top prospects?

That remains to be heard. It would probably affect the United States and Canada the most, being that they have players who were born in the country playing in Europe under NHL assignments. Players who are playing overseas KHL don't possess any tie to NHL franchises, which bodes well for a few Americans and Canadians, but is a treasure trove for Russia.

Now, if it is the same thought, then I would expect the teams – at least Team USA – to be entirely built of undrafted college players and there is quite the market to choose from. Heck, a few members of the Golden Gophers who are multi-time All-Americans are without a team in the NHL owning their rights.

After Team USA won the gold medal in 1980, Minnesota legend and Team USA head coach Herb Brooks said:

"A few years later, the U.S. began using professional athletes at the Games - dream teams. I always found that term ironic because now that we have Dream Teams, we seldom ever get to dream."

It may sound weird, but maybe he was right. Maybe it is time to kill 'dream teams' so that the dream can live on.



Photo by: Heinz Kluetmeier (Sports Illustrated)

Members of Team USA celebrate after shocking the USSR in the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid 4-3.

Year in review: BP Girls find success



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blossoms junior guard McKenna Hein (23) goes up for a layup back in January when Blooming Prairie played a non-conference game inside the Target Center.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

In high school athletics winning games is not and should not be the only criteria to measure success. Other factors enter into the equation, and that is one big reason why Coach John Bruns and his Awesome Blossom basketball team measures some degree of success. Despite a losing record, the girls und other ways to succeed as a team and as individuals.

As Coach Bruns remarked, " I thought we were a better team than our final overall record indicated. We played a very hard schedule that included state consolation champion NRHEG (twice), Goodhue (state champion) Lyle-Pacelli, and Mankato Loyola (both sub-section semi finalists). In addition we had some illness and injuries that may have cost us some late season wins.

I feel we did a good job of attacking these issues and focused on getting better. I am proud of all of you for your efforts and know that you all learned something about yourselves and how to face a tough situation."

Ten players earned letters for the Blossoms who finished fourth in the conference and were 10-16 overall. Both Larson and Wurst earned spots on the All-Conference team, with Forystek an Honorable Mention. All 17 girls on the team had All-Academic All-Conference honors. Teammates named Forystek MVP, with Larson Ms. offense and Hein Ms. Defense Ingvalson earned the Fire Within award.

When it came to statistics, Marissa Larson led the team in scoring with 363 points or a 14.0 average. Sam Wurst followed with 319 (12.3 average), and McKenna Hein added 178 points. Larson also pulled down 215 rebounds to lead the team, although Wurst and Hein were close behind with 206 and 201 respectively. Kylie Forystek handed out 76 assists, followed by Ayren Ingvalson with 73 and Hein at 64. Hein led the team n steals with 49, and Ingvalson trailed by just 3 at 46.

As Coach Bruns concluded, 'he girls have been really supportive of each other, and our bench players are most supportive of all. In our last game, we were down by quite a bit, but they stood and cheered every time we scored. Everyone supports everyone and that translates into success. That's what the game is all about."

Huskies Round up

Owatonna high school Activities Director Ryan Swanson announced that Jason Kaytor will be resigning as the head volleyball coach at the school.

Kaytor was at the helm for the Huskies for eight seasons. This year's squad dealt with uncontrollable turmoil as heavy rains damaged the playing surface of the gym after a rainstorm last summer.

It was also reported that internal and external canidates will be able to interview for the job.

3 Huskies invited to Gophers' Junior Day

Upcoming seniors Alex Raichle and Zach Mensink were joined by 2019 recruit Jason Williamson on the Campus of the Univeristy of Minnesota for the program's annual 'Junior Day'.

Raichle is a two-way star at receiver and defensive back and was also invited to the University of North Dakota's day for upcoming senior recruits as well.

Mensink is an All-Conference performer at linebacker for the Huskies.

Williamson, the Steele County Times' Player of the Year, is also a two-way star for Owatonnna.

STARS OF STEELE

Oakley Baker



In NRHEG's first ever trip to the Class AA state boys basketball tournament, senior Oakley Baker may need to be checked for burns.

He was on fire.

In three games, he scored 78 points, and his 40-point performance set him at 2,000 points in his career.

More importantly, it guided the Panthers to a fifth place finish.

He was named to the Class AA All-Tournament team due to his play.

He will be attending St. Johns in the fall to continue his career.

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Believe it or not, Cheri Krejci is shy

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Many communities have their "movers" and "shakers" who dedicate much of their time to volunteering for community causes.

Longtime Blooming Prairie resident Cheri Krejci, office manager at Krejci Ford of Blooming Prairie, is one of those types of people.

But, guess what. When asked to relate something most people don't know about her, Cheri blushes, "I'm really a pretty shy person."

Cheri said that was not her the other night, March 4, when she was called up front at the Jefts Library on the Pillsbury College Prep and Camp to receive the Owatonna Business Women's 45th annual Woman of Achievement award. She was one of five finalists for the recognition.

Krejci said she was "very surprised" when informed that she had been nominated for the award.

"I was shocked and speechless upon hearing my name called to receive the award," she confesses. She was accompanied at her table by family members and friends. The event was attended by 150 persons.

Cheri's brother Gary asked her if she had a speech ready. "I had nothing prepared," she says. She was told by Linda Klemmensen and by sister Cindy Owen that she looked like she was getting sick.

Cheri was encouraged by award presenter Katie Glazer, president of Owatonna Business Women, to say a few words. Her speech was brief as she thanked those responsible for the award.

Tradition has it that Woman of Achievement winners are then chosen as keynote speakers for the next year's event. "I don't even want to think about it," said Krejci. "It will be short," she guarantees.

A desire to help others and to feel "happy" about it has motivated Krejci to become overly involved in community volunteer work.

Her first volunteer involvement, working at a Steele County Fair 4-H food stand, stemmed from her work ethic learned while growing up on her parents Bonnie and Don Sloan's dairy farm southeast of Ellendale. Cheri said her parents met at the Minnesota State Fair.

The Sloans had 30 registered Holstein milk cows and also raised heifers and bull calves. "I know how to milk cows," Cheri says proudly.

She grew up with her three siblings, Debbie Harvey, Cindy Owen and Gary Sloan.

Debbie is a retired teacher and currently coaches volleyball in Grand Meadow. She lives in Brownsdale. Cindy is a retired teacher from Austin and currently coaches varsity volleyball in Austin. Gary teaches in Grand Meadow and has led several of his Grand Meadow football teams to state championships.

"We all helped on the farm and learned how to work hard," Cheri says. Cheri said her family moved off the farm and into Ellendale when she was a junior in high school.

While on the farm, Cheri said her grandfather Ernest lived with the family. "He was so kind hearted and the best guy ever," she says. "Caring for elderly people is something I have tried to pass onto others," Cheri added.

Following graduation from Ellendale-Geneva High School, Cheri enrolled at Faribault Technical School, studying office management. Her first job was for an orthodontist in Rochester. She worked there for 10 years until she joined Krejci Ford as office manager.

Cheri has logged 31 years at Krejci Ford. She and husband Rick, dealership owner, met through mutual friends. Cheri and Rick will be celebrating their 34th wedding anniversary on May 21. They moved to Blooming Prairie in 1983.

Cheri's duties at Krejci Ford include: accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, vehicle inventory, title work, banking, financial statements and putting all deals together.

Krejci has earned Ford's customer satisfaction award 15 times.

Cheri and Rick have three children: Lindsey, kindergarten teacher in Kasson; Scott, EI Micro Circuits in Mankato and Aaron, athletic trainer in Parkersburg, Iowa.

Since moving to Blooming Prairie, Cheri has become very active in the community. She has a long list of involvement that could stretch the cliche of having a list a mile long.

She taught Sunday School at First Lutheran Church and was active with the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and 4-H in her early years in Blooming Prairie.

Let's take a look at some of her other involvement: volunteered for elementary school carnival; served as a church trustee; co-chaired the lutefisk dinner meatball committee with Linda Klemmensen; served as First Lutheran Church stewardship committee recorder; was BP Area Chamber of Commerce secretary for eight years; served on the first BP Education Foundation board of directors; helped found the BP Quarterback Club; volunteered with the BP Boys & Girls Club: co-chaired the Boys & Girls Club Bash; volunteered with hospice; made three Quilts of Valor for local veterans and served as After Prom Committee chair.

Undoubtedly her most active community involvement has come with the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group which she joined in 2003. She is currently treasurer of the organization.

Cancer has deeply touched Cheri's family. Cheri said she was there when both of her parents were told they had cancer.

"It was an eye opening experience when I was told I had breast cancer; not everybody likes to talk about it," Cheri said. She said she is glad to be a cancer survivor.

How does Cheri balance her community volunteerism with her daily job? She says since she works for a family business, she can work nights or weekends to catch up on her responsibilities.

Cheri says Blooming Prairie is a very giving and caring community where people are engaged in volunteerism. Cheri says she enjoys working on projects and helping others.

Her past project involvement has resulted in Krejci being selected as 2007 Citizen of the Year, being chosen as 2014 Boys and Girls Club Awesome Advocator and being picked as a Minnesota Twins Honorary Bat Girl. She threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Twins game on Mother's Day.



Staff Photo by Howard Lestrud

Volunteering has been Cheri Krejci's middle name since she was a teenager. She recently was honored by the Owatonna Business Women as the 2017 Woman of Achievement. Cheri is shown at her desk at Krejci Ford in Blooming Prairie. She is the office manager.



Lien Orthodontics

Lien

Dr. Deborah Lien
D.D.S. M.B.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

Dr. Deborah Lien is the owner of Lien Orthodontics in Blooming Prairie. She has been practicing orthodontics for 30 years serving the southeastern Minnesota communities of Austin, Owatonna, Rochester, Hayfield, Blooming Prairie and surrounding areas. Dr. Lien enjoys building healthy smiles for children and adults.

She feels honored to have recently received the Roger Fredsall Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists for outstanding service to the organization and for her dedication and commitment to orthodontics and to the communities she serves.

Dr. Lien is the immediate past-president of the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists, encompassing an eight state area and Manitoba. She is past president of the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists and the SE Minnesota Zumbro Valley Dental Society and remains on the Board of Directors of these organizations.

In all of these professional positions her main passion is to remain a strong advocate for her patient's rights. "My passion is to help my patients in outstate and rural Minnesota attain the best possible healthcare and to achieve total health that heals their entire body! Proud to grow up on a grain and hog farm, I witnessed the need for this in my community and I now feel blessed after 11 years of post high school orthodontic education (my farming parents called it lunacy) that I have the opportunity to make a more positive impact in the lives of my patients both in my private practice and in our great USA."

Dr. Lien advocates at state, regional and Washington D.C. levels as a proponent for raising the cap on flexible spending accounts and to improve employee benefits of health savings accounts to allow all patients to make wise healthcare spending decisions. She lobbies to advance legislation that would reduce student loan debt and allow graduate students to defer their loan interest payments until after graduation. Dr. Lien works to advance bills in Congress that would assure that preventative medical and dental care is available to children everywhere. Dr. Lien donates her time and expertise to organizations such as Smiles Change Lives, Donated Orthodontic/Dental Services, Give Kids a Smile and Mission of Mercy where qualified children, disabled individuals and adults are given f ee care.

Dr. Lien's husband, Dale Norell, is a mechanical engineer in Rochester. They have two children, Aaron and Ana. Aaron is a chemist in the Twin Cities, while Ana is a family practice physician, doing her residency at Mayo Clinic, Lacrosse.

In her spare time, Dr. Lien enjoys fishing, boating, gardening and canning vegetables, salsa and jam. She volunteers for her church and women's shelters. She also plays piano and likes embroidery, quilting and sewing.

132 2nd Ave. N.E., Blooming Prairie

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Jennifer Walsh is your local Real Estate expert, specializing in residential and rural properties. Jennifer works all over SE Minnesota and loves working with first time home buyers, relocation clients, investors and those just upgrading or downsizing. She is very professional and goes that extra mile to ensure her clients have the best possible real estate experience.

Jennifer lives in Blooming Prairie with her family where she volunteers and is active in the community. When not selling Real Estate she is usually found tending to her flowers or her garden. Call Jennifer Walsh today for all your Real Estate needs.

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LISA MEYER

Lisa Meyer is the Office Manager for Main Street Dental Clinics. She manages offices in Blooming Prairie, Owatonna, Rochester, New Richland and Mankato. Lisa supervises over 50 employees and works with eight dentists who own the dental practices. Her top priorities are patient care and building high performing teams.

Lisa resides in Blooming Prairie. She has three children and two grandchildren. Lisa enjoys quilting, spending time with her children and grandchildren and likes to play practical jokes.

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Kristi's connections for the human spirit

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Donna Morgan. Cubism. Michael Tyler. Libra. Katherine Barclay. Tribal. Big Buddha. For 50.4 percent of the population according to this day's statistics, give or take a few hundred thousand, those names don't mean anything special. But to the 49.6 percent of the world's population – that would be women, Those names can make you stop in midsentence.

They are just some of the big named designers that are featured in a quaint clothing and accessory boutique located in downtown Owatonna.

Kristi Larson is the owner and creator of Kristi's Boutique which has been in the same location at 301 Cedar Avenue North since 1996. Going into her 21st year of business, she has gained a lot of insight into the fashion industry, experience in trendy and trending retail and a loyal and passionate fan base.

According to their website, (https://www.kristisclothing.com/upcoming-events), Kristi's "specializes in personal service and are committed to helping women find what's right for their individual style needs offering unique clothing and accessories."

Kristi's is a specialty boutique for women, offering unique clothing and jewelry. Just as unique is Larson herself, once a resident of St. Paul and now relocated to this smaller southeastern Minnesota area. Born in a bigger city, she brings the taste of metropolitan, charm and grace to the tiny city of Owatonna. If it's trending, you can find it at Kristi's.

They specialize in tops, jeans, pants, dresses and skirts for work, everyday wear and special occasions. In addition, Kristi's carries purses, scarves and handcrafted jewelry including necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

At Kristi's, they don't just sell clothes. They educate you as to what to wear for any occasion. They are a personal "fashionista" if you will.

The building itself was built at the turn of the century and intended first as a sporting goods store. From that humble beginning, the ornately carved colorful exterior stonework is imported marble and was the façade for furniture, gift shops and even KRFO radio. The old gal has worn many hats, but ironically was never a milliner until Kristi's brought in a few hats from New York, when they were popular a few years back.

Yes. New York. Larson gathers things from the bigger markets and has multiple contacts in metropolitan areas that help her stay atop the industry fashion trends and navigate the industry. You could say she has friends in chic places.

Larson, who has a background in social services and who never had a background in retail forged ahead and opened her shop. "I always thought it would be fun to have a retail store," Larson said. "I kind of fell into it. Someone else was going to open a shop here and then decided not to. We were just moving to town, so I thought I would give it a try."

And that "try" ending up being not only a labor of love for Larson, but has also become a very popular and reputable downtown shopping spot that caters to women. And men who believe that a happy wife means a happy life.

The energy can be felt as you enter the doors of this downtown gem. You are greeted with infectious smiles, soothing sounds and a peaceful, yet colorful ambiance. In a world where the large chains have pretty much dominated the fashion industry since Adam Gimbel and Rowland Macy duked it out in the 1800s, the challenge has always been upon the shoulders of the small retailers. The retailers who could cater to people in the small towns and cities of America and convince them to shop at home rather than traveling to the bigger cities.

"We try here to carry things that are different than what you see in the bigger stores," Larson said. "And so I go to New York, Las Vegas and Chicago to try to find clothing lines that not everybody has."

This would be helpful especially when you remember that office party where two or three employees come wearing the same designer outfit from a retail store that carries multiples on the rack. Another selling point in shopping local is saving money on gas to the Twin Cities when you can find the eclectic and trendy look you are going for right here in Owatonna. And, other than one of a kind outfits, is the service and attention each customer receives.

At Kristi's you come into the shop a customer, you go out with a new outfit and a new relationship. The salespeople at Kristi's have a way of endearing and dedicating themselves to the premise that people are not just customers, but community friends.

"The other thing we try to focus on is service because with some of the bigger stores and now with online shopping, that's something that you don't get," said Larson. She also states that the internet and online shopping has been one of her bigger challenges to overcome in a smaller market.

There are, though, obvious obstacles to online shopping. There is a wait, and sometimes a big surprise in your mailbox when you open your treasures and they look much different on you than they did on the woman in the online ad.

The clientele over the years has been dedicated and they return because of the quality and the care that is put into the sale of each unique piece. "We have a lot of great, regular customers that will come to us and say, 'I need an outfit for this weekend' or I need some new work clothes, and we're always happy to help," Larson remarked.

In 20 years in the fashion industry, Larson makes it work for her and Owatonna benefits from the wisdom that she has gained. To young women who hope to go into business on their own, she offers a bit of advice.

"It's really all about relationships, and it's about helping people," Larson commented. "The clothes will come and go, but if you can help the women feel good about themselves and also feel good about what they're wearing; that that's really the key."

Other keys, Larson pointed out, in starting any business are patience and listening. "It takes a while to get going. It's not something that happens right away. And you have to listen to your customers and figure out what they want from you."

Kristi's boutique is a place where you go to shop and come away feeling better about yourself. It's a connection. A place to share stories and to learn about new things from real people. Not connections gained by texting or scrolling or sitting in front of a silent screen, mindlessly placing orders. Connections are essential to the human spirit – and they cater to the welfare of life itself.

Kristi's is open, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Staff Photo by Mark DeLap

Kristi Larson is the owner and founder of Kristi's Boutique located in downtown Owatonna at 301 Cedar Avenue North. Her trendy one-of-a-kind styles have been one of the reasons that loyal customers return again and again.



Staff Photo by Mark DeLap

Steamstress and fashionista Cheryl Perry is found steaming garments and preparing them for a short shelf life at Kristi's. Trendy clothing moves quickly in downtown Owatonna.



Holly Sobrack is an entrepreneur, small business builder and online marketer. She works in Southern Minnesota coaching small businesses on growth and technology. Holly started Westbrack Marketing and Social Media Management to help small businesses have a trusted resource. She provides a fresh perspective and marketing support to locally owned businesses at reasonable prices. Holly's 18 years of experience allow her to provide a wealth of marketing and business knowledge to those who work with her. By taking the stress away from marketing, small businesses can focus on their customers and growth.

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WESTBRACK MARKETING

HOLLY SOBRACK



Karen is the owner of a local cottage food business, Confections by Karen "changing lives one delightful confection at a time." My passion is doing what I love; which includes baking, creating and decorating gourmet cupcakes, custom designed cakes & cookies. Hobbies and interests include spending time with my husband and playing with my two boys. I also enjoy volunteering in our community including being a member of the Women of Today and the coordinator for the Blooming Prairie Backpack Program. Visit www.confections-by-karen.com for your next gourmet cupcake, custom designed cake and cookie orders.

507-340-0171
Blooming Prairie

Confections by Karen

KAREN PETERSON

confectionsbykaren@gmail.com



Laurie Johnson, a lifelong resident of rural Blooming Prairie, has been working in the Travel Industry for 33 years now. After attending Vocational College, she realized her love of travel. In 1989, Laurie and her coworkers became partners; together they opened Cedar Travel. *"Although the business is exciting and constantly changing, it's not all fun and games like so many seem to think!"*

In 2008 Laurie became the sole owner of Cedar Travel. She and her dedicated staff are continually attending educational seminars/classes to gain knowledge of the business, as well as destinations, resorts, cruiselines, tours and etc-both domestic and international. First hand experiences are the best learning tool, so Laurie and her staff take advantage of travel opportunities offered by different tour companies.

LAURIE JOHNSON

111 Cedar Ave N
Owatonna

507 - 455-1170
www.cedartravel.net



Cheri Krejci is the office manager/owner of family-owned business Krejci Ford.

Krejci is married to Rick and has three children, Lindsey, Scott and Aaron.

During her free time, Krejci enjoys camping, quilting, reading, cooking and baking, playing cards and pegs and jokers.

Krejci spends her time keeping busy with the BP Cancer Group, church activities and spending time with family.

Krejci Ford sells new Ford cars and trucks and all makes and models of used vehicles. If you don't see what you want on our lot, we will try to find it for you. Krejci Ford is home of the "free oil change." You pay for nine oil changes and the 10th one is ***FREE***. We service all makes of vehicles.

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CHERI KREJCI



Linda Klemmensen is the owner/operator of Sportstitch. Her business has been located on Main Street in Blooming Prairie for the past 22 years. Sportstitch offers custom embroidery, screen printing, promotional products and tuxedo rentals.

Sportstitch is Blooming Prairie's "Awesome Blossom Headquarters" and also specializes in custom logos for businesses, organizations and individuals. Linda and husband Randy have children Ryan & Taylor, Brad, Rachel and their newest addition, baby granddaughter Ella. Linda enjoys spending time with family, traveling, camping, church activities and has been a volunteer with the Blooming Prairie Ambulance for the past 16 years.

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LINDA KLEMMENSEN

How to Pick a Medical Alert System



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

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220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
I would like to get my 82-year-old mother, who lives alone, a home medical alert system with a panic button that she can push in case she falls or needs help. Can you recommend some good options to help me choose?
Overwhelmed Daughter

Dear Overwhelmed,

A good medical alert system is an affordable and effective tool that can help keep your mother safe, but with all the choices available today choosing one can be quite confusing. Here are some tips that can help.

How They Work

Medical alert systems, which have been around for about 40 years, are popular products for elderly seniors who live alone. Leased for about $1 a day, these basic systems provide a wearable help button – usually in the form of a neck pendant or wristband – and a base station that connects to the home phone line, or to a cellular network if no landline is present.

At the press of a button, your mom could call and talk to a trained operator through the system's base station receiver, which works like a powerful speakerphone. The operator will find out what's wrong, and will notify family members, a friend, neighbor or emergency services as needed.

In addition to the basic home systems, many companies today (for an additional fee) are also offering motion sensitive pendants that can detect a fall and automatically call for help if your mom is unable to push the button. And mobile medical alerts that work when your mom is away from home. Mobile alerts work like cell phones with GPS tracking capabilities. They allow your mom to talk and listen to the operator directly through the pendant button, and because of the GPS, her general location would be known in order for help to be sent.

What to Consider

When shopping for a home medical alert system, here are some things to look for to help you choose a quality system:

- Extra help buttons: Most companies offer waterproof neck pendant and wristband help buttons, but some also offer wall-mounted buttons that can be placed near the floor in high fall risk areas like the bathroom or kitchen, in case your mom isn't wearing her pendant.
- Range: The base station should have a range of at least 400 feet so it can be activated from anywhere on your mom's property – even in the yard.
- Backup: Make sure the system has a battery backup in case of a power failure.
- Monitoring: Make sure the response center is staffed with trained emergency operators located in the U.S., are available on a 24-hour basis, and responds to calls promptly.
- Contacts: Choose a company that provides multiple contact choices – from emergency services, to a friend or family member who lives nearby – that they can contact if your mom needs help.
- Certification: Find out if the monitoring center has been certified by Underwriters Laboratories, a nonprofit safety and consulting company.

Top Rated Companies

While there are dozens of companies that offer medical alert systems, here are some top options that offer both home and mobile alerts: Bay Alarm Medical (fees start at $30 per month for a home landline system, bayalarmmedical.com, 877-522-9633); Life Station ($30/month, lifestation.com, 800-554-4600); Medical Alert ($33/month, medicalalert.com, 800-800-2537); MobileHelp ($30/month, mobilehelpnow.com, 800-992-0616); and Phillips Lifeline ($30/month plus a $50 activation fee, lifelinesys.com, 855-681-5351).

Most of these companies offer discounts if you pay three to 12 months in advance.

For mobile medical alerts only, you should also see GreatCall's Lively Mobile and Wearable (these cost $50 plus a $20 to $35 monthly service fee, greatcall.com, 866-359-5606) and Consumer Cellular's Ally ($150 plus $25 per month, consumercellular.com, 888-345-5509).

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
Elise Slinger, Editor
April 3rd, 2007

One week from this Tuesday, the question of whether or not to approve a property tax increase fro the purpose of improving facilities of Blooming Prairie High and Elementary School will come before the voters in the Blooming Prairie School District. With the days counting down, the citizens on both sides of the issue agree that people becoming informed is the most important aspect of the proceedings.

They came into the library after a full day of school with energy bounding and with words of encouragement for each other as most in the room readied themselves for the first of many pictures to be taken. This group, which consisted of 29 students, both boys and girls, was on its way to the sub-section speech competition that recently took place in Byron. It doesn't take long being with these young people to sense their love for life and telling their story in their own way.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
April 1st , 1997

Jared Smith and Paul Hensruf wheel around town in a 1984 Omni delivering meals during their high school lunch hour, zipping from house to apartment with insulated lunch containers. For them, Meals on Wheels has been a very rewarding experience. Eleven teenagers volunteered their time during lunch hour in March to help deliver the Semcac meals. The 17-year-old program continues to serve those home-bound who wish to have a warm lunch during the week.

Although test scores for the Minnesota Basic Standards Test for graduation went down for eighth-grade Blooming Prairie students from a year ago, Superintendent Irving Peterson is concerned but realistic. "Last year we were real pleased with our test results, because we were above the state average in reading and math," Said Peterson. "And we were the leading ZED school besides being the highest in the state. But each class is different, and we knew going into last year that it would go well, this year wasn't quite as well, but we are very optimistic about this class."

50 Years Ago
Victor and Vernon Krejci, Editors
March 30th, 1967

Miss Carol Marie Kahnke, 18-years-old Blooming Prairie girl, is one of ten contestants in the "Miss Owatonna" Pageant, to be held in Owatonna on Saturday, April 22, according to information submitted to the Times Tuesday. Carol Marie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Kahnke and is sponsored in the pageant by Harriet's Dreswel and Norman Peterson Insurance Agency.

A break-in occurred at the Blooming Prairie High School sometime during the night of Friday, March 24th, netting the intruders approximately $130.00 in cash. Entry to the building was gained by smashing a window and then reaching in to unlatch the window fram to open the area, which was sufficiently large to crawl through the hole. The Steele County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

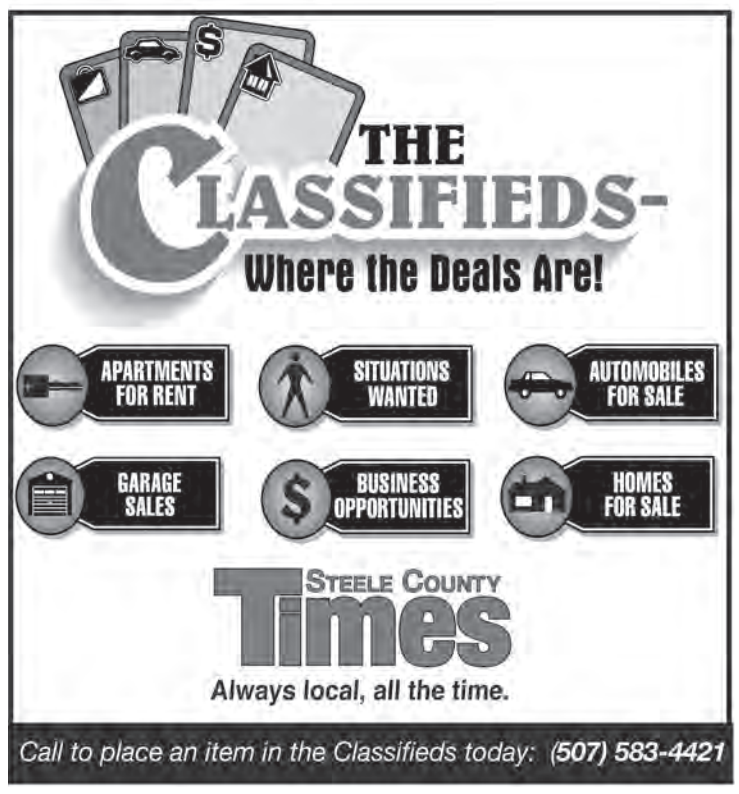
75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
April 2nd, 1942

Chilly eather wasn't enough to keep a record crowd from attending Market Day here Monday. One of the best Market Day collections of articles for auction sale was brought in Monday morning, and hundreds of bidders flocked to town in the afternoon to snap up the 400 items listed. More than the usual amount of machinery was sold, and the furniture and miscellaneous articles this year were much better than in previous years. Everything sold was for good prices.

Initial steps in a wartime Civilian Defense plan for Blooming Prairie were taken here this week with the zoning of the entire village area and appointment of about 50 Deputy Air Raid Wardens and Zone Captians. Ross Hollowell, manager of the Intercounty Telephone Company and Chief of the fire department was named Chief Air Raid Warden, with Mike Tucker as his assistant.

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STEELE COUNTY TIMES
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Community Calendar

Blooming Prairie

March 28th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
6pm - 7pm BPBL Book Club
March 29th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
April 4th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
April 5th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Event Spotlight: Veteran officer coming to area

The monthly office hours with the Steele County Veteran's Service Office have been announced.

Veterans service officer Rene Gilormini will be in the area on Thursday with stops at the Servicemen's Club in Blooming Prairie at 9:30 a.m. and the Ellendale Community Building at 11 a.m.

People with concerns about veteran benefits are encouraged to meet with Gilormini.

Event Spotlight: Grandstand survey

The Steele County Free Fair is seeking public input on selection of a grandstand show for the 2017 fair. Choices for this year include an IMP Autocross, Big Air Show (ATV's and Quads), or a second demolition derby.

Visit the fair facebook page and send in your response by March 31. If you are not on Facebook, you can stop by the fair office or mail your response to Box 650 in Owatonna, 55060.

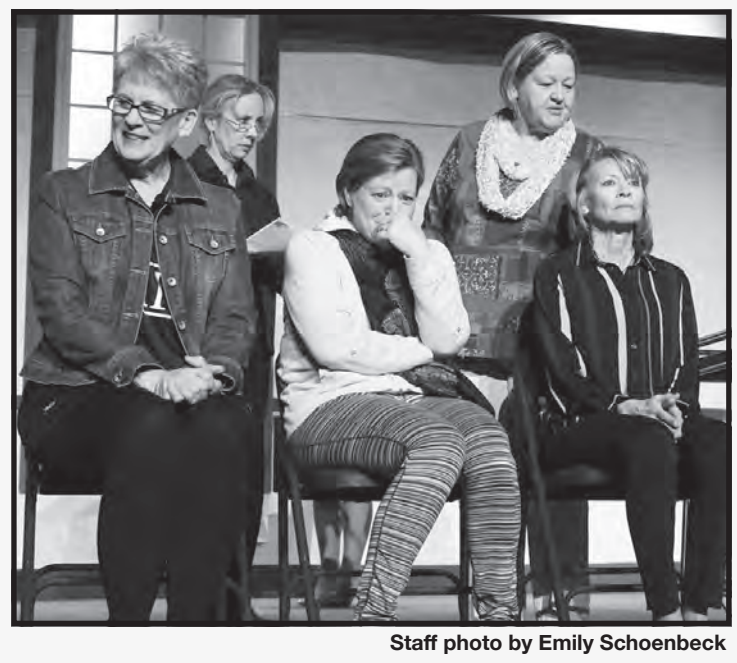
Austin/Mower County

March 28th:
10:30am - 11:30am Tuesday Morning Storytime, Austin Public Library
6pm - 8pm Clay Wheel Throwing for Teens, Austin ArtWorks Center
6:30pm - 7:30pm Friends and Volunteers Appreciation Program, Ruby Rupner Auditorium, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center
March 29th:
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
6:30pm - 8pm Adult Hockey, Riverside Arena, Austin
March 30th:
6pm - 8pm Hand-building Candle Votives, Austin ArtWorks Center
March 31st:
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
April 1st:
9am - 12pm Masonic Pancake Feed, Austin Masonic Lodge, 303A N Main Street
9am - 11am Own a Piece of the Old Interpretive Center - Silent Auction, Jay C Hormel Nature Center, Austin
10am - 12pm Charlotte's Web & Life on the Farm, Austin Public Library
10am - 6pm Edible Book Festival, Austin Public Library
10:30am - 12pm Kids' Studio: Dreamcatchers, Austin ArtWorks Center
12:30pm - 3pm Shamrock Run 5K and 1 Mile, Pacelli Catholic Schools, Austin
6pm - 9:30pm Austin Rotary Club Trivia Night, Mower County Senior Center
7:30pm - 9:30pm Joke's On Us: April Fool's Comedy Showcase, Historic Paramount Theatre
9pm - 10pm Sola Fide Observatory Viewing, Sola Fide Observatory
April 2nd:
1pm - 5pm Edible Book Festival, Austin Public Library
4pm - 7pm 7th Annual Taste of Mower County, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center
April 3rd:
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
6:30pm - 7:30pm The Magic of Celtic Music: Laura MacKenzie, Austin Public Library
7pm - 8pm Brownsdale City Council Mtg
April 5th:
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House

Ellendale/Hope/Geneva

March 28th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
March 30th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
April 3rd:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
April 4th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
April 5th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The Merlin Players' *Calendar Girls* continues its run at the Paradise Performing Arts Center. Seated: Bev Cashman, Susan Dunhaupt, and Alane Bendtsen play three of the titular calendar girls, who pose nude for a calendar to raise money for charity.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie educators provided the entertainment for the pre-auction festivities last year. Although most educators in the picture are incognito and don't want to be recognized, they know who they are.

Owatonna/Medford

March 28th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
4pm - 5pm OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5pm County Board Meeting, Steele County Administration Center
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
March 30th:
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
April 3rd:
1pm - 2pm Owatonna, Womanâs Club bridge group, SeniorPlace
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
April 4th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
April 5th:
7pm - 8pm Medford Park Board (1st Wed even months)

Event Spotlight: Kiwanis Clubs Belgian waffle brunch

A breakfast brunch, featuring all-you-can-eat Dad's Belgian waffles and sausage, will be served as a Kiwanis fundraiser from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Sunday, April 23 at the Owatonna VFW Club, 135 Oakdale St.

Proceeds will benefit student scholarships and many local community service needs. Clubs serving are the Kiwanis Golden K, Kiwanis Noon Club and the Owatonna High School Kiwanis Key Club.

Advance sale tickets at $7.00 are available from Kottke Jewelers and Kiwanis Club and Key Club members. Tickets sold at the door are $8.

Kiwanis International is a world-wide service organization that's celebrating the 102th anniversary of its founding. Its primary focus is to serve the development of young children and youth in health, reading and leadership initiatives.

Event Spotlight: 2nd Annual Spring Fling

On Sunday, April 2 from 1-4 pm, the Country Corner Preschool of Hayfield will be hosting its Spring Fling at the Hayfield Fire Hall.

There will be kids games, a book sale, a silent auction, a raffle, a bake sale, and food vendors. There will also be a petting zoo with ponies, goats, llamas, donkies, siberians, and reptiles.

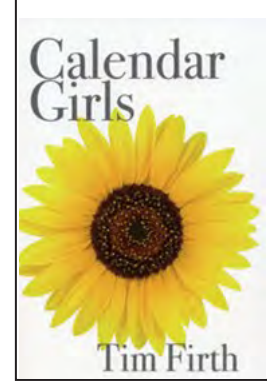
Funds raised from the event will go toward affordable tuition, the purchase of school supplies, and general building maintenance for the preschool.

Tickets are $1.

Event Spotlight: Merlin Players' Calendar Girls

Performing March 30, 31, and April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at The Paradise Performing Arts Center.

When Annie's husband dies of leukemia, she and her friends set out to raise funds for a local charity. They decide to revolutionize the Women's Institute sedate calendar by posing completely in the buff. Positioned behind strategically placed flower arrangements, cakes, and knitting projects, the women discover the beauty within them-selves.



News of the women's venture spreads like wildfire, even internationally. The women find themselves exposed in ways they hadn't anticipated. They struggle to reach a new level of understanding and friendship that will carry them through all the days to come. Based on a true story, this play will be a welcome treat as Minneosta winter melts into spring.

For Tickets Call 507-332-7372.



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GOLFER'S GUIDE

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Tips for newcomers to the game of golf

Few hobbies can be as enjoyable one moment and as frustrating the next as golf. Golfers know a great putt can be quickly followed by a bad tee shot, and maintaining their composure through the highs and lows of the game is a key to success on the links.

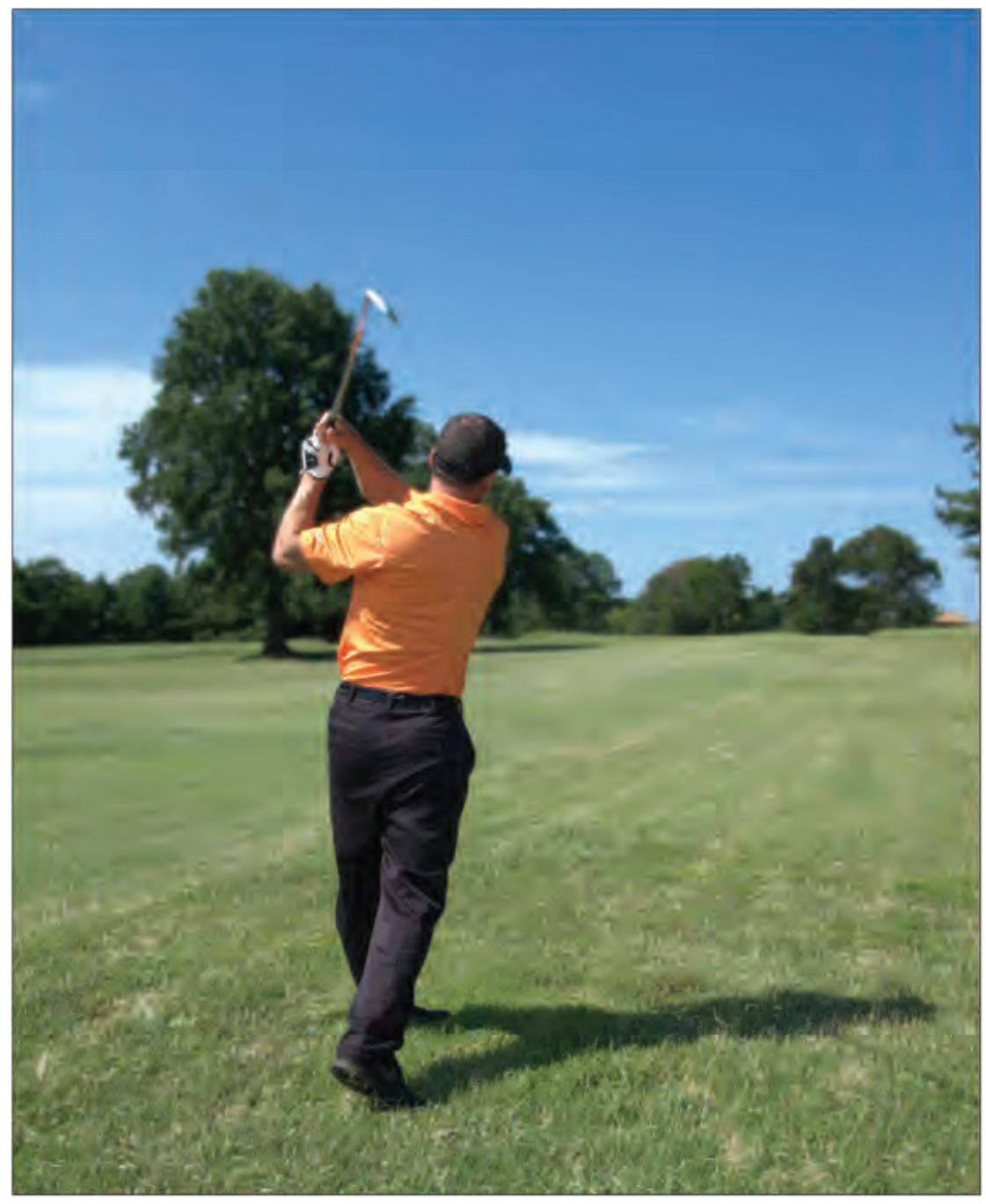
Maintaining that composure isn't always easy, even for the professionals. It's even more difficult for beginners, who quickly learn the game of golf involves more than just spending sunny weekend afternoons on pristine golf courses. In fact, golf can be quite demanding, and beginners would be wise to heed a few tips before hitting the course.

* Don't commit to an expensive set of clubs right off the bat. Golf clubs can be very expensive, so beginners should buy an affordable second-hand set of clubs so they can get the hang of what they like before spending a lot of money. Visit a pro shop and explain that you are just a beginner. The shop will likely make some valuable suggestions and might even let you try out a pair of clubs. In addition, many driving ranges allow customers to rent clubs, and this can be a great and inexpensive way to find the right clubs for you.

* Take lessons. Even the very best at self-teaching might find it extremely difficult to become a self-taught golfer. When first trying your hand at golf, take some lessons and don't expect to be playing 18 holes any time soon. Before hitting the course, where you might be discouraged and you might frustrate those golfing behind you, learn the fundamentals by taking a few lessons at the driving range. Learn from a professional, who won't offer you any hidden secrets to golfing glory (there aren't any) but will offer sound advice on the game's fundamentals.

* Take the game home with you. Beginners can even take advantage of golf's vast popularity by taking the game home with them. This doesn't mean building a putting green in your backyard. Rather, purchase some instructional DVDs to learn the game during your down time throughout the week. Many golfers don't have time to hit the links during the week, but they do have time to watch some DVDs when they get home from work. Such instructional DVDs can help you master your grip and stance, which you can then take with you to the course over the weekend.

* Have fun. Golf is a fun game; it just takes time to hone your skills. But even if you aren't ready for the professional tour after your first few rounds, you can still have fun. Don't let some beginner's frustration, which every golfer experiences, ruin the fun of the game. Take note of your surroundings when you hit the links, and appreciate the time you're spending with your group. If the game becomes more a source of frustration than fun, then take a break and put in some more work away from the course, be it at the driving range or studying at home.



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Farm drones: 'Exciting results'

Cutting-edge equipment measures field conditions, weather, grain status

By RICHARD JOHNSON
DCI Managing Editor
richarddci@kmtel.com

A farmer could trudge out into his or her fields to check out soil, plant health, insects, weeds and such.



Todd Golly
Chief Operating Officer
Leading Edge Technologies

Or you could stay put and hire a drone to do the work from on high, using cutting-edge technology.

No one even has to stand out there and direct the thing with a joystick. The newest drones are programmed to fly on their own, and can photograph a 300-acre field in about 40 minutes

"You're always excited to see the results," said Todd Golly, Chief Operating Officer of Leading Edge Technologies, a drone dealer, service provider and software company in Winnebago, about 20 miles north of Blue Earth in Faribault County. "Eighty-thousand acres, and it seems like every acre's got a different story. It's still a lot of fun."

Leading Edge has sold Swiss-built drones – aka Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - for about three years.

Last year the company began using its fleet of four drones to monitor about 80,000 acres of crops in southern Minnesota – including about 1,000 to 2,000 in the Dodge/Steele County area.

The drones, programmed by trained pilots, use multi-spectral, thermal, and regular cameras to measure acres to scale.

They also monitor the weather during growing season, and monitor grain temperature and moisture post-harvest to keep it from spoiling.

You can use a mobile application to see the imagery on your phone.

Golly said most of his drone customers are cooperatives and agriculture retailers who receive the data and share it with farmers. Most of the data is used for crop scouting.

He said the survey cost is generally $2 to $3 an acre, though it depends on what an ag retailer wants to charge.

Even a drone costing $20,000 to $40,000 would not come with software – so that is included in Leading Edge products.

Leading Edge's biggest service area is central Minnesota and northern Iowa. But service also will be available this year in North Dakota, South Dakota, Alabama, New Mexico and Oregon.

The company also hopes to expand into the Rochester area – and Brazil.

Golly said Leading Edge has presold more acres for 2017 than it flew in all of 2016, and he hopes to triple the acreage.

"It's a really nice growth. We're in the stage where we have to educate farmers on the true value," he said. "I'm just excited to be able to continue on this path. There's value now, but there's more coming. I think the future of agriculture is drone technology. We don't have enough people left in the small communities, so we have to start replacing our farm labor with machines."

The process, he said, is a "true, in-season monitoring," so disease or insect problems can be remedied. Results are guaranteed within three days.

"It has to be fast, or it's not of value," Golly said. "Times are tough right now, so (farmers) need to see value. But the ones who do it, they're very surprised and happy at what they see in their fields.

"It has to be fast, or it's not of value. Times are tough right now, so (farmers) need to see value. But the ones who do it, they're very surprised and happy at what they see in their fields.

~ Todd Golly
Chief Operating Officer, Leading Edge Technologies



Submitted photos

Contract pilot Paul Reberg launches a drone last May on a farm near Blue Earth.

Everyone needs to protect bees

ON THE FARM



Kendra Schroeder

When I was a kid, there was nothing more terrifying than finding a bee while playing outside. Although I had never actually been stung, just hearing the other children rant and rave about how mean and horrible bees were was enough to keep me away from them. Whenever a bee was found in the classroom, the teacher or a brave student was quick to take a magazine and squash it before it took any unwilling victims.

As I've grown older, my bee etiquette has changed, and definitely for the better! Bees aren't only our friends in agriculture, they are our partners, and it's our job to help protect them.

Healthy bees in Minnesota lay eggs in the spring, are active in the summer, and nest over the winter, maintaining their population all year round. Unfortunately, in 2006, researchers discovered that bee populations were falling dramatically each year towards the end of the summer; they called this Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). At first, they were unsure what was causing CCD, but now researchers have a better understanding of the source. University of Minnesota Entomologists Krischik and Tenczar state, "Most researchers now agree that honey bee decline [CCD] is due to multiple, interacting causes, including the effects of bee specific diseases and parasites, lack of floral resources that provide good bee nutrition, and lethal and sub-lethal effects of pesticides."

Pollinators are a big part of all agricultural operations. Krischik and Tenczar estimate that bees and other pollinators pollinate anywhere between 30 and 70 percent of all flo - ering plants, which amounts to over $18 billion dollars in crop yields for nuts, vegetables, and fruit in the United States. Just last week, the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee joined the endangered species list. These bees are native to southern Minnesota, are the first pollinator to join this list; we need to do our part in helping them get off of the endangered species list, and giving all of our pollinators a bright future.

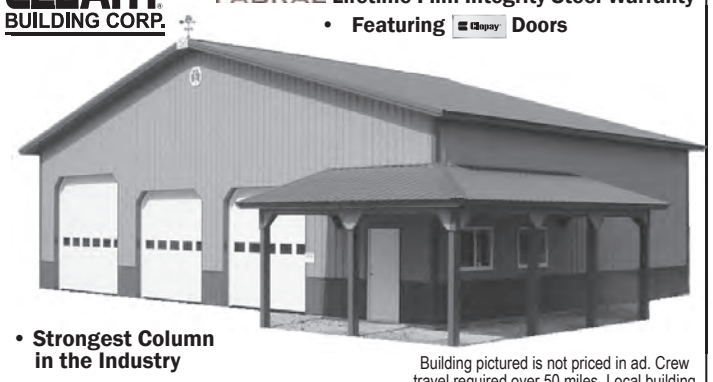
Anyone with a yard can help rebuild our bee population; all you need is a place to plant some flowers. Pollinators require both nectar and pollen to complete their lifecycle, so planting a variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers that bloom from April through September creates a perfect environment. Bee specialists suggest planting flowers that are native to Minnesota, such as wild rose, purple prairie clover, or anise hyssop. A full list of native flowers that bloom throughout the season can be found online at www.extension.umn.edu.

Another bee friendly practice is to avoid using pesticides on or around native habitats, especially neonicotinoids, pyrethroids and organophosphates; these chemicals are especially toxic to bees. Finally, you can help by providing good nesting sites for native bees. Bees will nest in different spots depending on their species; some bee species nest in the ground, while others nest in cavities or in wood.

Our Minnesota bee population is vital to maintaining a healthy ecosystem, and producing all the wonderful foods we enjoy eating. For more information on bees and other pollinators, please feel free to contact me.

Kendra Schroeder is the interim extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at 507-444-7685 or schr1123@umn.edu

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Growing Ag education in Minnesota

By EMILY SCHOENBECK
Staff Writer

Gov. Dayton has appointed Medford principal Chris Ovrebo to the MN Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC).

MAELC is a legislative council made up of 17 legislators and agriculture education leaders and focuses on building innovative programs to promote Ag education in exciting ways. The council works on organizing grants to fund such projects. They're charged at looking at the big picture for where Ag education should be headed in the future.

Ovrebo, who worked in Ag education for seven years, is the current principal of Medford high school. He is determined to address the shortage of Ag educators in the state. He says Minnesota is currently suffering a "pretty severe shortage." Recruiting and retaining Ag educators will be vital to ensuring that Minnesota continues to capitalize on its agriculture potential. He sees the council as a way of providing support and mentorship to early professionals.

His personal goals will be "working hard to identify and increase the number of students heading into [Ag education.]" Helping students to envision their future and "how Ag education can support that," he believes will lead to more pursuing educational work with agriculture.

Ovrebo's passion for agriculture and youth is understandable. He grew up around farms in the Red River Valley north of Fargo. His first jobs were working as a teenager on farms helping manage crops like sugar beets. In the summer, he would spend time on his mom's family's farm in northwest Iowa. His own Ag classes in high school he says were where "a lot of the seeds were planted" for his work now.

Agriculture education jobs are expanding in the state of Minnesota, in part, because of legislative initiatives like MAELC. Ovrebo's own school has two full-time agriculture teachers.

"We need good teachers," Ovrebo said simply.

"Agriculture education plays a key role in our communities in Steele county," Ovrebo continued, "It adds a lot of value."

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Growth important to Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Blooming Prairie

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Farmers & Merchants State Bank has been an integral part of Blooming Prairie commerce since 1904 when it was founded by a group of individuals led by Oscar Haberstad.

The bank has been located in several downtown locations until it located at its present address at 245 East Main Street in 1981. The Austin branch was built in 1998.

Farmers and Merchants became the first bank to open in the Blooming Prairie area.

Growth is a constant goal at Farmers and Merchants. "Ninety-nine percent of the people here are honest and fair and want to succeed and see other people succeed," says James Fiebiger, president of F & M State Bank.

"Hopefully, we are the bank that will make this growth happen," said Fiebiger, also chairman of the bank's board of directors. "I see a bright future," Fiebiger says.

"I am so proud of our staff which is second to none from our teller line, to our support staff and to our officers," Fiebiger believes. "You can borrow money anywhere but it takes a friendly and efficient staff to make the bank and its customers successful," said Fiebiger.

Most of F & M State Bank's business is agricultural, about 50 percent. The rest is 35 percent commercial, 10 percent residential/real estate and 5 percent, consumer loans.

Farm harvests have been outstanding the past few years but because of the low market prices, the economic effects have challenged local farmers.

Basic lending hasn't changed with banking principles remaining the same," says Fiebiger. He says the number of farmers is decreasing and agriculture has faced some tough times in recent years. He said the years from 2008-10 saw some good money made in agriculture.

The agriculture industry is always on the edge, says Fiebiger. "Only the strong will survive and profitability has been poor regardless of the good harvests," he added.

Working capital is king in farming, Fiebiger believes. A low debt to asset is key to a successful business whether in farming or in manufacturing or retail.

Fiebiger says his customers and staff working together will find success. "Our aim is to help our customers weather any financial storm and help make them be successful," he continued.

Fiebiger says his loan portfolio currently is larger than the entire bank's portfolio when he joined the bank in 1983 as a bank agriculture loan office . The bank at the present time has $71 million in loans compared to $11 million in 1983.

Looking at bank statistics, Fiebiger says the bank now has $78 million in assets compared to $21 million in 1983. Total deposits are listed at $70 million compared to $18 million in 1983.

F & M Bank has grown to three times its size since 1983 when Fiebiger came aboard. The bank has 24 total employees, counting nine in its Austin location and 15 at the Blooming Prairie site.

Lending limits were $300,000 and now they are $1 million, Fiebiger reports. He said the bank can provide larger loans by utilizing its resources through the Citizens State Bank of Hayfield. Both the Blooming and Hayfield banks are owned by the same holding company. Citizens and F & M are sister banks.

The Blooming Prairie bank does a considerable amount of SBA (Small Business Administration) loans and also works with the FSA (Farmers Service Agency) in providing loans. "We can help with operating money and that's how we get new customers," Fiebiger explained.

"We want your deposits to be an investment in Blooming Prairie," says Fiebiger in addressing the bank's customers.

Farmers & Merchants Bank is very active in its community by being a BP Area Chamber of Commerce member and by being very supportive of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group and the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation, clerking auctions for both.

F & M offers the basic banking services with loans, deposits, checking and CDs. The bank is open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. The bank also has a 24-hour ATM.



STTEELE COUNTY TIMES | Howard Lestrud
Providing banking services is a team effort at Farmers & Merchants State Bank in Blooming Prairie. These officers are available for consultation on banking needs. shown from left to right are: Kent Lea, James Fiebiger (president), Bruce Rumpza and Adam Thoen. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



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How to drive more efficient



Effectively employing cruise control when driving on highways can improve fuel economy.

Many people aspire to drive more efficiently in an attempt to conserve fuel, save money and reduce the carbon footprints of their vehicles. But driving efficiently can also make driving safer for motorists, their passengers and everyone else, including pedestrians, sharing the roads.

Drivers who want to drive more efficiently can implement a variety of strategies to do just that.

• Obey the speed limits. Speed limits are determined with safety in mind, and drivers should always adhere to posted speed limits to protect themselves, their passengers and others on the road. The U.S. Department of Transportation notes that, in 2015, 27 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths were speeding-related. But according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, obeying the speed limit is also cost-effective. The EPA notes that miles per gallon begins to dip dramatically when vehicles travel above 55 miles per hour. While each vehicle is different, the EPA notes that increasing highway cruising speed from 55 miles per hour to 75 miles per hour can raise fuel consumption by as much as 20 percent.

• Do not idle a vehicle. The Environmental Defense Fund notes that electronic engines do not need to warm up, even in winter when temperatures are especially cold. Vehicles that are idling can produce as much pollution as vehicles that are in motion, and idling for as little as 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine. Drivers concerned about overtaxing their engines shortly after starting them can warm their engines by easing into their drives and avoiding excessive revving.

• Use cruise control wisely. Drivers concerned about fuel economy may be accustomed to turning on their vehicles' cruise control when driving long distances on the highway. While that is an effective and fuel-efficient way to maintain steady speeds, turn cruise control off when traversing roads with steep hills. On such roads, fuel efficiency can be lost because the vehicle engine is working harder to maintain steady speeds.

• Tighten the gas cap. When gas caps are loose, fuel evaporates. The Car Care Council notes that loose, missing or damaged gas caps contribute to the evaporation of roughly 147 million gallons of gas per year. That's both wasteful and costly. When filling up at the gas station, turn the cap until your hear it click.

Driving efficiently can make roadways safer, benefit the environment and save drivers considerable amounts of money.



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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Disturbance. A man reported his ex-girlfriend and brother ditched him in Claremont and stole his phone at 2:45 p.m.

Crime brief

New crime fighter joins OP

A new crime fighter has joined the Owatonna Police Department.

Casey Martin began his duties as a police officer March 20. He will be undergoing field training with a more experienced officer for several weeks prior to being allowed to patrol on his own.

Martin comes to Owatonna from the Mall of America in Bloomington where he served as a security officer with his partner, Maverick, a K-9 bomb detection dog.

He has a bachelor's degree in law enforcement from Minnesota State University-Mankato. After graduating from college, Martin worked as a police officer in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He left there to pursue his goal of working in Minnesota.



Casey Martin

The officer grew up in Janesville, Wis. Martin, who now lives in Owatonna, is excited to begin serving citizens in the community.

Man charged with making up shooting incident

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A Waseca man faces a felony charge in connection with a shooting at a downtown bar in Owatonna that was later determined to be bogus.

Christopher Ray Thissen, 32, has been charged with felony reckless discharge of a firearm and misdemeanor falsely reporting a crime.

According to charges filed against him in Steele County District Court, Thissen eventually admitted that he accidentally shot himself in the arm and made up a story about a man shooting him behind the Dog Pound Bar March 3.

When police initially responded to the shooting call, Thissen told officers that he got in between a man and woman in the rear parking lot of the bar. He said he grabbed a handgun from the man when it went off and hit him in the arm. Paramedics transported him to the hospital with a minor injury.

Police later searched Thissen's vehicle where they recovered a small, black revolver in the backseat. After officers confronted him with inconsistencies in the story he told them, Thissen admitted he went out to his vehicle when the bar closed and picked up the gun. He stated he began to cycle the firearm to see if it was loaded. He said his thumb slipped off the hammer and he shot himself in the arm, court documents said.

If convicted of the felony, Thissen could receive two years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
March 17

Fraud. Officer took a report of fraud in the 400 block of North St. W. at 9:24 a.m.

Robbery. At 11:45 a.m., officers responded to a robbery in the 400 block of Hoffman Dr. NW.

Restraining Order. Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 700 block of Richway Lane SE at 11:19 p.m.

March 18

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:51 p.m.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 4:53 p.m.

March 19

Drunkenness. At 12:24 a.m., officers responded to a report of an intoxicated individual in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW.

Property Damage. Officer took a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Linn Ave. SW at 2:02 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at 7th Ave. NE and 22nd St. NE at 6:35 p.m.

Disturbance. Officers responded to disorderly conduct in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 6:47 p.m.

March 20

Property Damage. Vandalism was reported in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 12:03 p.m.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 12:49 p.m.

Fraud. At 4:36 p.m., a fraud incident occurred in the 400 block of Broadway St. E.

Trespassing. Officers responded to a trespassing incident in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 5:15 p.m.

Restraining Order. At 6:28 p.m., police responded to a subject violating a restraining order in the 100 block of Broadway St. W.

March 21

Theft. Officers took theft reports in the 500 block of Adams St. at 8:18 a.m. and in the 300 block of 20th St. NE at 3:42 p.m.

Domestic. At 9:01 a.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Front St. W.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 10:46 a.m.

Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 4:30 p.m.

Restraining Order. At 4:55 p.m., police arrested a subject for a restraining order violation in the 400 block of Hillsdale St. NW.

March 22

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest at Cedar Ave. N. and 11th St. NE at 10:41 a.m.

Threats. At 1:32 p.m., police received a threats complaint from the 1000 block of Elm Ave. S.

Arrest. Officers assisted another agency with arresting an adult in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 1:44 p.m.

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:37 p.m.

March 23

Medical. Paramedics and officers responded to a medical emergency in the 100 block of 21st St. NW at 10:27 a.m.

Fraud. Police took fraud reports in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 2:15 p.m. and in the 200 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 3:42 p.m.

Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 300 block of 22nd St. SE at 5:04 p.m.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 13 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Emilie K. Perkins, 22, Waseca, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of controlled substance. She was sentenced to $181, 180 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, complete Steele-Waseca drug court and 3 years of supervised probation.

Debra M. Snow, 37, Mankato, previously appeared and was convicted of felony check forgery and felony controlled substance crime. The defendant was sentenced to $206 and 1 year in Shakopee State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 13 – 17:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Lance A. Souhrada, 43, Cresco, IA, invalid license and no insurance, $381; Tony Vela, 27, Albert Lea, controlled substance, stay of adjudication, $181, 2 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend AA and 2 years of supervised probation.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Urmah M. Arte, 30, Rochester, speeding, $100; Marcella M. Barrett, 55, Baxter, speeding, $131; Zachary C. Barrick, 23, Minneapolis, expired registration, $111; Larry W. Born, 68, Waseca, seat belt, $106; Melissa A. Broton, 42, Owatonna, speeding, $141;

Chevy L. Brown, 34, Albert Lea, suspended license and seat belt, $306; Guillermo F. Cordova-Robles, 26, Hampton, IA, invalid license, $181; Matthew J. Dunn, 33, Rochester, speeding, $221; Sara A. Eastlund, 19, speeding, $101; Marshall D. Edgin, 43, St. Cloud, FL, speeding, $141;

Anthony Engracio, 57, Waseca, speeding, $121; Jamie M. Gray, 35, Waseca, seat belt, $106; Sarah M. Hammer, 36, De Smet, SD, speeding, $131; Dylan J. Jakubek, 24, Minneapolis, speeding, $131; Brittany L. Kevilus, 18, Laona, WI, speeding, $131;

Alexander J. Leruth, 28, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Emily A. Martinez, 22, Plymouth, speeding, $141; Chans K. Meyer, 38, Rose Creek, expired registration, stay of adjudication, 6 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jawahir A. Mohamed, 18, Owatonna, seat belt, stay of adjudication, $20 and 3 months of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Jerald L. Monson, 59, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Samuel R. Olvera, 37, Hollandale, seat belt and no insurance, $306; Sergei Pedashov, 41, Cumming, GA, log book violation, $181;

Said H. Salad, 36, Mankato, speeding, $221; Joseph W. Schneider, 73, Des Moines, IA, speeding, $121; Robert L. Tanner, 47, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Steve G. Vantuyl, 58, Champlin, speeding, $131; Derek W. West, 42, Ramsey, speeding, $131; Clint A. Willette, 51, Claremont, expired registration, $111.

Owatonna Police Department

Darron D. Anderson, 28, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Michelle Arevalo, 37, Owatonna, domestic assault, $281, 1 day in county jail, maintain employment, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms and 1 year of supervised probation;

Adam J. Balzer, 37, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Javier Barajas, 54, Owatonna, hit and run – failure to stop, $391 and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Samuel C. Bolton-Hernandez, 19, Owatonna, damage to property and receiving stolen property, $131 and 29 days in county jail; Krystal Correa, 20, Owatonna, no license and no insurance, $381;

Jessica A. Dahle, 40, theft, $131; Cesar E. Gonzalez Chilel, 37, Owatonna, no license, $181; Bryan G. Hughes, 42, Owatonna, theft, $81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Justin K. Kaneakua, 36, St. Cloud, revoked license, 30 days in county jail;

Jake M. Karow, 30, Owatonna, theft, $131 and 8 days in county jail; Jacob V. Louks, 24, Owatonna, possession of marijuana, stay of adjudication, $381, 2 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 40 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Tralana R. Madlock-Hitchcock, 21, Waseca, theft, $81, diversion program, and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Ahmed O. Mohamud, 20, Owatonna, suspended license, $281;

Isiah Y. Perez, 19, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Jamie L. Robinson, 32, Owatonna, give peace officer false information, $81, 40 hours of community service and 6 months of unsupervised probation; Gabriel Rodriguez, 34, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481;

Austin E. Teele, 30, Owatonna, violation of restraining order, $181, 20 days in county jail, no possession of firearms and 1 year of supervised probation; Nicole B. Torres, 22, Owatonna, theft, $374.20, 2 days in county jail and 1 year of supervised probation; Darrien D. Walker, 48, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 90 days in county jail, maintain employment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, attend MADD impact panel and 3 years of supervised probation; Nicholas T. Weed, 28, Owatonna, revoked license, $131 and 90 days in county jail; Forest A. Wright, 20, Geneva, possession of marijuana, 23 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 40 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Angela M. Cisneros, 37, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, $111; Annette M. Duncan, 39, Medford, speeding, $141; Chad Q. Erie, 43, speeding, $121; Brianna B. Forsberg, 33, Owatonna, failure to drive in single lane, $131; Chad S. Hamersma, 45, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs, $111; Ariel D. Harris, 24, St. Paul, revoked license, no insurance and no child passenger restraint system, $531;

Dalton D. Hovland, 26, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Kristin M. Landsteiner, 40, Mankato, speeding, $121; Michael J. McClatchey, 43, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Sean J. McGraw, 46, Good Thunder, speeding, $121;

Travis A. Nielsen, 27, Owatonna, failure to stop for traffic control signal, $131; Daniel C. Niles, 43, Blooming Prairie, DWI, $606, 30 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation and 2 years of supervised probation; Katelynn J. Parsons, 25, Owatonna, speeding, $281;

Christine L. Schlaak, 56, New Richland, speeding, $121; Diane M. Storm, 50, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Jeffrey E. Studley, 60, Austin, speeding, $121; Scott R. Thorpe, 37, Ellendale, revoked license, no insurance and speeding, $541; Tatum M. Wacholz, 24, New Richland, stop sign and speeding, $191; Rayce M. Witt, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, $131.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office received 276 complaints during the week of March 15-21. Some of them include:

March 16

Theft. Deputy took a theft report at Triton High School in Dodge Center at 11:10 a.m. Unknown items were taken from a locker room.

Disturbance. A man reported his ex-girlfriend and brother ditched him in Claremont and stole his phone at 2:45 p.m.

Suicide Threats. Deputy handled a complaint of suicidal threats at Triton High School at 3:16 p.m.

Vandalism. A man reported criminal damage to property in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 6:15 p.m.

March 17

Suspicion. Deputy responded to suspicious activity in a parking lot along Front St. W. in Claremont at 7:24 p.m.

March 18

Narcotics. A woman reported finding a pot pipe and drug paraphernalia at a residence on Main St. W. in Hayfield at 5:33 p.m.

March 19

Traffic Hazard. A deer was reported to be in the traffic lane along Highway 30 and County Road 3 near Blooming Prairie at 7:56 a.m.

March 20

Fraud. At 5:36 p.m., a woman reported fraud in the 100 block of 2nd St. NE.

Welfare Check. Probation requested a welfare check on a person in the 12100 block of Highway 30 near Blooming Prairie at 5:52 p.m.

Medical. Deputies and West Concord Ambulance responded to a medical in the 59800 block of 195th Ave. near Dodge Center at 9:56 p.m. A 69-year-old man was suffering from a possible stroke.

March 21

Disturbance. At 2:42 p.m., a Hayfield resident reported an unknown man was inside the residence attacking her boyfriend in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. The man ran out of the home and drove off in a white pickup.

Court news
Dodge County

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 13 – 20:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Kathryn A. Allen, 29, Cresco, IA, theft, $459.75 and 45 days in county jail; Juan M. Angulo, 30, Kasson, revoked license, $280;

Wayne C. Banks, 59, Rochester, speeding, $140; Tanner J. Becvar, 20, Hayfield, stop sign and careless driving; Christopher J. Bigelow, 35, Kasson, invalid license, no insurance and registration violation, $480; Ashley A. Chesley, 26, Dodge Center, disorderly conduct, $130; Trevor C. Harden, 26, Dodge Center, revoked license, no insurance and registration violation, $580; George Harty, 52, Waseca, speeding, $130;

Michael Lasker, 42, Zimmerman, domestic assault, $455, 2 days in county jail, domestic abuse counseling, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments and 1 year of supervised probation; Erick Macias-Perez, 42, Dodge Center, vehicle repair on street, $32;

Michael A. McKay, 27, Mankato, controlled substance crime, stay of adjudication, $1,075, 78 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, maintain employment, mental health evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation; Anthony L. Plenge, 27, Dodge Center, revoked license, $280; Wade B. Schroeder, 40, Mantorville, parking violation, $32; Devin T. Weimer, 23, Lonsdale, unlawful passing, $130.

Kasson Police Department

Ian E. Johnson, 16, Dodge Center, failure to yield right of way, $130; Kody M. Mayer, 28, Kasson, domestic assault by strangulation, stay of adjudication, $1,075, 3 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, cognitive skill training, domestic abuse evaluation, no contact with victim, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Mary A. Svoboda, 51, Austin, parking violation, $32.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Kayla A. Helle, 25, Rochester, speeding, $130; Christopher G. Martin, 32, Rochester, speeding, $130; Taylor C. Mikkalson, 23, Mantorville, speeding, $130; Anita Y. Stollings, 52, Dayton, OH, speeding, $140; Ronald Wimbish, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, $140.

West Concord Police Department

Teresa M. Wilcox, 35, Hayfield, revoked license, $280.

Arrest
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Katherine Jean Davis, 32, arrested at 11:10 a.m. March 17, Danco violation, held for court.

Jessica Ann Dahle, 40, arrested at 4:20 p.m. March 17, felony controlled substance possession and possession of a firearm, held for court.

Marco Antonio Mendez, 30, arrested at 12:55 a.m. March 18, order for protection violation, held for court.

Diego Martinez Ramon, 26, arrested at 2:35 p.m. March 18, domestic assault, held for court.

Anjanette Sherry-Celic Wells, 43, arrested at 1:10 p.m. March 20, felony probation violation apprehension and detention, held for court.

Tony Vela, 27, arrested at 4:56 p.m. March 21, probation violation apprehension and detention, held for court.

Anthony James Moore, 42, arrested at 6:54 p.m. March 21, felony violation of order for protection, held for court.

Martin John Klaustermeier, 21, arrested at 10:40 a.m. March 22, apprehension and detention arrest, held for court.

Mellissa Ann Law, 35, arrested at 9:53 p.m. March 23, felony fleeing a police officer, assault on a police officer and disorderly conduct, held for court.

Miranda Leigh Bixby, 29, arrested at 1:13 a.m. March 24, possession, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Daniel Joseph Decker, 37, arrested at 11:30 a.m. March 17, probation violation warrant arrest, held for court.

Brian Kenneth Warn, 52, arrested at 12 p.m. March 19, warrant arrest, $10,000 bail.

Tyler James Woodruff, 22, arrested at 6:01 p.m. March 21, probation violation warrant arrest, body only.

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

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

- Jeffrey Gunderson – dishonored check - $1,000 bail
- Steven Gustafson – contribute of delinquency of minor - $2,000 bail
- Edgar Gutierrez – assault, theft - $2,000 bail
- Armondo Gutierrez Cardenas – revoked license - $500 bail
- Ricio Guvrra – theft - $300 bail
- Kale Hadoff – theft - $500 bail
- Robert Hagmann – burglary - $30,000 bail
- Roger Halbach – DWI - $3,000 bail
- Michael Hale – theft - $3,000 bail
- Brandon Haley – theft – no bail
- Dean Hall – motor vehicle theft – no bail
- Brian Hambly – theft, shoplifting - $500 bail
- Cassidy Hammer – open bottle - $300 bail
- Lori Hanson – DWI - $3,000 bail
- Mustafa Hassan – no insurance, revoked license - $3,000 bail
- Robert Haston – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Andrew Heidemann – theft - $300 bail
- Nancy Heim – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Deborah Henning – check forgery - $10,000 bail
- Marquita Hernandez – card fraud – no bail

What to do after being involved in a car accident



Car accidents happen every day, and rare is the experienced driver who has not been involved in at least one accident during his or her time behind the wheel. Drivers or passengers who have been involved in previous accidents may react calmly when involved in another accident, but the experience of being in a car accident can be shocking to those people who have never before been involved in a car crash.

According to the World Health Organization, there were 1.25 million road traffic deaths across the globe in 2013. But not every traffic accident involves a fatality, and many are minor incidents in which all involved parties walk away unharmed. Unfortunately, all traffic accidents, however minor they may be, have financial ramifications, and it's in drivers' and passengers' best interest to familiarize themselves with the right way to respond to traffic accidents should they find themselves in a crash.

• Dial emergency services. After pulling over and out of traffic, drivers and passengers involved in traffic accidents should dial 9-1-1 emergency services. If drivers are incapable of pulling onto the shoulder or out of the way of oncoming traffic, immediately put on the vehicle's hazard lights and dial 9-1-1. Enlisting the help of emergency services like 9-1-1, even when no one appears to be injured and no vehicles seem to be damaged, is necessary because the presence of a neutral third party like a police officer or emergency medical technician can be helpful should the accident ultimately lead to legal action.

• Exchange insurance information. After each driver has pulled over and is out of harm's way, attempt to exchange insurance information. If you lost your insurance card or can't find it in your vehicle, don't panic. Simply use your mobile phone to call your insurance company and get your policy number. Police may let you off the hook if you can provide proof of insurance, even if you don't have any such proof in your vehicle. If the other driver appears irate and/or confrontational, wait until the police arrive to exchange insurance information and do your best to avoid this person.

• Obtain a police report. Police reports are vital, even when accidents are minor. Insurance companies may not pay damages if no police report has been filed and the involved parties have differing accounts of the accident. And drivers' premiums may increase if they are involved in an accident in which no one is deemed at-fault. Always protect yourself after a traffic accident by calling the police and obtaining their official report of the incident. Also, ask the responding officer if you are required by law to report the accident to the local motor vehicle agency. Some areas require this, while others do not.

• Take photos. If you have a smartphone or camera on hand, take as many photos of the accident as you can without risking your safety. Time-stamped photos may help you should a lawsuit or other legal action be taken in the future.

Car accidents can be scary, and knowing how to respond to accidents can help drivers and passengers make the best of unfortunate situations.

Emergency responders need support, too

Emergency responders, which includes the police, firefighters and paramedics who are the first to arrive at the scene of an incident, are in the business of protecting others and helping to save lives. These workers are on call during natural disasters, technological failures, terrorist attacks, and many other potentially traumatic events. Emergency responders are the unsung heroes of many communities that they work hard to keep safe and secure.

While emergency responders are heroes, it's important that people know these brave men and women sometimes need assistance, too. The pressure and stress associated with being an emergency responder can sometimes be overwhelming, and it's times like that when emergency responders need help.

Comprehensive statistics on stress-related medical conditions among first responders are difficult to tabulate because many incidents go unreported or unshared. However, pressures of the job and post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, can take its toll on paramedics and law officials. EMS World reports that, between January and September of 2014, the United States had around 58 documented fire/EMS suicides. In Canada, 25 first responders were known to have committed suicide in a five-month period in 2014.

Addressing the stress of being an emergency responder can help responders and their families better cope with the pressure and stress of the job. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recommends that all workers involved in first-responder activities should help themselves and others to reduce the risk of stress-related psychological and physical health effects from their jobs.

Certain symptoms and behaviors may present themselves when emergency responders are having difficulty coping with the demands of the job. These symptoms may include:

• Changes in sleeping patterns
• Passive or fatalistic behavior
• Frequent conflict and argumentative behavior
• Limiting social networks and general withdrawal
• Poor problem-solving abilities
• Poor concentration
• Inability to rest
• Self-medicating with alcohol

While there is no single method to cope with the physical and psychological demands of a first reponder's job, a combination of therapies can help. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that responders need to take care of their own health to maintain the constant vigilance they need for their own safety. These steps can put workers on the right track.

• Form a support network in which each responder looks out for one another. Knowing support is available can be a big help.

• Take frequent breaks to clear the mind and rest the body. Try to take breaks away from a work area.

• Accept what cannot be changed, such as chain of command or long hours.

• Take advantage of mental health support services when they are made available. Recognize that it is not indicative of weakness to discuss difficult emotions.

• Maintain a healthy eating pattern and try to get adequate sleep.

• Exercise, which can reduce feelings of stress and be a healthy way to clear the mind and strengthen the body.

Recognizing that emergency responders are not invincible and may need some emotional support can be the first step in getting these workers the help they need and deserve.

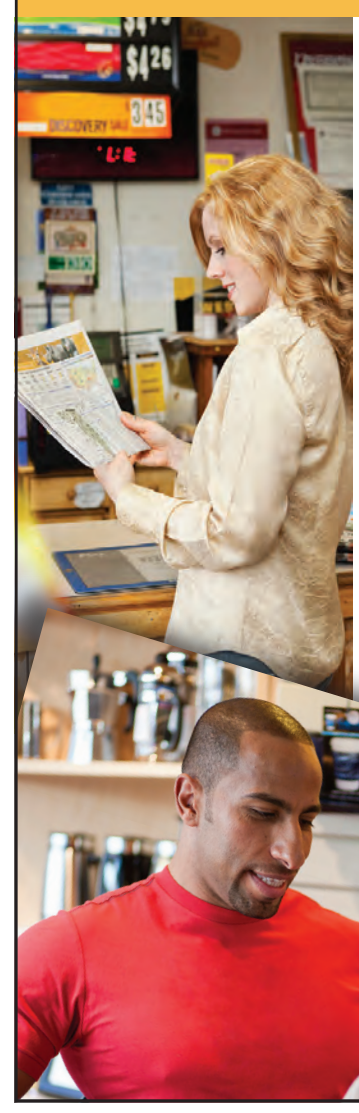


Crossword solution

M	A	T	■	O	A	S	E	S	■	A	P	P	A	L
A	L	I	■	B	R	O	T	H	■	N	I	E	C	E
R	O	D	■	S	T	U	A	R	T	S	C	O	T	T
T	H	E	M	E	S	■	■	U	P	E	N	P	■	■
S	A	M	A	S	■	C	I	G	A	R	I	L	L	O
■	■	A	D	S	■	O	N	■	■	■	C	E	I	L
S	A	R	S	I	■	R	I	T	E	S	■	■	C	L
E	L	K	■	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	■	P	I	A
A	B	■	■	E	N	S	I	S	■	M	E	A	T	S
T	E	A	T	■	■	■	A	T	■	E	C	G	■	■
S	E	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	■	S	H	A	K	O
■	■	P	R	A	I	A	■	■	A	T	O	N	A	L
I	M	A	G	I	N	A	T	I	V	E	■	I	S	M
P	I	L	E	D	■	E	A	T	E	R	■	S	H	E
M	A	L	T	S	■	D	O	O	R	S	■	M	A	C

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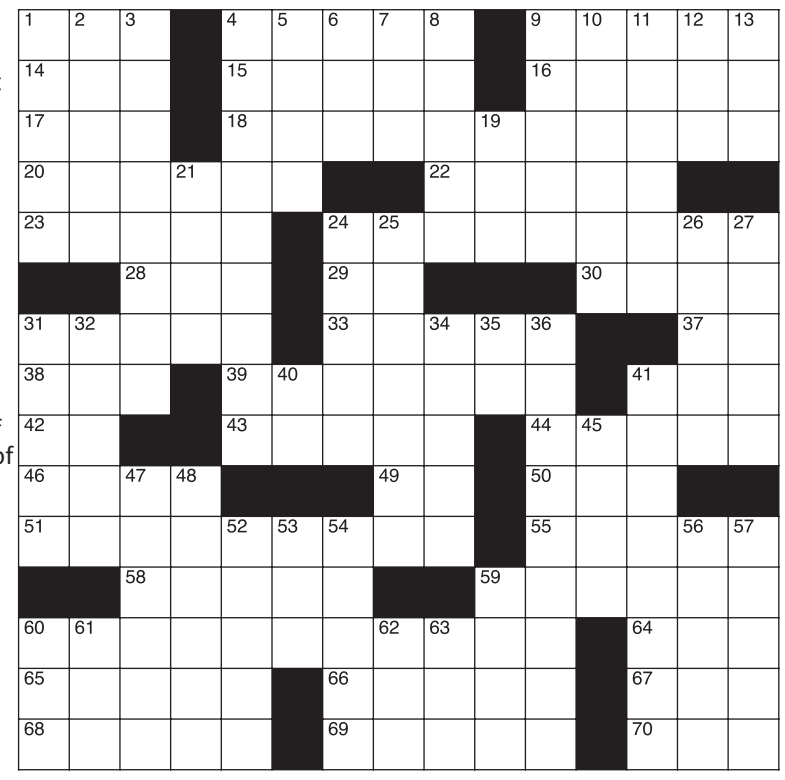
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Mobil Gas Station

OWATONNA
Hy-Vee Grocery, CashWise, Kwik Trips (Oak Ave., Clinton Falls, Frontage Rd., Mineral Spr.) Casey's (State Ave.) · Sterling

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Thick flat pad
4. Green regions of desert
9. Fill with dismay
14. Boxing legend
15. Soup
16. Your sibling's daughter
17. A long thin implement
18. Late ESPN anchor
20. Motives
22. Astronumerology term
23. Semitic Sun god
24. Small cigar
28. Promotions
29. Not off
30. Line or plaster the roof
31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
33. Rituals
37. Chlorine
38. Red deer
39. Offers a good view
41. Post-indictment arrangement
42. Blood group
43. Razor clams
44. Fleshes of animals
46. Nipple
49. Indicates position
50. Electrocardiogram
51. Can be disconnected
55. Tall military cap
58. Cape Verde capital
59. Not written in any key
60. Creative
64. Suffix
65. Stacked
66. One who consumes
67. Not he
68. Whiskey and milk are two
69. Entryways
70. __ and cheese

CLUES DOWN
1. Marketplaces
2. Hawaiian greeting
3. Mark left by the sea
4. Strongly affected by something
5. Music and painting are two
6. Small coin (French)
7. Letter of the Greek alphabet
8. A gesture involving the shoulders
9. Grey geese
10. Meal in the park
11. Human beings
12. What thespians do
13. Allow
19. Third-party access
21. "Casino Royale" villain Mikkelsen
24. Painful foot problems
25. The very first
26. Lawful
27. Ceramic jars
31. Hind ends
32. "Virginia Woolf" author
34. Try
35. For instance
36. Academic terms
40. Article
41. Religious belief outside the mainstream
45. Sound caused by reflection
47. Greatly horrify
48. Prey
52. Forays
53. River in eastern France
54. Bleated
56. Soft food cooked from buckwheat
57. Pre-Mayan civilization
59. Assert to be the case
60. Inches per minute (abbr.)
61. "Rosemary's Baby" actress Farrow
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Simpson trial judge

Let's get you movin!

KELLERWILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY

Jennifer Walsh
507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com



Legal Notices

Foreclosure

17-105521

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: June 20, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $118,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Corey R. Winter and Nicole M. Winter, Husband and Wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1001625-0005863524-5
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Sterling State Bank
SERVICER: Seterus, Inc.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 23, 2003, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A 311960
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association; Thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 4 in Block 14, In the original town (now city) of Owatonna, Minnesota, subject to easement dated the 1st day of September, 1982, and recorded on the 2nd day of September, 1982, in Book 170, Page 488 as document #184321 covering the West 9 Feet of Lot 4 in Block 14 in the original town (now city) of Owatonna, Minnesota
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 221 Main St E, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-1404
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $96,422.49
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 18, 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 October 18, 2017, or the next business day if October 18, 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: February 21, 2017

Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae")
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/28, 3/7, 3/14
3/21, 3/28, 4/4

Foreclosure

16-105111

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 28, 2003
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $146,697.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Denise M. Flanagan, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 29, 2003, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T53745
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 11, Block 1, Mathews Addition
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 110 18th Place NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-242-0111 COT# 18442
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $105,582.97
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: May 2, 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 November 2, 2017, or the next business day if November 2, 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: March 1, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.,
Successor by Merger to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
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Attorneys for Mortgagee
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Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/4, 4/11

Foreclosure

17-105704

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: June 17, 2011
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $240,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Barbara E. Jacobson, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 27, 2011, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000067400
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 2, Block 1, Maplewood Terrace Townhouses No. 2, Owatonna, Minnesota.
REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 10 Augusta Pl, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-421-0102 COT# 13078
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $155,804.55
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: May 5, 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 12 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 May 5, 2018, or the next business day if May 5, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: March 3, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

BY _____
Lawrence P. Zielke - 152559
Diane F. Mach - 273788
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
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Tracy J. Halliday - 034610X
Attorneys for Mortgagee
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Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/3, 4/11

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:
MORTGAGOR(S): Margaret A. Gauthier and Joseph G. Gauthier, wife and husband
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $187,500.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 20, 2010
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 14, 2011 as Document Number A000376625 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $94,225.34
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at southeast corner of Lot 12, in east half of Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 107 North, Range 20 West, (said point of beginning being in the center of Lincoln Street); thence north 107 feet; thence west 101 feet; thence South 107 feet; thence east 101 feet to the place of beginning, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 826 LINCOLN AVE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-015-4203
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
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: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on May 2, 2018.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Randolph W. Dawdy - 2160X
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Burnsville, MN 55337
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THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/3, 4/11

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:
MORTGAGOR(S): Cindy L. Bruce and Jeffrey S. Bruce, wife and husband and Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Netbank
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on June 2, 2016 as Document Number A000407852 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $115,608.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: November 7, 2005
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on November 18, 2005 as Document Number A000337053 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $102,496.32
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 2, Block 5, in Crooker and Parkers Addition to the City of Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 807 N ELM AVENUE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-1738
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Netbank
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-105-0502
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100014440002491538
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
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: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Richard Z. Johnson and Charity Johnson

Dated: March 8, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
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(651) 209-9760
(16-1786-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

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: December 26, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $122,604.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Carolee R. George, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 27, 2007, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000354404
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 2, Block 2, Country View Estates, City of Ellendale
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 602 Dutton Drive, Ellendale, MN 56026
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 15-115-0202
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $111,528.57
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: May 12, 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 November 12, 2017, or the next business day if November 12, 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: March 13, 2017

Wells Fargo Bank,
N.A. Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/21, 3/28, 4/4
4/11, 4/18, 4/25

Delinquent Taxes

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAXES

State of Minnesota **District Court**
County of Steele **3rd Judicial District**

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING DELINQUENT TAX LIST

A list of real property in Steele County on which delinquent real property taxes and penalties are due has been filed with the District Court Administrator of Steele County. This list is published to inform all persons that the listed property is subject to forfeiture because of delinquent taxes.

The property owner, taxpayer, or other interested persons must either pay the tax and penalty plus interest and costs or file a written objection with the District Court Administrator. The objection must be filed by April 17, 2017, stating the reason why the tax or penalty is not due on the property. If no objection is filed, a court judgment will be entered against the property for the unpaid tax, penalty, interest and cost.

For property under court judgment, the period of redemption begins on May 8, 2017. The period of redemption means the time within which taxes must be paid to avoid losing the property through forfeiture. The period of redemption is three years, with a handful of exceptions. The redemption period is one year for most properties located in a targeted neighborhood, as defined in the Minnesota laws, and for municipal solid waste disposal facilities. The redemption period is five-weeks for certain abandoned or vacant properties.

You may also enter into a Confession of Judgment as an alternative method of paying off the delinquent tax amount and avoiding forfeiture. This allows you to pay the delinquent balance in equal annual installments with a down payment due at the time you confess judgment. The length of the installment plan varies: 5 years for commercial-industrial/public utility property; 10 years for all other properties.

If you have homesteaded property, you may be eligible for a Senior Citizen's Property Tax Deferral, which enables seniors to pay just 3% of their total household income and allow remaining amounts to become a lien on the property that may be deferred for later payment (perhaps upon eventual sale of the property).

It should also be noted by property homesteaders that you are ineligible to receive the Property Tax Refund while you owe delinquent property tax.

TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH INTEREST AND COSTS MUST BE ADDED TO PAY THE TAX IN FULL, CONTACT THE STEELE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE, STEELE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 630 FLORENCE AVE., OWATONNA, MINNESOTA 55060. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (507) 444-7410.

_____

Robin Hoesley
District Court Administrator
3rd Judicial District

District Court Seal

Date: Date: 1/30/2017

TAX
PENALTY
INTEREST
NAME OF OWNER DESCRIPTION TOTAL

DARRELL R & LENAMAE A REESE 02-014-1100 SECT- 14 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 102.65
2101 SE 128TH ST N1/2 OF NE1/4 30.27
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917-5860 2.82
135.74

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 02-014-3300 SECT- 14 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 21.60
DISTRICT 6 SW1/4 OF SW1/4 23.02
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT .62
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 45.24
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 02-014-3400 SECT- 14 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 36.36
DISTRICT 6 NW1/4 OF SW1/4 EX E495' OF NW1/4 OF SW1/4 25.09
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT 1.04
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 62.49
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 02-015-3000 SECT- 15 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 395.92
DISTRICT 6 SW1/4 75.43
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT 11.28
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 482.63
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 02-030-5001 SECT- 30 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 257.20
DISTRICT 6 PAR 9 NW1/4 27.83A, PAR 10 W1/2 OF NE1/4 56.01
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT 27. 83A PAR 10 W1/2 OF NE1/4 6.34A, PAR 8 7.33
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 W1/2 OF SE1/4 5.57A, PAR 7 E1/2 OF SW 1/4 320.54
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848 24.97A

STEVEN & DAWN RAATZ 03-005-1401 SECT- 05 TWP- 105 RNG- 21 431.00
8623 SW 108TH ST COM NW COR OF NE1/4 THENCE S598.94' TO PT 63.10
NEW RICHLAND MN 56072 OF BEG THENCE E295.06' S11°10'E 500.54' 11.85
W492' N491.06' E100' TO PT OF BEG 505.95

WILLIAM LEWISON 04-009-3001 SECT- 09 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 1,672.00
6681 SE 54TH AVE SW1/4 OF SW1/4 EX BEG SW COR SW1/4 187.20
OWATONNA MN 55060 N671.22' NE351.54' E304.41' S722.16' 45.98
W652.02' EX COM 721.78' N OF SW COR SW1/4 1,905.18
TH N595.86' TO NW COR SW1/4 OF SW1/4 TH
TO BEG AND COM NW COR OF SE1/4 SW1/4
TH S129.33' E116.29' S336.60' W121.95'
N334.58' AND EX BEG NE COR SW1/4 SW1/4
TH S129.33' W597.80' N151.93' E597.52'
TO BEG

KENNETH S ZYLSTRA 04-103-0004 SECT- 34 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 660.25
11882 725TH STREET VILL. OF BIXBY KELLY'S ADD. LOTS 4 & 5 112.44
PO BOX 613 18.82
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 791.51

ODELL BARNES LLC 04-103-0007 SECT- 34 TWP- 106 RNG- 19 458.00
4656 AUGUSTA HIGHWAY T.H. KELLY'S 84.12
GILBERT SC 29054 VILL OF BIXBY KELLYS ADD LOT 7 13.05
AURORA 555.17

JODY S & MICHELLE JANDT 06-001-4401 SECT- 01 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 1,240.00
5165 LEMOND RD THAT PART OF NW1/4 OF NW1/4 COM NW COR TH 144.00
OWATONNA MN 55060 E221.5' ALG N LN TH S746.25' TH W221.77' 34.10
TH N737.93' ALG W LN TO TPOB 1,418.10

CRAIG N & ANNE E BLOUIN 06-015-3402 SECT- 15 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 838.40
6932 SW 75TH ST COM SW COR OF N1/2 SW1/4 E1201.64' TO POB 103.84
ELLENDALE MN 56026 N1°41'53"W17412' N19°39'20"E102.81' 23.06
N42°03'49"E134.17' N4°47'41"W71.07' 965.30
N4°47'41"W275.02' TO CT LN OF DITCH
S33°56'E248.13' S61°03'E142.69'
S30°10'E131.51' W570.03' TO POB

JOEL L GRIMM 06-017-3202 SECT- 17 TWP- 106 RNG- 21 85.00
8935 SW 75TH ST COM NW COR OF SE1/4 OF SW1/4; E 237.75'; S 28.50
ELLENDALE MN 56026 81/2 R; W 237.75'; N 81/2 R TO BEG. 2.34
115.82

SIDNEY M MORRISON 07-001-2101 SECT- 01 TWP- 107 RNG- 19 1,622.00
9361 ROSE ST GOV LOT 1 LYING N OF FOLLOWING LINE - COM 182.20
OWATONNA MN 55060 682.26' S OF NE COR GOV LOT 1 TH 44.61
S86°21'59"W TO CNTR LINE CSAH #19 TH SWLY 1,848.81
ALG HWY CNTR LINE TO W LINE GOV LOT 1

CHRISTINE K WARGA 07-010-1200 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 19 4,780.00
9679 JELLISON WAY S1/2 OF NE1/4 N1/2 OF SE1/4 EX ALL THAT PT 689.20
WESTMINSTER CO 80021 OF SE1/4 NE1/4 DESC AS FOLLOWS: BEG AT NE 136.23
COR OF S1/2 NE1/4 W1045.14' S295.94' 5,605.43
SWLY167.55' S41.35' E1095.34' N549.86' TO

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 07-025-1400 SECT- 25 TWP- 107 RNG- 19 39.16
DISTRICT 6 NW1/4 OF NE1/4 EX. 2.62 A RR. EX .88ACRES 25.48
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT TO HWY 1.12
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 65.76
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

ALLAN J TERPSTRA JR & 08-007-3400 SECT- 07 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,320.00
DARLA J TERPSTRA N1/2 OF SW1/4 N OF RR. 152.00
4043 SW 8TH ST EXCEPT PARCEL 3 OF STEELE CO HWY 36.30
OWATONNA MN 55060 R/W PLAT NO.14 1,508.30
O-ALLAN D TERPSTRA REVOC TRUST
% ALLAN D TERPSTRA
1028 LINN AVE SW
OWATONNA MN 55060

DENNIS J WANDREY 08-013-3300 SECT- 13 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 2,226.00
505 CHURCH STREET ALL TH PT OF THE SW1/4 DESCRIBED BY: BEG 331.64
DEKALB TX 75559 AT SW COR OF SW1/4 TH N713.51' E1037.90' 63.44
S713.51' W1037.90' TO BEG 2,621.08

ALLAN J TERPSTRA JR & 08-018-4100 SECT- 18 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 993.00
DARLA J TERPSTRA NE1/4 OF NW1/4 119.30
4043 SW 8TH ST EXCEPT PARCEL 8 OF STEELE CO R/W PLAT 14 27.31
OWATONNA MN 55060 1,139.61
O-ALLAN D TERPSTRA REVOC TRUST
% ALLAN D TERPSTRA
1028 LINN AVE SW
OWATONNA MN 55060

ALLAN J TERPSTRA JR & 08-018-4400 SECT- 18 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,475.00
DARLA J TERPSTRA NW1/4 OF NW1/4 167.50
4043 SW 8TH ST 40.56
OWATONNA MN 55060 1,683.06
O-ALLAN D TERPSTRA REVOC TRUST
% ALLAN D TERPSTRA
1028 LINN AVE SW
OWATONNA MN 55060

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 08-024-5001 SECT- 24 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 59.58
DISTRICT 6 9.86A FROM 08289, 10.07A FROM 08299, 1.12A 28.34
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT FROM 08288, 9.72A FROM 08290, 10.01 A FROM 1.70
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 08288 89.62
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-007-5001 SECT- 07 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 1,258.12
DISTRICT 6 .19 ACRES TO HIGHWAY FROM 09072 1.36 ACRES 196.14
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT TO HIGHWAY FROM 09073 .45 ACRES TO HIGHWAY 35.86
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 FROM 09074 MERIDEN TOWNSHIP 1,490.12
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

ALLAN J TERPSTRA 09-013-4000 SECT- 13 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 4,773.00
4043 SW 8TH ST NW1/4 497.30
OWATONNA MN 55060 131.26
5,401.56

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 09-020-3401 SECT- 20 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 3.14
DISTRICT 6 RIGHT OF WAY COM NW COR SW1/4 S286.49' E391.09' PT BEG 20.44
2900 48TH ST NW N234.99' E191.87' S228.08' W192.13' .09
ROCHESTER MN 55901 23.67

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-020-5001 SECT- 20 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 679.76
DISTRICT 6 PARCELS 5,7,7A,& 8 115.17
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT MNDOT R/W PLAT 74-28 19.37
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 814.30
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-021-5001 SECT- 21 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 373.52
DISTRICT 6 PARCELS 9,10,10A,11,&12 72.29
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT MNDOT R/W PLAT 74-29 10.65
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 456.46
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-022-5001 SECT- 22 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 572.16
DISTRICT 6 PARCELS 12,13,14,15,& 16 100.10
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT MNDOT R/W PLAT 74-30 16.31
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 688.57
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-023-3404 SECT- 23 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 5.46
DISTRICT 6 THE NORTH 190' OF FOLLOWING DESC: 20.76
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT COM NW COR SW1/4 TH S220' E396' .16
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 N220' W396' TO BEG 26.38
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 09-023-5001 SECT- 23 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 438.18
DISTRICT 6 PARCELS 18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,& 26 81.35
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT MNDOT R/W PLAT 74-31 12.49
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 532.02
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

THOMAS P CURRIER 09-028-2301 SECT- 28 TWP- 107 RNG- 21 625.00
7446 SW 38TH STREET COM: SW COR. OF SE1/4 OF SE1/4-W. 125' N. 82.50
OWATONNA MN 55060 250'-E.200'-S. 250'-W.75' TO BEG. 17.19
724.69

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 12-020-5001 SECT- 20 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 29.12
DISTRICT 6 NEG 16 S1/2 OF NE1/4 OF SE1/4 & E1/4 OF 24.08
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT SW1/4 OF SE1/4 & PT SE1/4 OF SE1/4 & 5A IN .83
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 PLATTED AREA 54.03
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 12-020-5002 SECT- 20 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 88.94
DISTRICT 6 NEG 17 & 217 W3/4 OF SW1/4 OF SE1/4 & 32.45
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT NW1/4 OF SE1/4 & S1/2 OF NE1/4 & E2/3 OF 2.53
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 SE1/4 OF NW1/4 123.92
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

TOM & MOLLY VAN BINSBERGEN 12-021-3406 SECT- 21 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 64.00
2220 NW 50TH STREET BEG 225.5' S OF NW COR OF SW1/4 S756.1' TO 26.40
MEDFORD MN 55049 PT ON CSAH #45 NELY TO PT 149.65' E OF BEG 1.76
TH W TO BEG 92.16

BONNIE L PETERSEN 12-028-2105 SECT- 28 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 80.00
3890 CEDAR AVE COM SE COR N1312.97' ALG ELN TO SE COR OF 28.00
OWATONNA MN 55060 NE 1/4 OF SE1/4-W AT R ANGLES 50' TO W R/W 2.20
LN SAR #1 & PT OF BEG W ALG SLN OF NE1/4 110.20
OF SE 1/4 205.75'-N190'-E205.75'-TO R/W LN

SCOTT A CHOUDEK 12-030-1101 SECT- 30 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 1,812.00
3312 NW 46TH ST ALL THAT PART E1/2 OF NE1/4 COM NE COR 201.20
OWATONNA MN 55060 NE1/4 W363.20' TO PT OF BEG W466.50' 49.83
S966' E466.5' N966' TO BEG 2,063.03

DARREN D HAGEN 12-100-1105 SECT- 20 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 26.00
202 CENTRAL AVE E CLINTON FALLS VILLAGE 23.64
MEDFORD MN 55049 BLK 11 LOT 5 & S22' OF LOT 6 VILLAGE OF .74
CLINTON FALLS 50.38

DARREN D HAGEN 12-100-1108 SECT- 20 TWP- 108 RNG- 20 26.00
202 CENTRAL AVE E CLINTON FALLS VILLAGE 23.64
MEDFORD MN 55049 BLK 11 LOT 7 EXCEPT S44' AND LOT 8 .74
VILLAGE OF CLINTON FALLS 50.38

GARY M & BRENDA K ROBINSON 14-100-1501 3,532.00
63450 120TH AVE ORIGINAL TOWN 514.48
CLAREMONT MN 55924 BLK 15 LOTS 1,2,&3 AND COM NW COR LOT 1 100.66
TH N95' SELY ALG RR R/W 100' TH W44.8' TO 4,147.14
BEG EXCEPT COM SW COR LOT 3 TH N70' E45'
PRAIRIE

KENNETH S ZYLSTRA 14-103-0708 699.00
11882 725TH STREET BRAINERD 117.86
PO BOX 613 BLK.7 BRAINERDS ADD. LOT 8 19.92
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 836.78

WILLIAM BAILEY 14-103-0908 830.00
634 1ST ST SE BRAINERD 103.00
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK.9 BRAINERDS ADD. LOTS 8 & 9 22.83
955.83

KEITH E MULLENBACH & 14-104-0112 12.98
MERESSIA MULLENBACH BELL & MEEHANS 21.30
206 2ND STREET NW BLK 1 LOT 12 & E1/2 OF L 11 - BELL & .36
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 MEEHANS 34.64

COREY K LERUM 14-105-0206 572.00
313 2ND ST SE OLSONS 77.20
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK.2 OLSONS LOT 6 15.73
664.93

MARVIN VASEY 14-106-0407 690.00
305 SOUTH CENTER BRAINERD & OLSON 89.00
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 4 BRAINERD & OLSON ADD'N LOT 7 EX E 18.98
5' 797.98

MARVIN VASEY 14-109-0327 1,730.00
305 S CENTER CLARKS 262.20
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 3 LOTS 27,34 AND E110' OF LOTS 35,37 49.31
AND E7' OF LOTS 7,10 EXCEPT COM SE COR 2,041.51
LOT 37 N6' W75' S6' E75' TO BEG AND
OF A LINE PARALLEL & 200' SWLY OF CNTR
C,M,SP,& P RR CLARKE'S ADDN

ERICH R BOYSEN 14-112-0404 1,210.00
119 3RD STREET SW BENSON 189.40
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 4 LOT 4 & E1/2 OF LOT 3 34.49
BENSON ADDITION 1,433.89
O-H & K PROPERTIES LLC
75812 100TH AVE
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917

LARRY W LINDQUIST 14-114-0204 2,070.00
193 8TH ST NW HANSENS HEIGHTS 227.00
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 2 LOT 4 & E30' OF LOT 3 HANSEN 56.93
HEIGHTS BL PR 2,353.93

JOSEPH D & DEBRA L MOTL 14-114-0205 1,586.00
181 8TH ST NW HANSENS HEIGHTS 178.60
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 2 LOT 5; LOT 6 EXCEPT E50' 43.62
HANSEN HEIGHTS ADDITION 1,808.22

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 15-025-5001 SECT- 25 TWP- 105 RNG- 20 12.92
DISTRICT 6 1 MILE THRU ELLENDALE - HWY 30 21.81
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT ROW - AUDITOR NUMBER .37
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 35.10
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

ALAN WHITEAKER 15-100-0714 276.00
PO BOX 244 ORIGINAL TOWN 58.64
ELLENDALE MN 56026 BLK 7 LOT 14 7.87
342.51

MARILYN GORDON VOLKMANN 15-100-1003 45.29
C/O MARILYN GORDON ORIGINAL TOWN 24.53
PO BOX 363 BLK. 10 LOT 3 & E. 25' OF LOT 4 1.25
OWATONNA MN 55060-1302 71.07

IRIS M HUNTER 15-102-0805 3.78
210 4TH AVE W 2ND RR ADDITION 20.53
PO BOX 74 BLK 8 LOT 5 .11
ELLENDALE MN 56026 SECOND RAILWAY ADDN 24.42

DANIEL L & BETH A HERMANN 15-103-0111 2,404.00
4245 W 6TH STREET 3RD RR ADDITION 356.56
WINONA MN 55987 BLK A LOT 11 EX E5' & E1/2 OF LOT 12 3RD 68.51
RR ADD 2,829.07

DAVID REISTAD 15-103-0116 1,846.00
104 6TH AVE E 3RD RR ADDITION 204.60
PO BOX 71 BLK. A. 3RD RR. ADD. LOTS 16 & 17 50.77
ELLENDALE MN 56026 2,101.37

JOHN W & DALARE M DELANEY 16-100-3416 146.31
115 SUNRISE DR ORIGINAL TOWN 23.94
PO BOX 195 BLK. 34 E 58' LOT 16 2.48
MEDFORD MN 55049 172.73

LUKE P BROWN 16-101-4012 630.00
402 MAIN STREET S JOHNSON & COMPANY 83.00
MEDFORD MN 55049 BLK 40 N 27' OF LOT 12 & 13 LY W OF RR & S 17.33
1/2 OF VACATED SOUTH STREET 730.33

BMG ENTERPRISES, LLC 17-003-2304 SECT- 03 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 988.00
3035 NE 3RD AVE BEG. 33' E. & 313.5' N. OF SW COR. OF 158.32
OWATONNA MN 55060-3447 SE1/4 E.75'-S.100'-W.75'-N.100' TO BEG. 28.16
1,174.48

DAVID D DANIELS JR & 17-008-4101 SECT- 08 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 731.00
MELISSA L DANIELS HONDL & THAT PART OF NW1/4 COM AT NW COR RNG 93.10
RYAN L DANIELS N90°E1857.6' ALG NLN TO PT OF BEG PT 20.10
1812 66TH ST SW BEING N90°W809' OF NE COR N90° E100' ALG 844.20
RICHFIELD MN 55423 NLN S E180' N90°100' N E180' TO PT OF BEG
MN/DOT HWY PLAT 74-13

TERRY L VANENGELENBURG 17-009-2310 SECT- 09 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 867.55
& BETTY J W. 8 R. OF LOT 4 IN SE1/4 EX. S. 73' 106.76
493 W BRIDGE ST 23.86
OWATONNA MN 55060 998.17

JARAD SIKEL 17-010-3109 SECT- 10 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,124.00
415 E VINE STREET COM. S. LINE VINE ST. 12R. E. OF E. LINE 132.40
OWATONNA MN 55060 MAPLE ST. N & S 8R. X E & W 4R. 30.91
1,287.31

CRAIG S OLSON 17-016-1145 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,502.00
716 S OAK N.4R. OF SUB. L.5 OF L.18 IN NE1/4 170.20
OWATONNA MN 55060 41.31
1,713.51

JASON A ALLEN 17-016-2058 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,234.00
252 W MCKINLEY COM. NW COR. L.2 IN SE1/4 E.6R.-S.8R- TO 143.40
OWATONNA MN 55060 N. LINE OF MCKINLEY ST. W.6R-N.8R TO BEG. 33.94
EX. ST. 1,411.34

IVAH NELSON 17-016-2061 SECT- 16 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 1,668.00
546 SE 15TH ST COM. 24R. W. OF INTER. MCKINLEY ST. & W. 253.52
OWATONNA MN 55060 LINE OAK ST. S.8R-W.4R-N.8R- E.4R- IN N1/2 47.54
OF LOT 2 IN SE1/4 1,969.06

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 17-017-2105 SECT- 17 TWP- 107 RNG- 20 96.48
DISTRICT 6 NE1/4 OF SE1/4 & SW1/4 OF SE1/4 FOR HWY 35 33.51
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT 2.75
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 132.74
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT 17-099-0002 491.18
DISTRICT 6 FOR DITCH ASSESSMENTS 88.77
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT 14.00
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177 593.95
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848

RONALD G DAGIT & 17-100-1108 2,614.00
SHIRLEY A PICHNER TRUSTEES ORIGINAL TOWN 385.96
2025 LACASA LANE SE BLK 11 LOT 7 ORIG TOWN 74.50
OWATONNA MN 55060 3,074.46

ANITA MEYER 17-100-1410 960.00
216 GROVE AVE S ORIGINAL TOWN 116.00
OWATONNA MN 55060 BLK 14 N1/2 OF LOTS 10&11 ORIG TOWN 26.40
1,102.40

ARLEN J & NANCY TECHAU 17-101-0115 767.00
128 E PHELPS ST PHELPS ADDITION 96.70
OWATONNA MN 55060 BLK 1 LOT 8 PHELPS 21.09
884.79

KRISTINE MARIE PIRKL 17-101-1016 1,320.00
916 S GROVE ST PHELPS ADDITION 152.00
OWATONNA MN 55060 BLK 10 E 12R OF N 4R OF LOT 2 PHELPS 36.30
1,508.30

MARVIN VASEY 17-104-0201 686.00
305 SOUTH CENTER PETTIT 88.60
BLOOMING PRAIRIE MN 55917 BLK 2 LOT 1 PETTITS 18.87
793.47

ENRIQUE & AMALIA RODRIGUEZ & 17-104-0314 724.00
MANUEL ESCANDON PETTIT 92.40
600 S HUTCHINSON BLVD BLK 3 LOTS 13-14-15-16 EX CITY EX S 19.91
LONGVIEW TX 75602 28'7"THEREOF & EXCEPTION THEREFROM & 836.31
STREET & RR R/W PETTITS

CMAZ PROPERTIES LLC 17-109-0311 1,902.00
1405 10TH STREET CIRCLE SE ABBOTTS 286.28
NEW PRAGUE MN 56071 BEG AT INT OF N LN OF W ROSE ST & W LN OF 54.21
N OAK AVE TH W116' N38.30' E116' S38.30' 2,242.49
BEG BLK 3 ABBOTTS EX COM INT N LN ROSE
E10.1' S13.3' W10.1' TO BEG

AMES N & MAURA T WHITEIS LE 17-136-0326 894.00
% JOSEPH R WHITEIS REPLAT OF HIGHLAND PARK - CHAMBERS 109.40
1829 3RD AVE S #204 BLK.3 N.7' OF L.5 & N.47' OF 4 & LOTS 26 & 24.59
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55404 27 RE-PLAT OF HIGHLAND PARK ADDN 1,027.99
O-JOSEPH R WHITEIS
515 W 36TH STREET
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55403

Delinquent Taxes

ANDREW C COLWELL	17-147-0203		1,019.00
PO BOX 54	SPRINGER		162.66
MEDFORD MN 55049	BLK 2 LOT 3 SPRINGERS		29.04
			1,210.70
RYAN & ALICIA FISCHER	17-147-0401		48.40
505 UNIVERSITY E ST	SPRINGER	26.78	
OWATONNA MN 55060	BLK 4 W132' OF OUTLOT 1 SPRINGERS	1.38	
			76.56
TONIA L YATES	17-172-0103		944.00
1105 MINERAL SPRINGS RD	MANN	114.40	
OWATONNA MN 55060	BLK.1 LOT 3 MANN	25.96	
			1,084.36
MINN STATE OF HIGHWAY DEPT	17-221-0100		84.00
DISTRICT 6	OWATONNA INDUSTRIAL PARK		31.76
ATTN:FINANCE DEPT	BLK 1 OWATONNA INDUSTRIAL PARK EX S OF THE		2.39
2900 NW 48TH ST - BOX 6177	DESC LINE: COM AT THE NW COR BLK 1 TH		118.15
ROCHESTER MN 55901-5848	S961.97' ALG THE W LN TO POB TH E TO NLY		
RICKY L FRANSEN	17-341-0102		1,368.00
2115 N CEDAR	MANTHEY		211.52
OWATONNA MN 55060	BLK 1 EX N 40' LOT 2 MANTHEY ADDN		38.99
			1,618.51
RICKY L FRANZEN	17-341-0103		1,284.00
2117 CEDAR AVENUE NORTH	BLOCK 1 THE N 40' OF LOT 2 MANTHEY ADDN		148.40
OWATONNA MN 55060			35.31
			1,467.71
JAMI A BIGELOW &	17-349-0311		1,293.00
JASON L MOEN	RADEL'S LA CASA ESTATES		149.30
980 22ND ST SE	BLK 3 LOT 11 RADEL'S LA CASA ESTATES		35.56
OWATONNA MN 55060			1,477.86
O-JEROME A & DARLENE J BIGELOW			
69537 230TH AVE			
KASSON MN 55944			
DANIEL D DAILEY JR	17-365-0004		4,484.00
PO BOX 972	BRADY HOMESTEAD		647.76
WATERTOWN MN 55388	OUTLOT D EX. CB09133H0D1 BRADY HOMESTEAD ADDITION		127.79
			5,259.55
BELYNDA JO PADILLA &	17-469-0109 LOT- 009 BLOK- 001		1,168.00
RUY ROLANDO ALANIS	BLK 1 LOT 9		136.80
1745 CEDAR VALLEY DR NW	NATURE VALLEY ADDITION		32.12
OWATONNA MN 55060			1,336.92
O-RAUL PADILLA			
609 1ST AVE NE			
BYRON MN 55920			
RENEE GILLESPIE	17-593-0401 S/T/R 22-107-20 LOT/BK 001-004		2,822.00
647 ASHLEY LN SE	BLK 4 LOT 1		302.20
OWATONNA MN 55060	EMERALD ACRES NO.3		77.61
			3,201.81
DANIEL D DAILEY	17-596-0002 SECT- 04 TWP- 107 RNG- 20		162.00
490 NEWTON AVE SE	OUTLOT B		42.68
WATERTOWN MN 55388	STATE AVENUE ADDN NO.2		4.62
			209.30

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss
COUNTY OF STEELE)

Laura Ihrke, being the County Auditor of Steele County, being duly sworn on oath, deposes and says that on the 1st day of February, 2017, she mailed the notice and the pertinent portion of the list of real estate remaining delinquent in Steele County on the first Monday of January, 2017, to those parties named in the pertinent portion of the list by placing a true and correct copy of the pertinent portion of the list in an envelope addressed to them as shown in said list and depositing the same with postage prepaid, in the U.S. Mails at Owatonna, Minnesota.

Laura Ihrke
County Auditor

Subscribed and sworn to before me
This 1st day of February, 2017

Robin Hoesley
Court Administrator

3/28

PUBLIC NOTICE
BEFORE THE COUNTY DITCH #22 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The County Ditch #22 Board of Commissioners will hold an informational meeting to be held on Monday, April 10th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Steele County Administration Center Boardroom located at 630 Florence Ave, Owatonna, Minnesota. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a redetermination of benefits on County Ditch #22.

Laura Ihrke
Steele County Auditor

3/29

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Intention to Enact Revised County Fee Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the Steele County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on proposed revisions to the Steele County Fee Schedule. The Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 5:15 p.m. in the County Board Room at the Steele County Administration Center at 630 Florence Ave. in Owatonna, MN.

A complete copy of the proposed County Fee Schedule is available for public review at the County Administrator's Office, Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Ave., Owatonna, MN or on the Steele County website: www.co.steele.mn.us. Dated this 21st day of March, 2017.

Laura Elvebak
County Administrator

3/29

Legal Notice

Attention: Food Service Management Companies

Blooming Prairie School District #756 is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company would provide management services according to requirements of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Department of Education.

To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact: Nancy Clark at 507-583-4426 x431 or nclark@blossoms.k12.mn.us

Food Service Management Companies may submit proposals to:
Mr. Barry W. Olson, Superintendent
Blooming Prairie School District #756
202 4th Avenue NW
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Blooming Prairie School District #756 reserves the right to reject any proposal for a sound, documented reason or to reject all proposals if there is an insufficient number of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at Blooming Prairie High School, 202 4th Avenue NW, Blooming Prairie, MN.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 4, 2017. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Blooming Prairie School District #756 and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

3/29

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:
MORTGAGOR(S): Josh Dale and Holly L. Dale, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on October 27, 2011 as Document Number A000380851 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $189,560.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 7, 2009
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on December 21, 2009 as Document Number A000368421; as amended of record by document recorded on November 8, 2011 as Document No. A000381093 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $218,820.12
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: All that part of the North Half of Southwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 105 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the Northwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East, assumed bearing, 468.00 feet along the West line of said Southwest Quarter to the True Point of beginning; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 202.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 58.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes East 100.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 0 minutes 115.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 124.00 feet; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 86.00 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes West 178.00 feet to the West line of said Southwest Quarter; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East 259.00 feet to said True Point of Beginning. Containing 1.42 acres, more or less. Containing 1.13 acres, more or less, excluding highway easement. Subject to a public highway easement along the West line thereof.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 16411 SOUTH WEST 52ND AVE, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-3064
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants Inc.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-036-3101
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100052221010839741
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
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: May 2, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 2, 2017.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Josh Dale

Dated: March 6, 2017
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee
THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1415-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

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:
MORTGAGOR(S): Steven W. Davis, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $109,382.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 18, 2009
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 21, 2009 as Document Number A000366739 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $99,423.50
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The West 1/2 of Lot 1 of the Extension of Block 22 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota.
AND
All that part of the East Half of Lot 1 in the extension of Block 22, Original Town (now City), Owatonna, Minnesota, described by: Beginning at the southwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00`00" E, assumed bearing, 2.40 feet along the south line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 00° 13` 07" E 132.49 feet to the north line of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence N 90° 00` 00" W 3.00 feet to the northwest corner of said E 1/2 of Lot 1; thence S 00° 02` 27" E 132.49 feet to beginning, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 231-233 RICE ST E, OWATONNA, MN 55060-3012
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-2207
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
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: May 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

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

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: March 13, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-0279-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/21, 3/28, 4/4
4/11, 4/18, 4/25

The Union Cemetery Association of rural Blooming Prairie will hold their annual meeting on

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm

at the Jim & Joyce Johns residence.

Gary Hansen, President

Plaque honors Elizabeth Robinson



Newspapers are some of the best sources of history preservation.

Just go to the office of the Steele County Times and find history recorded in the back issues of the Blooming Prairie Times, the Blooming Prairie News and the Steele County Times.

The value of of these newspapers was illustrated recently when they were used to investigate a mystery that Blooming Prairie area resident Ken Tom was trying to unravel.

Trom, a longtime member of the Prairie Masonic Lodge 123, was one of the organizers of an auction held in early January with its purpose being to dispose of many of the Lodge's historic remembrances. The auction raised $3500 that was donated to the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

In putting items up for auction, Trom discovered a mystery plaque containing the Order of the Eastern Star insignia containing the Star of David.

The plaque reads: "In Memory of Elizabeth Robinson, 6-4-74 to 10-27-93." This tidbit of information would indicate that Elizabeth was 19 when she died.

Trom said he tried to locate next of kin to offer them the plaque as a family keepsake. He could not click on a solution. He showed it to me following a Lenten church service at First Lutheran Church and asked if I could do some investigating.

My first step was to find the bound volumes of Blooming Prairie News for 1993. I then paged to Nov. 3, 1993 and quickly found the obituary for Elizabeth Dorothy (Libbie) Robinson.

The plaque's significance became clearer when I learned that Elizabeth Robinson actually was born May 30, 1910. She was 83 when she died, thus it is likely that the dates June 4, 1974 to October 27, 1993 indicates her years of service with the Order of the Eastern Star.

Let's take a look at the obituary of Elizabeth Robinson to learn more about her life.

She was born in Owatonna to Frank and Francis Hybl. On Oct. 30, 1929 she married Arthur Carlson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He died Jan. 14, 2979. The Carlsons were married nine months short of 50 years.

Libbie married Charles Robinson on June 6, 1981 in Blooming Prairie where she lived for 60 years and was a housewife. She was a member of the Eastern Star and other church groups and circles.

Funeral services were held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Oct. 30, 1993 with Pastors Richard Hegal and Clifford Schroeder co-officiating. Burial was at the Blooming Prairie Cemetery.

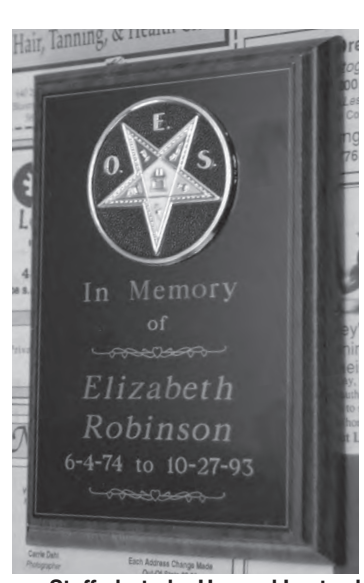
At the time of her death, Robinson was survived by husband Charles Robinson, Blooming Prairie; sons and daughters-in-law Donald Carlson, Blooming Prairie, Dorcas Carlson, Blooming Prairie; Douglas and Colleen Carlson, Harmony; daughters and son-in-law Phyllis Ditlevson-Kruckeberg, Blooming Prairie, Dorothy and Adrian Kilian, Geneva; step children Charles and Betty Robinson, Elk River and Clayton Robinson, Brainerd.

Libbie was also survived by two brothers-in-law, Irvin Hybl and Victor Carlson; one sister-in-law Francis Hybl; 13 grandchildren (6 step grandchildren); 18 great-grandchildren (10 step-great grand children) and one great-great granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, three sisters and three brothers.

Trom would like to give the plaque to Libbie's family. Contact Ken Trom at 507-438-9370 or Howard Lestrud at 507-583-7029.

Keep that chain of history alive.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

This plaque was created by the Prairie Masonic Lodge 123 Order of the Eastern Star to pay tribute to active OES member Elizabeth Robinson. The Lodge recently disbanded and items of history connected with the Lodge and OES have either been sold or donated to the Steele County Historical Society. Past Master Ken Trom would like to present this plaque to the family of Elizabeth Robinson.



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NORTHWOOD, IA | 1806 Central Ave .....(641) 324-1154
OSAGE, IA | 2197 Hwy 218 E .....(641) 732-3719

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