150 1867–2017 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Blooming on the Prairie for a century and a half!

Minimizer
Proud sponsor of BP's 150th year!

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

STEELE COUNTY TIMES



The Wizard in Medford 1B

$1 www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Section 2-AA champions



Staff Photo by Josh Zimmer

Members of the NRHEG boys basketball team storm the court at the Taylor center after the Panthers' 65-64 win over Jordan High School in the Section 2-AA title game Friday night at MSU-Mankato. With the win, the Panthers will be making their first trip to the Minnesota Class AA state tournament in school history. Story on 3B.

County responds on FEMA report

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

The county seeks to clarify a recent concern regarding the public works building project.

Two weeks ago, at a county commissioner meeting to discuss the project, a citizen, Brian Kosel, raised his concern that the current building site was on ground that was unbuildable. His claim was based on his reading of FEMA's report on the site.

County Administrator Laura Elvebak has responded to the concern saying, "Unfortunately, after a great amount of research, we have not been able to find any documents or information to support the claims made by the individual at the meeting."

She added, "In addition, we have found several reports indicating that there would be no impact." The FEMA report that is being discussed is available to the public and can be read at:

REPORT

Continued on page 5A



Staff Photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Farm show brings new toys to farmers

The annual Farm and Power show was hosted at the Four Seasons last weekend and drew in larger than usual crowds of agriculture enthusiats of all ages. Experienced farmers and yound families alike talked trade with the different business boothes that filled both halls. Full story on 3A.

Construction on courthouse continues

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

At the most recent county board meeting County Administrator Laura Elvebak updated the commissioners on the current courthouse renovations.

The renovations are currently focusing on ceiling work. "A lot of tiles had to be removed," Elvebak reported. She continued, the focus now will be, "patching some holes that were in the works. Preparing it for a new sub-floor."

A structural engineer has been evaluating load limits for sub floors and assessing whether the same materials as before should be used for the replacements or if they should try a different material. The project manager now has the necessary information to get quotes on material costs.

The building committee for the project, on which Commissioners Glynn and Brady sit, is now seeking guidance from the board as a whole for what they want on the formal list of repair requests to submit to the architect.

Once they have the board's guidance, the committee requested the ability to approve an architect on their own to expedite the process. The board approved the request and deliberated on the repairs request list.

"The three courtrooms are the main thing. We're talking about security" said Commissioner Krueger, "It needs to be addressed more than anything else."

Commissioner Brady agreed that since they need to have an architect for the bathrooms, they should also have him look at the courtrooms in the next week or so.

Commissioner Glynn agreed as well saying the request to have the courtrooms reconfigured was reasonable and low cost.

Commissioner Brady said some other minor adjustments will also need to be made in the courthouse, but an architect should not be needed for that.

The board concluded by approving the building committee to make a decision on hiring an architect on an hourly basis to look into necessary work.

Comissioners assess Public Works options

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Commissioners Brady and Gnemi toured several public works buildings in nearby counties to get an idea of what was a reasonable complex to build.

At the last county board meeting, both said they felt the tours were helpful in gaining perspective on the project.

Commissioner Brady said he felt comfortable now going forward on a building plan.

"By the next meeting, I would like to move forward on our building plan," he said, "I would give a couple more weeks for the rest of the board."

Commissioner Gnemi, after looking at the buildings in Waseca and Faribault, thought the county should model its

OPTIONS

Continued on page 5A

14th Annual
B.P. Education Foundation
AUCTION • MARCH 25, 2017
Silent - 3:00 • Pizza Cellar | Live - 6:00 • Cue Company

INSIDE
A: 2A ..... Opinion; 10A ..... Classifieds; 12A ..... Hometown Extra; 14A ... 150th Celebration
B: 1B Hometown Living; 3B ..... Sports; 7B ..... County Living; 8B ..... Public Safety

Vol. 125, No. 34 Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

Life, like March Madness, is unpredictable

The first weekend of the madness is in the books. If it reminds us of anything, it is that life itself can be so unpredictable.

All the study, pouring over stat sheets, looking at the opinions of others, and submitting our predictions with great anticipation and confidence.

Monday comes and it's never what we could have conceived or imagined. At best, we got some things right, we get some things wrong, we pick up the pieces and sprint to the next round, hoping that everyone else had the same results.

Life is a series of questions and opinions. Only when the outcome comes forth can we be assured that we must either adjust to the winds that are blowing, or try to stand upon our own stubborn convictions.

Last week we posed a question to the best of our ability concerning an issue with the proposed Public Works Complex. Some thought it was a bold move, some thought it was right on time, while others had to scramble to answer questions posed by our paper.

Though we didn't mean to indict or point fingers, we did ask very pointed questions. The most important being, "is the site buildable, or shall we look for another more economical way?"

After several sides came forth, blaming old commissioners, vindicating new commissioners and pointing fingers, we believe that both sides were heard. The warnings were issued, the county rebutted and offered proof as to the buildability and that is, what the fourth estate was all about.

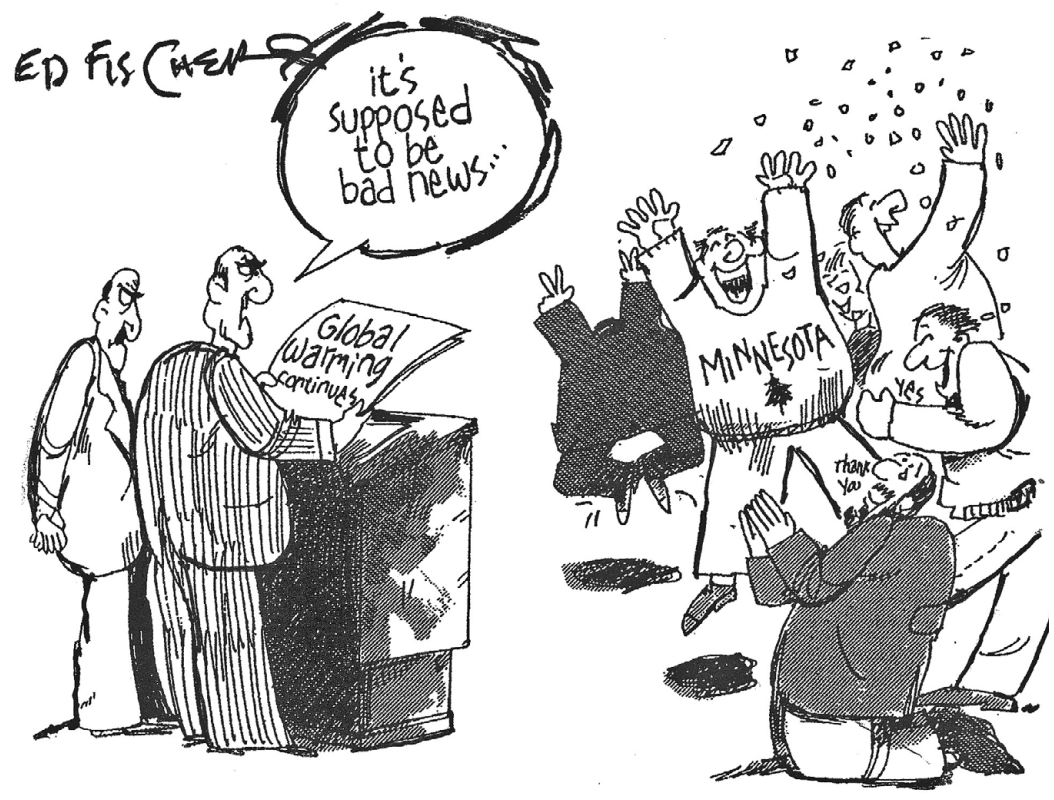
People had questions that they felt couldn't be asked, and we asked them. People wanted answers and we secured them. Going forward, if the new Public Works Complex stands bright and tall and has no cracks in the foundation, then we posed questions that perhaps made the county sleep a little better at night.

And, if it fails, then it can also be said of us, we asked the questions from the beginning and made the issue an open book.

We thank the concerned citizens for coming forth and asking questions. We thank the county and the commissioners for providing the documentation and the rebuttal. Without the questions and the exhausting of all options concerning all citizens, it would be anarchy.

It is refreshing that the foundation that we are building on is our open relationships with our local government.

The weekend has come and gone. The brackets have been busted. Do we blame or do we adjust? The ability to adapt is the solid ground of any healthy working government.



Letters to the Editor

Writer responds to coverage of county issues

Letter to the Editor:

Just wanted to point out a couple things in regard to recent letters and columns.

First of all was a letter and response by the Times about the publishing of pay given to various county employees. This generated a response by our County Administrator in which she defended the work ethic and pay of said employees. I do not believe the original letter criticized the devotion or work ethic of the employees, only the pay.

As a retired government worker I do have some knowledge regarding the issue. It is inherent in government jobs to expand as much as possible.

For instance, in highway maintenance, employees are needed to clear the roads in the event of large snow falls. This results in extra employees in off peak times.

This places a burden on supervisors to keep them busy so they may have to over staff crews at certain times resulting in public concerns as to employee need.

The answer is to either be under staffed in times of need, which also generates public backlash, or hire private help in times of need. Therefore the question of pay and benefits is legitimate. Many retirement funds across America are in financial trouble for various reasons of which employees had little say. So when I see that many county employees in supervisory positions are making over $100,000 per year plus benefits, I also question the impact on county taxpayers and their future obligations.

The other matter was a feature on the building site and questioned the County Board as to why they allowed that site to be chosen as it was not suitable. The Times has been diligent in the past in checking out variou claims. I believe they dropped the ball in this case.

First of all the present board had no say as to the site or building planned.

Also it's surprising that the Times did not consult our Board or erstwhile County Engineer before running with the opinion of an alleged soils expert. Any site of this magnitude has to meet lots of criteria prior to approval, least of which is soil boring data.

Sadly the Times failed to do their homework.

David Nielson
Owatonna

HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Sunshine Week helps keep freedom working

As journalists celebrated Sunshine Week last week, it comes at an extraordinary moment in the history of this country with the continued adversarial relationship between the presidency and the press.

For those who have read my columns with any consistency over the past seven years, you will be the first to know that I typically don't get involved with politics, especially on the national level. But with what has been happening in the White House over the past several weeks, I can't just sit back and not respond. I don't like what has been happening with President Trump when it comes to him constantly fuming about "fake news" and attacking the media.

Mr. Trump needs to understand that the press is not the opposition party and the media is not the enemy of the American people.

In my mind, Trump's constant barbs directed at the media are becoming nauseating and make me wonder what he is really hiding. There are many who feel Trump's leadership style may rival Hitler's dictatorship during the 1930s in Germany. After visiting Germany last year and seeing the product of what Hitler created there with the Nazi concentration camps, I hope these naysayers are wrong about Trump for the sake of our country.

Sunshine Week is devoted to the need for open government and journalists advocating for government transparency on all levels.

For those who need a little civics refresher, the First Amendment states in part that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." It is far broader and more uniquely American than when it was ratified in 1791.

Fast forward about 226 years and we find ourselves in a situation where our current president is threatening democratic principles and the general spirit of a free society. Several examples have made this apparent just in the first few months of Trump's presidency.

Advocates of the First Amendment call the Trump administration the most hostile to the press and free expression in memory. This is problematic on many levels. He is chipping away at one of the pillars of our democracy, and that is what troubles me the most.

Since taking office, the Trump administration has made a series of moves that have alarmed groups with a stake in public access to information. Access to government data should not be limited.

A recent poll conducted by Quinnipiac University found that Americans by a margin of 53-37 trust the media over Trump to tell the truth about important issues.

During Sunshine Week and every week throughout the year, I encourage people to take a moment to consider what life would be like if government officials operated in total secrecy and restricted access to information. When you want information from your local police, school board or local city or county government, simply ask for it. Just like any member of the media, you have the right to know.

People must be able to get facts from their government and make smart decisions and hold public officials accountable. Sunshine Week allows us to keep freedom working.

More than anything, I want the United States to be a world leader in open government. Freedom of information is one of the things that set our country apart from many others.

Isn't it time we all go in hot pursuit of pushing for maintaining a free press and pushing for freedom of information? I think we should and believe the founding forefathers of this country would agree.

Congrats on state awards

To Times Staff:

Congratulations on earning two newspaper association awards from the Minnesota Newspaper Association!

The many contributions to our community through the work that you do are greatly appreciated. Your hard work and dedication to the creation of your newspaper is well-deserving of these honors.

Again, congratulations on the awards!

John Petersburg
state representative
District 24A

FEMA report

As pertaining to the documents that the county has answered with. There is a question in the FEMA report asking if the land is classified land capability one. There are eight capability classes of land in Steele county and one through four can be farmed with conservation stipulations and five through eight have severe limitations to being able to productively and environmentally farm. In the Steele County Soil Survey, it classifies this land as capability two, but when you put in drainage it changes the capability class to ONE.

Now in the FEMA application it states that when you are granted federal funds, and will be utilizing those funds to construct a government facility on that property-and if this land is classified as LAND CAPABILITY ONE the county government can ONLY build on land that is classified capability one IF OR WHEN THIS LAND IS THE VERY LAST POSSIBILITY -OPTION WHEN ALL OTHER PROPERTY SITES HAVE BEEN RULED OUT.

FEMA

Continued on page 5A

Thank you to the community

Dear Editor,

Who would have imagined in 1958 when the Owatonna Foundation was formed by some of the most philanthropic community members that almost 60 years later our community foundation would fund over $11.75 million dollars in projects that have enhanced our lives while building a legacy for generations to come!

A person once said, "A strong community doesn't exist from the power of one person, but rather the collective commitment of the whole community with a shared vision to make it great!"

The spirit of the Owatonna Foundation's mission is simple; invest in ideas, visions, and people.

The giving capacity of Owatonna has always amazed me! I know I speak for all of us when we acknowledge how very blessed we are to play, work and live in such a generous community.

I, and the volunteers, who are members of the Board of Trustees and the stewards of your invested dollars want to say a very profound, 'THANK YOU'!

The Owatonna Foundation could not continue to grant worthy projects and endeavors if it was not for the generosity of all the committed business, industry and individual donors who call Owatonna 'home'!

Again, many thanks for your continued support of the Owatonna Foundation.

Betsy Kennedy Lindgren
President
Owatonna Foundation
Owatonna

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Congressman Tim Walz
Washington D.C. Office
1034 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2472
Rochester Minnesota
Washington, DC Office

Mankato District Office
527 ½ South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-388-2149
877-846-9259

Sen. Al Franken
Washington DC Office
309 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5641

Rochester Office
1202-1/2 7th Street NW
Suite 213
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-2003

Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Washington D.C. Office
302 Hart Senate
Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-2186

Southern Office
1130 1/2 7th Street, NW,
Room 212
Rochester, MN 55901
Main Line: 507-288-5321
Fax: 507-288-2922

Toll Free Number:
1-888-224-9043

CONTACT YOUR AREA MAYORS

Blooming Prairie Mayor
H. Peterson
507-583-7573

Ellendale Mayor
Russ Goette
507-684-2681

Hayfield Mayor
Rich Fjerstad
507-477-3535

Medford Mayor
Lois M Nelson
507-390-4553
dlnelson1167@q.com

Owatonna Mayor
Thomas Kuntz
507-774-7342
Fax: 507-444-4394
mayor@ci.owatonna.mn.us

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

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

A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

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

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

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

STAFF

Publisher ..... Rick Bussler
Managing Editor ..... Mark DeLap
Marketing/Sales..... Lori Wagner
Office Manager ..... Nancy Prizler
Sports Editor ..... Josh Zimmer
Staff Writer..... LeMar Nelson
News Editor ..... Emily Schoenbeck
Graphic Design ..... Michael Anderson
Sales Associate..... Jenna Spaeth

DEADLINE

News: Noon Fridays. Web: 11 p.m.
Advertising: 4 p.m. Thursdays.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Second Front

The reality of the REAL ID law

A View FROM THE HILL



John Jasinski

My office has recently received questions from constituents about the REAL ID Act of 2005, and Minnesota's attempts to comply with the federal law. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you the facts, answer common questions, and dispel some myths.

Congress enacted the Real ID Act of 2005 to protect citizens from terroristic threats. As a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, it establishes minimum security standards for state issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

The Department of Homeland Security will finally begin enforcing the law in January 2018, which means if Minnesota doesn't start the process of complying with the law, Minnesotans will be prohibited from boarding airplanes, visiting military bases, or entering federal buildings with their regular driver's licenses.

If you don't do these things anyway, then you don't need a REAL ID. Your current driver's license is still adequate to register to vote, apply for federal benefits, and drive your car.

If Minnesota passes the REAL ID law, you can either get a REAL ID, or opt-out and keep your non-compliant driver's license.

If you do want to board an airplane, visit a military base, or enter a federal building, you will still be able to do so with a Passport or Enhanced ID (available at select DMVs). However, both options cost more than a standard driver's license and require a separate application process. The Senate's REAL ID bill would simply update the current driver's license so Minnesotans can avoid the hassle and cost of getting a different ID.

Some people have asked me about a rumor that the REAL ID allows the federal government to collect personal information and add it to a federal database. That's simply not true. Minnesota will still issue its own unique license, maintain its own records, and control who gets access to those records and under what circumstances.

REAL ID will further strengthen national security by requiring applicants provide the usual identification documents required for a Minnesota driver's license, plus proof of their Social Security Number, and two documents proving their residential address. In order to prevent people from trying to obtain a fraudulent license in another state, states will share information with each other, but only upon specific request.

And Minnesota's Department of Public Safety will continue to verify applicants are US citizens or legal immigrants before issuing IDs.

If you have questions about the federal REAL ID law, or the bill moving through the Minnesota legislature, please contact my office.

I'm happy to help and always welcome your opinions. It's an honor to serve you.

Fair Board sets up for big changes

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

With every meeting, the Steele County Fair board draws closer to this year's free fair, and big decisions are coming to a head.

This month's meeting focused on the Paddock restoration project. Joe Schwering, Marilyn Schwering, and Joe Bowe from the Sheriff's Posse attended the meeting. The project so far has been proposed as a joint effort between the fair staff and the posse.

Going forward the staff and posse need to come to a decision on building materials so costs can be estimated. Both sides agreed to come back with feedback from their members both on the materials and what each side sees as their responsibility going forward with the project.

The board continues its survey for a grandstand entertainment replacement. After continually dropping attendance, the board decided to cut the Wednesday night battle of the bands. They're now looking for a replacement show to fill their line-up.

While the new show will be replacing the old Wednesday night entertainment, it doesn't follow that the new show will be on Wednesday. Depending what entertainment is decided on, the board may elect to mix around what entertainments appear on which night.

For now, the board is accepting votes through Facebook and mail for the replacement entertainment. The options are a second demo derby, IMP auto cross, or Big Air, a four-wheeler show. Voting remains open through March.

Plenty of decisions are set to be made at April meeting, where the agenda will include announcing the beer garden entertainment, deciding the new grandstand show, going to print with this year's brochure, and making decisions about the paddock restoration.

Farm and Power Show sees another success

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

This year's Farm and Power show at the Four Seasons was another success. Booths filled both sides of the four seasons. Products on display ranged from tires and tillers to massive tractors. Farmers and agriculture enthusiasts meandered through the booths talking shop and sometimes just shooting the breeze with area businesses.

The business representatives are an eclectic group. While polite business professionals in polo's stand ready at several booths, most have men sporting hunting hats and denim. They aren't flagging down potential customers, but sharing their products with the curious. For some, their product is as much a passion as it is a business.

Standing proudly over a giant antler laid across his booth, Greg Lubinski regaled passer-byers with stories of his unique herd: elk.

Back in the eighties, Lubinski and his father-in-law realized they could raise more elk on the same land they were then raising cattle on and at a higher value. Lubinski said the math made it a simple decision.

Now on their land just north of Rochester, they have a herd of over a hundred elk. In their spare time, they like going to shows like this one to teach people about the benefits of elk meat and the velvet from their antlers.

On the other end of the exhibition hall, another booth with an odd product drew people's attention.

With the ease of a long-time salesman, Chad the Glue Guy rattled off the benefits of the special glue at his booth.

Unlike other adhesives, this glue didn't dry out and the minute you attached items together with it, they stuck fast.

He challenged people to pull apart anything he had stuck together with his glue.

His booth top was scattered with everything from siding to pop cans to china figurines all mended together by the substance.

At the end of his pitch, if a customer tried to demur by asking for his card, he'd quip back, "You can't glue something together with a card. Had a lot of people try, but no one succeed yet."



Staff Photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Greg Lubinski was one of the more unique ranchers on hand at the show. His family has been raising elk for four generations, and he was promoting the benefits of both elk meat and velvet of their antlers.

Grease
Now Playing!

Aleks Knezevich
DINNER THEATRES
Chanhassen
entertaining You
952.934.1525 • 800.362.3515
ChanhassenDT.com


Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney
FIELDS LAW FIRM
INJURED AT WORK?
DISABILITY DENIED?
Contact Us Today
For Free Advice
Workers' Compensation
Long-Term Disability
Social Security Disability
1-888-343-5375
www.GetFields.com

purplewave.com
Construction Equip. Auction
Thur., March 30 Bidding starts to close at 10 a.m. CDT
BID NOW!
purple wave auction


350+ ITEMS SELL REGARDLESS OF THE PRICE!
Including: dozers, excavators, graders, haul trucks, skid steers, scrapers, backhoes, dump trucks, trailers & more. 866.608.9283

Kids' Korner Educare
is accepting applications for a long term substitute position (April through early June) ***Kindergarten Teacher***.
Kids' Korner is Accredited and Parent Aware 4 Star endorsed. ***Post-secondary education and experience is required*** along with a current ***Minnesota teaching license***. We offer competitive wages and benefits.
If you are looking for a rewarding position please stop at:
600 Florence Ave, Owatonna, or call:
507-451-0312

Radio station sponsors home show

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

The KOWZ radio station is hosting its 16th annual home and recreation show at the Four Seasons from March 24 to 26. The show is being sponsored in large part by Deml heating and air conditioning.

Matt Keteleson, station manger for KOWZ 100.9 FM radio, said the show is "something we're really proud of."

"It's a chance to see our customers face to face," he continued. It also allows for companies to work with them and get their product out there in a non-radio way.

The home and rec show, Ketelson says, is like no other show hosted at the Four Seasons. In his best radio voice, he rattled off the kitchenware, RV's, patio furniture, roofing, windows, jewelry, etc. people could expect to see. He finished simply with, "It's got everything."

Every year, he explained, "Booths are the special draw." They use to do other things at the show, but people always responded best to good booths with good people at them, so that's what they do. This year 253 booths will fill both sides of the Four Seasons.

It's free admission and free parking. The show hours are Friday 3-8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

KOWZ 100.9 FM

County News

Family dinner funds county fair



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Steele County Free Fair board members served rootbeer floats to people who attended a dinner to help raise money for the fair's building fund. Left to right: Wayne Steele, Bruce Busho, Jim Gleeson, Gene Fischer, Doug Meier, and Mike Hamilton.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

This St. Patrick's Day the Steele County Free Fair board hosted a dinner at HyVee to help raise money for the fair's building fund. This is the sixth annual dinner the board has put on.

The public could come and enjoy a fish dinner of baked cod and pasta as a way to support the fund.

The building fund is to help pay off the Radel Pavallion the board built a few years back. $300,000 remains to be paid off, and the board is determined to chip away at it piece by piece.

They anticipated the dinner raising somewhere between $1,000 and $1,500.

Board members happily manned the rootbeer float table at the dinner and sold people the desserts for just a dollar apiece. By 6 p.m. they had already served 70 floats, and the busy hour hadn't even hit yet.

Board member Mike Hamilton explained it was a way to "thank the people who are supporting the fair."

Jim Gleeson, who works with the fair, said it gave the board a chance "to work with their corporate partners" during the off-season. HyVee was helping host the dinner, while Thrivent Financial was serving as the official sponsor.

"It gives the board a chance to meet the public," Gleeson added.

In addition to raising money, it also gave the board a chance to remind people to vote on a grandstand show for next year.

The board is rearranging the usual line-up of entertainment and through March, is taking votes by mail and Facebook on what entertainment they should add.

Speakeasy memories re-kindled in Blooming Prairie

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

The days of the prohibition era came back to life in Blooming Prairie on a recent Saturday night.

It was Speakeasy Night in BP on Saturday night, March 11. A special event was sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Sesquicentennial Committee to renew memories of the days of the speakeasy in BP.

A speakeasy was an illicit establishment selling alcoholic beverages. These establishments came into prominence during the Prohibition era, 1919-33.

An estimated 50 persons bought tickets to be part of a night when they could visit three current liquor establishments that actually took on different names, business names of bars long ago.

Attendance was maybe less than desired but attributed to the reasoning that this was the first event of its kind and many people didn't know what to expect so they stayed home. They likely will not stay home next year if the event is held again.

Word spread rapidly around the community as to what a good time people had that evening. Many dressed in 1920s attire.

Those who dressed up included: Carol and Jay Iverson, Sarah Esplan,, Becky Noble, Steve Wencl, Nancy Vaillancourt, Bryce and Jaclyn Schlichter, Rita Johnson, Jenny Hendrickson, Cathy Janning, Mark Noble, Alex Johnson, Howard Lestrud and Bell Liquor bartenders Barbara Stenzel and Rachael Stenzel .

In addition to playing roulette and craps (for fun only), visitors to Bell Liquor (J & H Liquors), Coggins Bar (Bunkie's) and The Blue Hen (The Cue Company) had the chance to enjoy a legal beverage.

All three establishments are located in the same one-block area, thus it was convenient for Speakeasy visitors to stop at each place.

I had a blast (maybe the wrong descriptive word to use) in guarding the door of Bell Liquor, machine gun (toy) in hand. After discerning three knocks at the door, I would gradually open the door and ask the wide-eyed visitors if they were being followed by the feds. When they said they were not, the door was opened for them.

Four Speakeasy visitors came from the Twin Cities. They included Jerry Coggins of Minneapolis. He is a relative of the Coggins family that ran what was called a soft drink establishment. Coggins was accompanied by cousins Kathy and Pat Harty and by Peg Meyer.

"Jerry is our family historian," said Kathy Harty.

If you were to stop at the Blue Hen (Cue Company), you would have bumped into Steve Wencl, local historian on the prohibition days in Blooming Prairie. He created a display to outline the bootlegging days in Blooming Prairie.

Wencl's visuals included old copies of the Blooming Prairie Times and maps he had drawn.

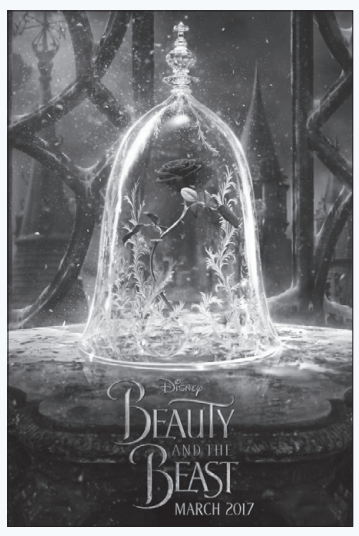
Prior to the Speakeasy Night, Wencl shared a Dec. 31, 1929 newspaper clipping about a liquor raid. It detailed a raid that resulted in the arrest of seven men and one woman. One of the men included Patrick Coggins.

Pattrick Coggins was Jerry's great-grandfather. Jerry's father Chester was also arrested in that raid.

The Sesquicentennial Committee appears to be leaning toward repeating this event, maybe next year. "People had a lot of good questions and they were interested in learning where some of the original places were located,"Wencl said.

History and memories are worth treasuring and the organizers of this Speakeasy night should be complimented for their success at touching history.

Movie Review: Beauty and the Beast



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

A tale as old as time is being retold.

Beauty and the Beast is the latest addition to Disney's line-up of live-action remakes of animated classics. This time around Emma Watson serves at the titular beauty, while Dan Stevens plays the beast. They make for charming leads, and the ensemble cast of enchanted objects in the beast's castle is just as fun as the original.

Luke Evans strides about his scenes as a dashing Gaston. His good looks dazzle even more than the original animated villain, but the movie increases his sinister nature accordingly.

The visuals are the real showstoppers though. From the opening of the movie all the way through, the costumes are breath taking. Unlike animated designs, live-action allows for more detail and texture, and the film does not disappoint.

Transforming animated objects into realistic looking CGI is no small task, but the production and special effects teams were up to the job. Rather than trying to match the design of the original, the movie redesigns all of the characters into their own unique visual. Purists may complain "it isn't exactly like the old one," but they should just go watch the old one then.

The live-action adaption is its own movie, and that creativity should be applauded not caged by what came before it.

Speaking of moving forward, the newer version also update's its heroine. Belle has never been a shrinking violet, but Watson's portrayal ups the ante even further.

This time around Belle takes after her father and is an inventor in her own right. Trapped in the beast's tower, she attempts a makeshift rope to escape out the window.

When Gaston asks if he can come over for dinner, Belle replies he may not. Gaston asks if it's because she is busy, and Belle says no. She doesn't give an excuse for not wanting to be with him, because she shouldn't have to.

New music has also been added to the movie's already impressive line-up. Classics like "Be Our Guest" return, but new songs include a touching melody by Belle's father and a heart-wrenching number by the Beast.

Beauty and the Beast told us the first time around it was already a tale as old as time, but we keep re-telling it, and stories like it, because there are always more ideas to explore and new directions worth taking. Some people may question the necessity of remaking a movie that already won best picture, but you'd have to be a beast not to enjoy this second outing.

Rated: PG



Submitted photo

The clocks were turned back to the 1920s recently in Blooming Prairie as history was recounted with the Speakeasy Night. Here, armed guard Howard Lestrud watches the back door of Bell Liquor (aka J & H Liquor).

Wet Basement Dampening Your Spirits?
Basement Waterproofing • Foundation Repair • Concrete Leveling
AMERICAN WATERWORKS
Free Estimates! Call Today.
1.800.795.1204

THE PROMISE of Rochester 2017
Tickets Available On Line
A Musical Drama Portraying the Life of Jesus Christ
Friday, March 24 ~ 7:00
Saturday, March 25 ~ 7:00
Sunday, March 26 ~ 2:00
FINAL Weekend
The Promise Rochester
Bethel Lutheral Church
810 3rd Avenue SE, Rochester, MN • 507-288-6430
Tickets $10.00/$8.00
www.RochesterChristianDrama.org
A Rochester community production held at Bethel Lutheran Church

Were you hospitalized for Kidney Problems
while using Proton Pump Inhibitor medications such as Nexium® or Prilosec®?
If so, then you may be able to seek compensation.
We are evaluating potential lawsuits for individuals who have developed kidney problems after using such proton pump inhibitors as Nexium, Nexium 24HR Prilosec, Prilosec OTC, Prevacid, Prevacid 24 HR, Protonix, Dexilant and Aciphex. The specific types of kidney-related injuries we are investigating are acute interstitial nephritis, acute renal failure and chronic kidney disease.
WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC
700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10003 | BRANCH OFFICES IN NJ, CA & MI
866-953-9560 www.AcidRefluxDrugLawsuit.com
ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. Prior results do not guarantee a future outcome. We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office. If no recovery, no fees or costs are charged, unless prohibited by State Law or Rule.

Paid Advertisement
ATTENTION
Have you been diagnosed with NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA after being exposed to the weed killer Roundup®
Agricultural Workers | Nursery Employees
Landscapers | Golf Course Greens Keepers
Home Gardeners | City/County Employees
800-259-1005
LUNDY LUNDY SOILEAU & SOUTH, LLP
501 BROAD ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA. 70601
WWW.LUNDYLAWLLP.COM
If so the law firm of Lundy, Lundy, Soileau & South is interested in speaking with you immediately, as you may be eligible for financial compensation.
IF NO RECOVERY, NO FEES OR COSTS ARE CHARGED
Attorney advertising. Prior results do not guarantee future outcome. We may associate with local firms in states wherein we do not maintain an office. Jackey W. South, Esq.

Questions of report clarified

FEMA: from page 2A

Also, all soil associations that the application LISTS AS LIMITED TO SEVERE ALSO IS A FEDERAL STIPULATION (SIMILAR TO SEPTIC SYSTEM REGULATIONS) NOT TO USE AS A PRIMARY SELECTION SITE. THE ANSWER ON THE APPLICATION STATED THESE SOILS WEREN'T ON THE SITE.

The next question asks, did you have the Soil and Water Conservation Service sign the document as to weather or not these soil associations were present. Her answer was something like didn't need this or these soils wouldn't be a problem. Dan Arndt did sign off from the Soil Conservation Service that the parcel contained no wetlands. The most limiting factor is the canning company holding pond that seeps and sometime over flows during heavy rains---flood across old #14 and flows all the way to the motel by target.

Just as an example, Waseca BIRDS EYE has the same soil set up and had to put in large holding tanks for storage when the soil was too saturated to irrigate the waste water onto the land. This soil can only percolate one-fifth of an inch per hour, so during and after heavy rain the waste water has to be put into lagoons until the soil dries out. With the holding pond 6-8 feet up hill excess rain water, waste water will undulate this proposed building site. Also, because of the height difference, the water seepage will bring the water table to the surface at the building site, just as in past history before farming and tiling this property. Every farmer knows that side hill seepage is or can be more limiting than a pothole. The key is the millions of gallons of waste water next to the county site and tight soils and the Federal regulation to save America's Class One farmland. Next time look beyond just the actual building, a lot of people get caught up in buying property-for farming, home sites business sites- and end up with drainage problems. Like a few years back on the SW side of Owatonna. It took a farmer, Mr Rypka to see the problem and come up with a SOLUTION. MANY HOMES WERE FLOODED AND MUCH PROPERTY DAMAGE SIMILAR TO WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED HERE.

Brian John Kosel

Board to move forward at next meeting

OPTIONS: from page 1A

own complex after the Waseca one. He said it seemed, "very serviceable."

When asking local companies about a complex similar to that, he got a quote of $90 to $95 a square foot, possibly a little more when all is said and done. According to Commissioner Gnemi, Metcon said they could do such a project for $4.5 million.

Anita Benson from the public works department reminded the board that Waseca has an additional three out-shops for equipment, something Steele County does not. She urged the board not to risk drawing too many conclusions about what Steele County needs based on buildings that serve the needs of a different county.

Commissioner Brady reiterated his desire to be making decisions on the building plan at the next board meeting.

No finds of unbuildable claim

REPORT: from page 1A

https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/115719

The report contains no mention of the site being unbuildable, and FEMA, which has agreed to fund the project, required proof of limited or no impact on the environment before it would approve funding.

Kosel remains concerned that factors about the soil, including drainage, are not being taken into account.

Correction:

Last week's Lucky Finds contest mistakenly listed the email particapants should contact as bptimes@frontier.net.

The actual email address that guesses should be submitted to is bptimes@frontiernet.net.

We apologize for any inconvience this might has caused. Guesses are still being accepted at the correct email address through March 24.

BP Fashion forward



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation has some new designs for Blossom fans wanting to sport their team's logo. Profits go to projects for Blooming Prairie education.

AUCTION

TO BENEFIT THE STUDENTS OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE SCHOOLS

Sponsored by the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation

Silent Auction **at the Pizza Cellar/** ***Live Auction*** **at the Cue Co.**

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Silent Auction 3:00 - Live Auction 6:00pm

Auctioneers note: Come join *"Blooming Prairie Best Party of the Year"*

Terms: Cash, Check, or Credit Card
The Buyer assumes the responsibility to contact the Donor

Trap shooting party
8 x 10 utility shed
Week stay in Mexico (lodging only)
P J Fleck autographed Gophers helmet
Twins tickets
2 Night Stay at Wilderness Resort
Jailhouse Inn Stay w/dinner
Adirondack chair set
Luau
Favorite things brunch
Wilderness Resort stay
Wall of Wine
2017 veggie club membership
Birthday party w/ Varsity basketball team
A day at Canterbury
Oak child's rocker
Trout fishing
Children Canvas painting party
Beautiful quilt
Meal packages
Front row parking at High School
Diamond necklaces
Cow tank bench
Wine makers tour
2 - half hogs with processing
Prom package
40 man hours rock picking
Blossom sweatshirts
Beautiful handmade Quilts
Chocolate chip cookie delivered each month
Pickled eggs
Grilling packages
Painting by H. Peterson
Reclining lawn chair
Golf at Somerby's & BPCC
Orginal painting by Nate Pillar
Bud Grant autographed goose
Grill and meat
Timberwolves autographed ball
Smoked salmon & ribs
Airline tickets
Pool party for 20
Richard Pitino & Marlene Stolling signed ball
Justin Bieber tickets
Planting party for 6 @ Hilltop
"Our Favorite Things" Brunch
MN Wilds Suter signed shirt
MN Vikings Tickets
Spring turkey hunt
Cenex gift cards
RV trip to Wineries
Hillbilly bash for 10-12
Birthday party w/ Firemen
Horse drawn wagon & sleigh rides
Metal flower Yard Art
1 year membership to fitness or tanning
Pheasant Links Hunt pkg
Pool Parties
Amish Tour
Front row seating at Christmas program
Antique door hallway bench
Dancing w/Steele County Stars tickets
1-2 hour horse/wagon rides
Homemade candies and baked goods
All sport/all season passes
Handmade child's airplane
7 nights stay at Breezy Point
15 ton black dirt/sandfill/ or gravel
Lawn mowing
Bowling parties
Handmade gun cabinet
Bean bag game
Hostas
Hand carved Santa
Trap your Varmits
Photo sessions
Husquarvana weed trimmer
KRFO's 2016 broadcasts on zip drive
Awesome Blossom covered sandbox
Tubby Smith & Tinm Brewster

MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. SEE YOU THERE!

KIK

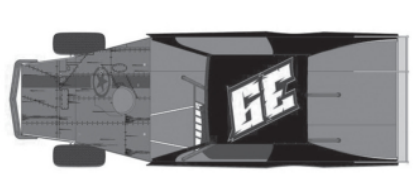
GRAPHICS & PRINTING

YOU PICK IT WE STICK IT













CHAMPTRUCK WORLD SERIES

612.360.9934 Tyler@kikgraphics.biz

www.kikgraphics.biz

110 Highway Ave. N.

Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

TURN OFF the television…



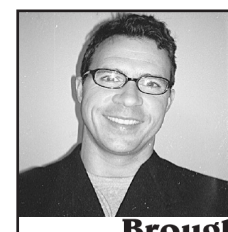
The newspaper is a textbook for life!

Encourage your children to make reading the newspaper a part of their everyday routine for lifelong learning.

STEELE COUNTY Times

Always local, all the time.

Escort Services That Can Help Seniors With the Rigors of Travel



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

Prairie Manor Care Center & Heather Haus
220 3rd St. NW, Blooming Prairie
583-4434

Dear Savvy Senior,
Do you know of any services that help seniors with the rigors of traveling? My youngest daughter is getting married in a few months and would love to have my 82-year old mother attend, but she needs help flying across the country.
Searching Daughter

Dear Searching,

Traveling can be daunting under the best circumstances but for elderly seniors, those with disabilities, or those recovering or rehabilitating from an illness or injury, it can seem particularly overwhelming or unmanageable.

Fortunately, there are a number of companies that provides traveling companion/escort services to help older adults with the rigors of travel.

Whether it's seniors going on vacation or grandparents wanting to join their far-off families for weddings and graduations, travel companions help clients who need help moving through airports, managing luggage, navigating busy terminals and hotel lobbies and much more.

Some companion services even provide personal care like medication reminders, dressing, bathing and feeding. And for those with specific medical needs, traveling nurse services are available too.

But be aware that these services aren't cheap. You will pay for the travel companion's tickets, the companion's hotel room if necessary, meals, incidentals and fees for the service. The price to accompany a client on a plane trip within the United States – including the companion fees and travel costs for all parties – can range anywhere from $1,500 to $5,000 or more for coach airfare. Business or first class would cost more.

To locate a travel companion service in your area, search online for "senior travel companion" or "senior travel escort," followed by your mom's city or state. Or use an experienced national service like Flying Companions (FlyingCompanions.com) or FirstLight Home Care (FirstLightHomeCare.com), which has a national network of franchises that provides in-home care for seniors, and offers travel companion programs in about one-third of its 130 franchises.

Or, for medical travel companions do a search for "traveling nurse escort" or "medical travel companion," or checkout Travel Care & Logistics (YourFlightNurse.com), which provides registered nurses as escorts.

If, however, your mom doesn't require a lot of assistance, or if you can't afford a travel escort, consider asking a trusted family member or friend that has some air travel experience.

Questions to Ask

If you're interested in hiring a travel companion service to help your mom, there are a number of things you need to check into to ensure you get the right escort.

First, if you mom requires personal or medical care while traveling, find out if the escort is trained to manage her healthcare needs. What sort of medical certifications do they have? (Nursing credentials? C.P.R. training? etc.)

Also, find out how many trips the companion has taken with clients. Have they completed trips with travelers like your mom? How long has the travel service company been in business? What is the company's safety record? And what sort of insurance does it carry, and what and who does it cover?

Also, get a quote breaking down exactly what you'll be required to pay, in addition to the companion's fees. And, get a list of two or three clients/references who has used their service and call them.

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
March 27th, 2007

According to figures given from the NCAA Division-III Student Athlete Advisory Committee Manual from 2006-207, there are a total of 148,784 D-III student athletes across the country. Next year, Blooming Prairie will be sending nine athletes to play Division III, or better, athletic programs.

The senior class of 2007 has a total of nine athletes going on to play in their freshman year of college, with Scott Verley and Spencer Ohm, and Thomas Kramer playing Division II athletics, and Chelsie Hansen, Kari Peterson, Ian Campbell, Zachary Hoffman, Courtney Bailey, and Jeremiah Johnson all going on to play college athletics in their respective sports.

Emily Ulland was named the 2007 Mower County Pork Ambassador on Tuesday evening, March 20, 2007 at the Adams Legion during the Mower County Pork Producers Annual Banquet and meeting.

Emily is the daughter of Gary and Marilyn Ulland of Austin. Emily is currently a senior at Blooming Prairie High School and plans on attending North Dakota State University in the fall of 2007 to study Veterinary Technology.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
March 25th , 1997

Time's running out for March FoodShare month and the shelves still have plenty of room food food.

In fact, the shelves could be plenty empty unless Steele County residents quicken the restocking process- the county stands at 50 percent below the goal of $40,000 in combination pounds and dollars.

January is the hardest month on the food shelf, but the summer months when children are home are also tough. This year was no different as the shelves were depleted slightly more than in the past, but February was about average use.

Over 70 concerned teachers and students packed the Blooming Prairie High School library Monday, March 17th as the school board announced how it was dealing with the anticipated $300,000 deficit for 1997-1998.

After it was all said and done, 12 teachers/specialists will be given unrequested leave of absence or their contracts will not be renewed; about $79,000 in programs will be cut, and athletic/fine art fees will rise.

The board will also look into other cost-saving possibilities throughout this year and into the next.

50 Years Ago
Victor and Vernon Krejci, Editors
March 23rd, 1967

Pfc. James Cran, son of Lawerence Cran, St. Paul, and grandson of Mary Cran of Hayfield, was killed March 14th while serving his country in Vietnam.

The Defense Department announced his death on March 16th. Pfc. Crann was struck by a small arms fire while serving as a guard in the security division of the army just four weeks after his arrival in Vietnam for the second tour of duty. He had served there for 12-months in 1965.

The Student Council at Blooming Prairie announced today that it is planning a carnival to raise money for the Peace Corps School-to-School drive. Throught this program, Blooming Prairie High School students will build one school in a foreign country. The carnival is schedueled for April 14 and will be a wide and interesting assortment of booths and games for people of all ages.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
March 26th, 1942

Definite plans for helping Steele county farmers meet the summer labor shortage were made Monday night at a county-wide meeting in Owatonna. Included in the large group were numerous Blooming Prairie farmers are several local businessmen.

The meeting was called by county agent Russell Gute, as the first step in taking prompt action to relieve the labor situation as much as possible. The plan, which seeks to utilize to the best advantage every man and machine available for farm production, is suggested, as a preparedness step against an anticipated shortage of labor which will be required this summer if farmers are to succeed in the government's "food for victory" program.

Construction of the new $20,000 edifice for the Waltham German Lutheran Church was started this week by the Lawrence E. Lysne contracting firm of Blooming Prairie.

The Lysne firm was the successful bidder in large field of bids submitted to the official church board. The contract was awarded to Mr. Lysne early this week and work was started immediately.



Call to place an item in the Classifieds today: (507) 583-4421

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants

Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Certified Public Accountant Tamzen R. Johnson
319 East Main Street, Blooming Prairie | 888-933-6828 | Fax: 507-583-2389

Automotive

Koster's CAR KORNER
ROD & TESS KOSTER, Owners
Bus: 507-583-2018 • Fax: 507-583-2317
Hwy. 218 • Blooming Prairie
www.kostercarkorner.com
FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH

Construction

Johnson Construction & Tree Service
Tree & Stump Removal • Trimming & Topping • Tree Moving
Lot Clearing • Backhoe/Skidloader • Hauling General Construction
24 Hr. Emergency Services • Year Round Work • Licensed & Insured
KYLE JOHNSON • 507-583-7592
AUSTIN & BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Dental Care

BLOOMING PRAIRIE DENTAL CENTER
"Dentistry for the whole family"
Jeffrey A. Schwert, D.D.S.
132 2nd Ave. NE
Blooming Prairie ~ 583-6613

STEELE COUNTY Times
Always local, all the time.

Funeral Planning

A Simple, Thoughtful Act of Caring
PREARRANGEMENT & PREFUNDING
507-583-7561
www.worlein.com
Mary Kittelson
NFDA Certified Preplanning Consultant • Licensed Agent - Purple Cross Plans
Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home
418 Highway Ave S. ,Blooming Prairie, MN

Garbage

SKJEVELAND ENTERPRISES
YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
Sanitation & Recycling Services
Pride in service since 2007
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
• Sanitation & Recycling Services
• Roll-Offs & Dumpsters
• Rubbish & Garbage Removal
Contact Skjeveland Enterprises today!
507-528-9900

Bridal

Holiday Inn
507.446.8900
2365 43rd St. NW • Owatonna

Orthodontic Specialist

Dr. Deborah J. Lien, DDS, MBS
132 2ND AVE. NE BLOOMING PRAIRIE
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST
FREE CONSULTATIONS
Building Healthy Smiles!
drdeborahlienorthodontics.com
507.583.6613

Recreation

MINER'S Outdoor & Rec
Outdoor Power Equipment, Golf Carts, ATV, Sales Service, Parts & Accessories
Hwy 218 S.
Blooming Prairie
www.minersoutdoor.com • 507-583-2712

Repair Service

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.
656 3rd St. NE
Blooming Prairie, MN
Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
583-6620

Siding & Windows

J.A. GWILT SIDERS, INC.
Siding & Windows
Lic. #20533878
•Maintenance Free Siding
•Premium Vinyl, Steel & Aluminum
•Custom Trim Work
•Seamless Aluminum or Copper Gutters
•Lifetime Warranty
For Free Estimates Call: 507-583-7413
Now supplying siding for contractors & do-it yourselfers!

Community Living

Obituaries

Gail Marie Demmer, 62 of Ellendale

Gail Marie Demmer, 62, of Ellendale, died after a courageous battle with cancer Monday, March 13, 2017 at Methodist Hospital, Rochester.

She was born September 10, 1954 in Slayton the daughter of Virgil and Lucille (Olthoff) Halbur. Gail graduated with the Class of 1973 from Slayton High School. She obtained her Bachelors Degree in Nursing from the College of St. Theresa in Winona and began working at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester as a Registered Nurse. Gail married Rick Demmer April 1, 1978 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Slayton. The couple lived and farmed together near Ellendale. Gail later accepted a position at Navy Hospital in Albert Lea. She retired from full time nursing after many years working for the New Richland Care Center where she was the Director of Nursing. For the past several years, Gail taught nursing classes part time at Riverland Community College and worked as a nurse at Risen Homes in Owatonna.

Gail will be remembered as a selfless caregiver who devoted her time and love to her family. One of her greatest pleasures was spending time with her children and providing endless support within their lives. She loved doting on her three grandchildren. Her passion for agriculture was evident throughout her life. She was actively involved in the workings of the family farm, 4-H program, served as chairman of the Steele County American Dairy Association and coordinated the Junior Dairy Show. Gail enjoyed ceramics, flower gardening, knitting, sewing, baking and craft shows. She especially loved time on the pontoon at the lake with her family.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Demmer of Ellendale; daughters, Amy (and Caleb) Ostrander of Hayfield, Lisa (and Kevin Krejci) Demmer of Woodbury; son, Scott (and Katie) Demmer of Ellendale; grandsons, Isaac, Ethan, Liam; parents, Virgil (and Lucille) Halbur of Slayton; sister, Cheryl (and Mike) Kellen of Parkers Prairie; brothers, Doug (and Becky) Halbur of Hadley, Gregg (and Denise) Halbur of Hadley and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by sister, Debra Vierhuf.

Visitation with reviewal were at Michaelson Funeral Home on Friday from 4pm to 7pm. Memorial services were held Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 1pm at Christ The King Lutheran Church, 309 6th St NE, in Waseca with visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in the First Lutheran Cemetery in Ellendale.



Mary "Merky" Standke, 88 of Owatonna

Mary "Merky" Standke, age 88, died Feb. 23, at Traditions II in Owatonna.

Mass of Christian burial will be 11 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2017, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. before mass.

Standke was born May 15, 1928, to parents Frank and Mary (McConnell) Snider in Blooming Prairie. She graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1946.

After graduation, she moved to Owatonna and worked at the courthouse. Standke met her future husband Ray at Zeiner's Ballroom in Bixby. They were later married at St. Columbanus Church, in Blooming Prairie.

Standke stayed at home to raise the children while Ray worked at Jostens as an artist die cutter. In her later years, Standka enjoyed watching her grandchildren and visiting all her relatives.

Family was very important to her. She is remembered for her kind, quiet joy toward others and her baked goods!

She is survived by her husband of over 60 years, Ray; children, Raymond (Meg) Standke, Star Prairie, Wisconsin, Connie Jones, Britton, South Dakota, Mike (Brenda) Standke, Aurora, Colorado, Steve Standke, Owatonna.

Also grandchildren, Stephanie, Daniel, Megan, Skyler and Odessa; and great-grandson, Azelio; brother Lyle Snider; sisters, Betty Jensen, Loretta Wurst. Proceeded in death by, parents; 3 sisters and 4 brothers.

A heartfelt thanks is extended to the staff at Traditions II and Heartland Hospice for their care. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-megerfuneralhome.com



Historical Society Hosts the Gopher State Archaeological Society Artifact Show

The Steele County Historical Society (SCHS) will host the Gopher State Archaeological Society Artifact Show on Saturday, March 25, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This free event is open to the public and offers an opportunity to see many of the region's largest and most complete private collections featuring artifacts personally found from Steele County and around the state. The displays will cover all time periods and a wide range of items from arrowheads to Native American beadwork.

New this year, the Science Museum of Minnesota will be onsite promoting its archaeological survey of Dakota County. This effort seeks to summarize what is known about the early human occupation of the county and update the State Archaeologist's site file with regard to the status of known archaeological sites. Part of this work involves connecting with collectors, landowners and others who have found artifacts or have knowledge to share. "It is always a great exchange when we can extend our knowledge of the area and at the same time share information with the finder or the landowner so they can connect what they have found with a better understanding of the region" says Ed Fleming, Curator of Archeology for the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Our local archeological record spans 11,000 thousand years and items from Steele County dating back to the Paleo time period will be on display. Collectors from around the region will feature items such as stone arrowheads and knives, stone axes, copper tools and bone tools. More recent historical items such as fur trade artifacts, beadwork, baskets and Native American art will also be on display.

"Minnesota has always been a crossroads of sorts with our lakes, rivers and resources drawing people to the region for over 10,000 years" says Tom Amble of the Gopher State Archeological Society. "We have sites where one day we might find a 5,000 year old stone point and the next day we might find a 200 year old trade bead."

The objective of the show is to encourage communication and education among collectors, professional archeologists and the public. Tom Amble of the Gopher State Archeological Society said "Every collector dreams of finding a Clovis point. They are over 11,000 years old and a prize of any collection. Yet collectors may not realize is that no undisturbed Minnesota Clovis site has ever been effectively researched and documented by our state archeologists. We want to raise awareness of issues like this among collectors so they know how important it may be to report a find." Amble explains that other topics such as responsible and legal collecting and identifying fakes are discussed at every show.

Stephanie Kibler, Manager of Meetings and Special Events of the Steele County History Center said "The Archaeology Show is a fun, well attended event that offers a rate opportunity to experience first-hand a bit of Steele County's earliest history."

Steele County Historical Society

Press Release

Anyone interested in artifacts or local history will find the event to be a great way to spend an hour or the whole day. There will be items for sale or trade. If there are items you have found or that has been passed along in your family, bring them to the show. There will be a number of knowledgeable people on hand to give you some opinions as to what you have – is it 10,000 years old, 300 years old or possibly a modern replica?

The History Center, located at 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am until 4 pm, Thursdays from 10 am until 8 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am until 3 pm. For more information, please call our office at 507-451-1420.

Death Notice

Clinton Christianson, 96 of Blooming Prairie

Clinton Christianson, age 96 of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota died Sunday afternoon, March 19, 2017, at the Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

Funeral services are pending with the Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home of Blooming Prairie.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

21st
Calla Staads
Mary Ann Betlach
Pam Farr
Sue Rossow
Joe Hjelman
Jackie Olson
Esther Hansen
Jan Anderson
Dwayne Gross
Gordon Hjelmen

22nd
Robert Haberman
Jeanine Humphrey
Kevin Christianson
Tom Donnelly
Dustin Hensrud

23rd
James Trihus
Kelsey Wolf
Blake Symes
Katie Wolf
Karen Thoen

24th
Kay Toquam

25th
Jenny Heimerman
Charles Wagner
Whitney Yentsch
Nala Klemmensen
Becky Severtson
Mark Anderson
Bryan Rossow
Douglas Wencl

26th
Marty Shaw
Cale Braaten
Tiffany Peterson
Steve Wollenburg

27th
Betty Ingvaldson
Chad Klemmensen
Val Garcia
Lois Friesner
MaKenna Brown
Becky Masching
Fariah Weinberger

Anniversaries:
27th
Doug & Kim Hillson
Dick & Norma Hegal

Milestones is sponsored by:

Best kept secret!
Deli Sandwiches Daily Specials
ALL COME WITH A COOKIE & CHIPS
Tuesday - Ham
Wednesday - Turkey
Thursday - Your Choice
Friday - Beef
The Bakery
Main Street • Blooming Prairie • 583-4433

SEMCAC senior menu

Mar. 21
Roast Pork
Mashed Potatoes
Seasoned Peas/Celery
Cinn Applesauce
Cook's Choice Pudding

Mar. 22
Onion Smothered Steak
Alt: Liver/Onions
Fresh Boiled Potatoes
Broccoli
Fresh Oranges

Mar. 23
Hamburger Stew
Waldorf Salad
Dinner Roll
Moon Cake

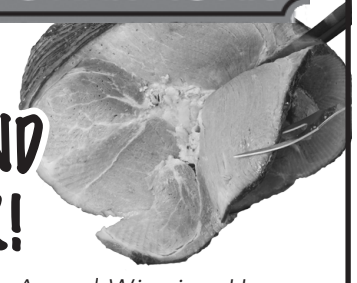
Mar. 24
Potato Crusted Pollock
Baked Potato w/ Sr. Cream
Brussel Sprouts
Punpkin Raisin Bar

Mar. 27
Porcupine Meatballs
Buttered Mashed Potatoes
Asparagus
Fresh Fruit

Mar. 28
Spaghetti/ Meat Sauce
Mixed Green Salad
Pineapple Slices
French Bread
Hawaiian Cake

Mar. 29
Pork Loin Medley
Green Beans
Dinner Roll
Strawberry Shortcake

Dean's SMOKE SHACK
EASTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
Call now to reserve your Award Winning Ham.
They go fast so call now to put the Best on your Family Table.
104 E. Main St. • Geneva, MN • 507-256-0025
www.deanssmokeshack.com



Jensen Heating, A/C, & Plumbing
Registered Showroom
24 hour service for all your plumbing & heating needs
We'll treat your home as if it were our own.
THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER
256•4712
Geneva, MN

Time to try a different pillow?
15% OFF SPECIALTY PILLOWS
March 20-24, 2017
Specialty Pillows Available:
Water-Based Chiroflow Pillows
"My Chiro" Pillows (10 yr. warranty)
Reduce Your Neck Pain & Get a Better Night's Sleep!
Prairie Family & Sports CHIROPRACTIC, P.A.
Chad M. Eischens, D.C.
344 East Main Street • Downtown Blooming Prairie
583-2271 or TOLL FREE 1-866-5Dr-Chad
Massage Therapy Available
www.drchad.org

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET
Prices Good 3/21 - 3/27
Pepsi .5 Liter 6 Packs 4/$10 or $2.99 each
Pepsi 7.5oz 8 Packs 4/$10
Lipton Iced Tea .5 Liter 12 Packs $4.99
Klarbrunn 12 Packs $3.39
Coke .5 Liter 6 Packs 3/$9
Coke 7.5oz 8 Packs 3/$9
Juicy Juice 64oz $2.99 with 20 Savers Points
Depends Underwear $1.50 Off with 20 Points
Family Favorites Boneless Chicken Breasts 2.5lbs $3.99 with 20 Points
Check out OUR DOLLAR Selection!
237 Hwy Ave. S. Locally Owned & Operated 507-583-6671



Area Church Spotlight

New Beginnings Church, Owatonna, MN

Pastor's corner: God Becomes Man

The greatest non-fiction story in history: God became man to redeem humanity. Isn't it amazing what God did? He became human to rid our lives of the eternal consequences of sin, whereby we could experience His life and be with Him forever. If not for this spectacular event, no one could be saved.

I think about this often. I am utterly amazed how the God of the Universe (all-powerful and infinitely complex) would become like one of us, that the Creator would choose to dwell within human flesh.

We know that Jesus Christ (who was fully God) became fully human. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, our substitute. Jesus took the punishment we deserved. He made a way for us, redeeming us from our sin. He could do this because he was born without sin and lived a life without sin.

As we approach this Easter season I am so grateful that God loved us so much He would choose to live as a man for eternity. He was tempted, tried, and suffered for us; he was beaten, mocked, and died a gruesome death on the cross. He took the sin of the world upon His shoulders, all because of His love for us. There is no greater love than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Philippians 2:6-8 (NASB) "[Jesus] who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

This Easter season let's remember what our Great God did for us: He saved us from the penalty of sin and gave us abundant life. Let's be thankful, daily, for this wonderful gift.



Pastor Scott Peterson
New Beginnings Church
NBCLife.org

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
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

Christian

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

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

Full Gospel

Streetfire Ministries

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

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

Methodist

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

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

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

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

LERBERG'S FITNESS CENTER
118 5th Ave.
Ellendale
507-684-2471
Andy & Mary Lerberg

Minimizer
www.minimizer.com
800-248-3855
Blooming Prairie

FLOOR TECH
322 East Main St.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2276

ALYSNE CONTRACTING CORPORATION
3249 N County Road 45
Owatonna
507-451-7121

GARLICK'S WATER CONDITIONING
Kinetico water systems
Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing
800-722-1282
www.garlickswater.com

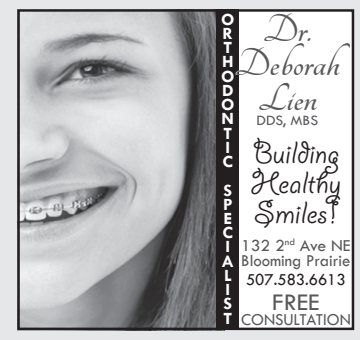
Koster's CAR KORNER
FOR THAT HOMETOWN PERSONAL TOUCH
Hwy. 218
Blooming Prairie
507-583-2018

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.
411 East Main Street
507-583-4431

KERNEL Restaurant
1011 Hoffman Drive
Owatonna
507-451-2585
www.kernelrestaurant.com

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET
Locally Owned & Operated
237 Hwy. Ave. S.
Blooming Prairie
507-583-6671

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.
411 East Main Street
507-583-4431



CLAREMONT SERVICE CENTER
Service Center:
507-528-2233
After Hours Towing:
507-456-4158
111 Front Street
P.O. Box 282
Claremont, MN



Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT
"Creating Your Story in Stone"
1180 Frontage Rd E • Owatonna
507-455-9551
www.owatonnagranite.com

REALIFE COOPERATIVE
Vibrant Living For Individuals 55 & Older at a Reasonable Price
Call Jon Arnett @
455-3735 for a tour
236 22nd St. SE • Owatonna

FARMERS INSURANCE
Mike Bishman
121 W. Broadway St.
Owatonna
507-451-0193

PRAIRIE PREDICTIONS



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Old Man Winter and Mother Nature continue their seasonal tug-of-war. Last week's blizzard, that ended it's own hot streak, is now melting under this week's higher temperatures.

Tuesday
High: 40º
Low: 22º

Friday
High: 43º
Low: 30º

Wednesday
High: 40º
Low: 26º

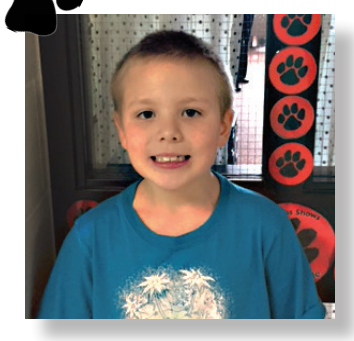
Saturday
High: 47º
Low: 32º

Thursday
High: 34º
Low: 32º

Sunday
High: 49º
Low: 36º

Information provided by The Weather Channel

PANTHER OF THE WEEK



Preston Lillico is the son of Porsha LaCroix and Matt Lillico and lives in Ellendale with his younger brother and sister.

He was nominated by his teacher Mrs. Dutton because he is always very sweet to everyone he meets. Preston is quiet, but in his own way shows others he cares by holding the door for them, cleaning up messes that aren't his, and borrowing students a pencil when needed.

Preston is patient and polite and deserves to be recognized for that!

When asked what he likes best about school he says, "just being with my teachers." He never leaves school without a hug for his teacher!

Preston's favorite movie is Lego Batman and his favorite food is pizza. When he grows up he wants to be an architect.

Keep up the great work!

Steve's Smokey Acres
Award Winning Home-Cured Meat Products
ESTABLISHED 1973



Sponsored by:
KREJCI FORD
15TH PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNER
Blooming Prairie
583-2046

Great Job Opportunities Available at Jennie-O Turkey Store!

Feedmill Operators in Medford and Northfield, MN
2nd and 3rd shift available Sunday-Thursday. Hours vary depending on shift. Competitive wages range from $14.68 to $18.35 per hr., depending on qualifications and experience. Successful candidates will be responsible for performing the functions and operating computer equipment necessary to produce feed products and other related duties and responsibilities. Candidates must demonstrate strong mechanical, computer, math, and writing skills and be able to lift 50 lbs. frequently.

Live Haul Leads in Faribault, MN
Successful candidates will supervise, instruct and train a small group of employees to load birds from various turkey production facilities. Must posses a CDL and Federal Medical Card. Competitive wage ranges from $18 to $22.50 per hr., depending on qualifications and experience.

Great Benefits include:

- Paid Weekly
- Overtime after 40 hours per week
- Affordable Health, Life, Dental, and Vision Insurance (Low premiums and low deductibles)
- Short- and Long-Term Disability Insurance
- 401k Retirement Plan with Company Match
- Employee Assistance Program
- Paid Vacation Days at Hire
- Paid Holidays
- Opportunities for Advancement & More!

If you would like more information or would like to apply, please contact us at:

Jennie-O Turkey Store
1116 NW 4th Ave.,
Faribault, MN 55021 • (507)-332-5318

Or email inquiries to Amparo Munoz at ayperezmunoz@j-ots.com • EEO/AA/M/F/Vets/Disabled

40 YEARS

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

for 40 years proudly serving

Austin Utilities · Blooming Prairie Public Utilities · Fairmont Public Utilities · Grand Marais Public Utilities · City of Lake City Public Utilities · Litchfield Public Utilities · Mora Municipal Utilities · New Prague Municipal Utilities · North Branch Municipal Water & Light · Owatonna Public Utilities · Preston Public Utilities · Princeton Public Utilities · City of Redwood Falls Public Utilities · rpu we pledge, we deliver · City of Saint Peter Public Utilities · Spring Valley Utilities Light & Water Department · Waseca Utilities · Wells Public Utilities

As a non-profit Agency, we have supplied our municipally owned member utilities with wholesale electric power at a fair price since 1977.

Our eighteen non-profit member utilities depend on us for reliable electricity, service they can trust, and long term security.

We look forward to serving your utility far into the future.

smmpa.com



TRUST.

stick with your loyal companion.
Your community newspaper is still the leading source for everything you need to know.

87% of all Minnesota adults read a paper each week. Want trust? Look no further.

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.

411 E. Main Street | PO Box 247
(507)583-4431 | Fax (507)583-4445

E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net • www.steeledodgenews.com

STEELE COUNTY TIMES PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

Excavating

SEPTIC SYSTEMS • Design • Installation • Compliance Inspections
• Aggregates • Hauling
• Washed Sand & Rock
• Black Dirt • Fill • Gravel
507-583-2999
Serving The Area Over 13 Years
Bonded & Insured
State License #1844
BISHOP EXCAVATING, INC.
• Excavation • Basements
• Demolition • Dozer Work
Commercial & Residential Sitework

Collision

THE ONLY AREA SHOP certified to work on the 2015 Ford Aluminum F150
Assured Performance Collision Care
CSI: www.csiaustinmn.com
Collision Specialists Inc 507.437.2837

Electrical

American Energy LLC 507-383-1547
Jay D. Peterson
Electrical Contractor
www.americanenergyllc.us
email americanenergyllc@gmail.com
Geothermal | Solar PV
IR Thermal Imaging | 3D Concrete Imaging

Tires

Mike's REPAIR
870 32 Ave. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-455-0388
Fax: 507-455-0486
After Hours: 507-455-0483
Tire Service
AG & Heavy Truck
Complete Truck Parts and Service
Mike Hartle
Owner

Truck Accessories

Minimizer
The lightest, most durable, longest lasting truck fenders, bracket kits, and truck accessories in the trucking industry.
AN AMERICAN FAMILY OWNED COMPANY FOR 30 YEARS
Minimizer.com • 800-248-3855 • Blooming Prairie

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact the Steele County Times Today!
Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.
507-583-4431

Farm

Mike & Jeff Custom Farms
We offer:
Seed
Chemical
Fertilizer
Custom Farming
Crop Scouting
MJC Farms, LLC
13324 89th Ave SE
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
Fax 507-572-1337
High Yields Start Here
Mike Ingvalson 507-456-1436
mikeingvalson@hotmail.com
Jeff Ingvalson 507-456-1439
jeffingvalson@hotmail.com

Pets

Bennett's Pet Haven Cemetery, Inc.
"Professional Cremation and Burial Services for your loving pet"
Larry & Donna Bennett
4151 N. County Rd. 45
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-2203
Cell: 507-456-7977
Shorty & Sue Schroht
857 Mosher Ave.
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 455-3204

Sanitation & Recycling

Stewart Sanitation & Recycling
Locally Family Owned and Operated Since 1994
507-451-0976
Your Local Choice!
When you have had it with the Large Corporate Companies, We offer you a friendly Small town way of doing business. Unlike our World Wide Competitors who rely on a contract to ensure your patronage, we earn it the old fashioned way!
Or Toll Free 1-888-451-0976 • P.O. Box 321 • Owatonna
email: info@stewartsanitation.com

Classifieds

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County ADvantage
Steele County Times

3-WEEK SPECIAL: $30
BUY TWO WEEKS, GET THE THIRD FREE
UP TO 20 WORDS; 10¢ FOR EACH WORD AFTER







REACH OVER 17,000 IN OVER 12 COMMUNITIES

To place an ad: Call: 507-583-4431, E-mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net, Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

FOR SALE

If you or a loved one have taken Xarelto and suffered any serious side effects, call 507-573-4430 to speak with a lawyer. You may be entitled to compensation. tfc

GRAB AND GO BOKAYS for $9.99. Free Delivery, in town, Owatonna. Call for delivery 507-451-7673. cedarfloraldesignstudio.com email: cedarfloral.com The right arrangement for all occasions. 1tfc

Antique Green & Cream Copper Clad Cookstove, Malleable Range N Series, serial number PB83, very good condition, call 507-583-2616 and leave name and phone number. 12,13,14p

FOR RENT

Apartments for rent, 1, 2 & 3 BR, gas & elec. Included. 507-273-7386. 50-1p, 2tfc

Hayfield, 1 br apt, laundry on-site, off street parking, heat included, must be 62+ or handicapped/disabled, rent based on income, Equal Housing Opportunity, Call 507-477-2316 42tfc

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

PRAIRE VILLA~ BLOOMING PRAIRIE 1 BDRM ground floor smoke free apartment for 62+/or disabled persons. Rent based on income & ALL utilites included! (507)451-8124 www.lifestyleinc.net tdd (507)451-0704. Equal Housing Opportunity. 12-14c

SERVICES

HAMM'S WELDING - All types, aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, fabrication work and repairs. HAMM'S WELDING, 528-2524, rural Claremont. 9tfc

Dodge County Printing, wedding invitations, bumper stickers, graduation invitations, pens, can holders, letterheads, envelopes, business cards, carbon-less forms, computer stationery. Ask about other items available, 507-634-2661. 33tfp

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

NEW Child Care in Kasson has openings for all ages.301-2810. 12-15c

New Daycare open now! Are you looking for a day-care where your little ones get loved on every day, a smaller setting so they get to read more, lots of personal attention, small field trips and of course extra snuggles? Then HOME AWAY FROM HOME is the perfect daycare for your child! 507-696-7284 call or text. 14-16c

EMPLOYMENT

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

Person wanted to run truck pumping for septic tanks, and drain cleaning, must be used to hard work. CDL required, A or B, must be able to lift 90 lbs. Contact Leth Sewer Service, 507-635-5590. 7tfc

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

WANTED

Crop land to rent. Young farmer looking to expand existing corn and soybean operation in Hayfield and surrounding area, call David Stanton, 507-951-0915 38tfc

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE @ KM HIGH SCHOOL- South Gym Sat. March 25th 9-3. Use the south doors by the District Office. 14pd

MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

MCAN STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT

KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
seeking FT long-term Math/English substitute teacher beginning April. Apply: www.kms.k12.mn.us; or letter of interest, resume, transcripts, teacher license, three letters of recommendation to: KMS, Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

CDL A DRIVERS
$7,500 sign-on-bonus. Medical benefits day 1 & earn $65k+ in your first year!!! Guaranteed pay. Profit sharing, 401k with company match & more! Call Jim Robbins 253/512-1887 or go to www.joinmclane.com/minnesota

FARM EQUIPMENT

FEATHERLITE STOCK TRAILER
Model 8200, 7'x22' Gooseneck, all aluminum, 2 inside gates, walk-on fender, electric lift & rubber mats. Call 763/438-6368

HEALTH

IF YOU HAD
hip or knee replacement surgery and suffered an infection between 2010 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call attorney Charles H. Johnson 800/535-5727

SAVE MONEY!
Call your local newspaper or MNA 800-279-2979 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!

MISCELLANEOUS

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!
Save! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get $25.00 OFF your first prescription! Call 877/210-2257 Promo Code: CDC201725

MISCELLANEOUS

GREAT OFFER FROM T-MOBILE
Unlimited data! Two lines for only $100/month (w/auto-pay.) No cost HD video feature. No cost upgrade for hi-speed mobile hotspot. Call 844/236-0126

GOT KNEE PAIN?
Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace - little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807

DONATE YOUR CAR
truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735

DISH TV – BEST DEAL EVER!
Only $39.99/mo. Plus $14.99/mo Internet (where avail). Free Streaming. Free Install (up to 6 rooms). Free HD-DVR. Call 800/297-8706

Kasson-Mantorville High School
is seeking to hire a
full-time (1.0 FTE) math teacher
Please complete an application on-line at
www.komets.k12.mn.us
and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and reference letters.
14c

KRUEGER TRUCKING
CDL driver over the road dryer van. Driver benefits included. Paid holidays, vacation pay, and 401K health plan.
Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
1-800-634-3317



Let people know what's happening!
Place your ad in the ADvantage STEELE - DODGE
over 13,000 viewers will see your event
Dodge County Independent
121 West Main Stree
Kasson, MN 55944
dci@kmtel.com
634-7503
DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Cleary Building Corp.
MINI STORAGE
New Building
Large Units Now Available

10 x 24....$70.00/month

Weekday hours:

8-12:00 & 1-5 p.m.
Saturday hours:
8-12:00

Excellent Location
At **Cleary Building Corp.**
702 7th St. Circle SE
Kasson, MN
(507)634-6640

WELLINGTON ADULT CARE
has a full time day position available working with elderly residents.
- We are a home and community based facility.
- We provide 24 hr care.
- Applicant must be 18 years old, have a valid drivers license and pass a background check.
- Experience preferred but will train the right person.

For application and interview
Call Bill or Janie Hill at
507-374-2198 or 507-319-4521


HOME SELLERS of Minnesota Inc.
Serving Your Buying and Selling Needs!
BOB REMKER
507-363-9275 Cell
bremker@gmail.com
www.HomeSellersMN.com

CITY OF KASSON
PART-TIME PARKS WORKER
Up to 25 hours per week

Employee would perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled parks and public works duties. Position requires high school diploma, or equivalent, and two to three years' work experience with equipment operation and general maintenance. Hold or able to obtain a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license. Position starts at $13.40 per hour.

Submit completed application to: Administrator, 401 5th St SE, Kasson, MN 55944 by 4:00, Friday, March 24, 2017. Call 507-634-7071 or visit www.cityofkasson.com for an application. The City of Kasson is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Office Assistant



The Dodge County Independent newspaper, along with its printing operation, Dodge County Printing, is accepting applications for a part-time office assistant.

Position requires:
- Customer service skills
- ability to organize, pay attention to detail and work with deadlines
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office & Excel
- Money handling skills
- Use of email, phone, fax and face to face communication
- Knowledge or willingness to learn weekly newspaper operation
- Quickbooks data entry

Hours 8-2 Monday-Friday. If interested please send resume and letter of interest to Publisher Rick Bussler at bprick@frontier.com or mail to 121 W. Main St., Kasson

DODGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT

WHEN A NURSING HOME IS NOT FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE...
Wellington adult care has trained staff who work 24 hrs. a day to provide you with services such as prepared meals, medication management, personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special diets are not a problem. We also arrange transportation to and from medical appointments accompanied by staff or family. We supply laundry services, and housekeeping. Our home is wheelchair accessible. We have a 1 to 5 staff to client ratio. All rooms are private. We serve a variety of clients over the age of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.
For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134
20tfc

Find us on Facebook
634-7503

HELP WANTED
CHS has multiple openings for **Seasonal Laborers/Drivers** at all our CHS locations including Byron, Claremont, Grand Meadow, Ostrander, St. Charles, Wykoff, & Chester, IA. Potential employees must be familiar with farm equipment, mechanically inclined and possess or have the ability to obtain a Class A or B CDL or a seasonal CDL.
Please apply online at:
www.chsrochester.com/about-us/careers
If you have any questions contact
Chris (Byron & Claremont) **507-775-2900**
Mike (Grand Meadow) **507-754-5125**
Mark (St. Charles) **507-932-4830**
Steve (Wykoff) **507-951-3343**
Troy (Ostrander) **507-657-2234**
Jeff (Chester, IA) **563-565-2415**
CHS EOE
9-15c

Fourth Avenue Homes, Inc. (FAHI)

Rochester and Mantorville Locations

We are dedicated to delivering quality care and services within our homes. This is where you can come in to help make a difference in someone's life while enjoying the work you do.

FAHI is seeking applicants for part-time positions. Positions require every other weekend. EOE

FOURTH AVENUE HOMES, Inc.

Please apply online at
www.divinehouse.org/fourth-ave/
then click on the orange "Employment" box

For additional information call Mindy (507)429-8962



TAX PREP GUIDE 2016

Possible penalty relief due to reasonable cause

First, check to see if the information in your notice is correct. If you can resolve an issue in your notice, there may be no penalty.

Reasonable Cause is based on all the facts and circumstances in your situation. We will consider any reason which establishes that you used all ordinary business care and prudence to meet your Federal tax obligations but were nevertheless unable to do so.

Typical Situations

The IRS will consider any sound reason for failing to file a tax return, make a deposit, or pay tax when due. Sound reasons, if established, include:

Fire, casualty, natural disaster or other disturbances

Inability to obtain records

Death, serious illness, incapacitation or unavoidable absence of the taxpayer or a member of the taxpayer's immediate family

Other reason which establishes that you used all ordinary business care and prudence to meet your Federal tax obligations but were nevertheless unable to do so

Facts Establishing Reasonable Cause

Facts we need in order to determine Reasonable Cause:

What happened and when did it happen?

What facts and circumstances prevented you from filing your return or paying your tax during the period of time you did not file and/or pay your taxes timely?

How did the facts and circumstances affect your ability to file and/or pay your taxes or perform your other day-to-day responsibilities?

Once the facts and circumstances changed, what actions did you take to file and/or pay your taxes?

In the case of a Corporation, Estate or Trust, did the affected person or a member of that individual's immediate family have sole authority to execute the return or make the deposit or payment?

Documents You May Need

Most reasonable cause explanations require that you provide documentation to support your claim, such as:

Hospital or court records or a letter from a physician to establish illness or incapacitation, with specific start and end dates

Documentation of natural disasters or other events that prevented compliance

Call the Toll-free Number on Your Notice

Is the information on your notice correct? If there is an issue you can resolve with your notice, a penalty might not be applicable. Call the toll-free number on your notice either to resolve the issue with your notice or to request penalty relief due to reasonable cause, if you feel you qualify and have the necessary supporting documentation. We may ask you to mail or fax your written statements to us.

Is Interest Relief Available?

Interest cannot be abated for reasonable cause. Interest charged on a penalty will be reduced or removed when that penalty is reduced or removed. If an unpaid balance remains on your account, interest will continue to accrue until the account is full paid. See our Interest Overview page for additional interest information..

STRUSS CPA
420 N Cedar Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 451-0611
WWW.STRUSSCPAS.COM

FAST INCOME TAX, INC.
Personal, Professional Tax & Accounting Service
YEAR 'ROUND
- COMPUTERIZED TAX FOR FEDERAL & ALL STATES
- INDIVIDUAL, FARMS, BUSINESS, PARTERNSHIP, PAYROLLS & PAYROLL TAX
- CORPORATE & FIDUCIARY ACCOUNTING SERVICE
We offer electronic tax filing (federal & state)
204 SW 12th Street, Austin
507-437-8511
Locally Owned & Operated - Erik C. Newhouse, CPA - Quickbooks Pro Advisor

WENCL ACCOUNTING AND TAX SERVICE
LISA ACKERMAN
Certified Tax Prepaer/Accounting Services
1122 South Oak, Owatonna MN
507-451-3399 | wats@gofast.am

Ellen E. Stebbins LLC
Tax Preparation & Accounting Services
607 East Main St. • P.O. Box 756 • Blooming Prairie, MN
Ellen Stebbins
Accountant - EA, RAP, ABA, ATP
Phone: 507-583-6601
507-583-6602
Fax: 507-583-2067

STOCKWELL ACCOUNTING
802 N Elm Ave
Owatonna, Minnesota
(507) 451-1873

Out-of-Town BUSINESS DIRECTORY
To join, call (507) 583-4431

ELLIS BODY SHOP
1231 BRADY BLVD. NW • OWATONNA, MN
JACK & TRACY ELLIS
Family Owned Since 1978
507-451-0845
(800) 310-0845
FAX (507) 451-0540

Sorenson's APPLIANCE & TV
101 North Central Ave • Geneva, MN
Open Monday & Thursday till 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday till 5 p.m.
Saturday till 3 p.m.
507-256-7258
www.sorensonsappliance.com

CONFIDENCE STARTS HERE SINCE 1952
Harland's Tire & Auto Center
Tires -Brakes - Exhaust
Complete Auto Repair
507-451-3084 - 800-446-3084
211 W. Main St.
Owatonna MN

FARMERS INSURANCE
Michael Bishman
121 W Broadway St
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-0193 - Fax: (507) 451-6640

ON-THE-SPOT Appliance Service
Orrin Mortensen, Owner
* * * OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE * * *
Phone 507-256-8099 or 507-214-8099
Call Anytime for an Appointment

Morris FURNITURE
- SINCE 1933 -
Full Line Furniture Store
Mattresses * Carpet * Delivery
WWW.MORRISFURNITURE.COM
1090 East Main Street – Albert Lea, MN
Hours M-F 10-7 ~ Sat. 10-5 ~ Sun. 12 - 4
507-373-6434 or 800-371-6434

SUZUKI ARCTIC CAT YAMAHA
OWATONNA, MN
SETTE SPORTS CENTER, INC.
507.451.6922
2299 Austin Rd. Hwy 14 E.
Owatonna, MN 55060
Phone: (507) 451-6922
www.settesportscenter.com

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Visit all of these advertisers from their ads on our website: www.steeledodgenews.com

Owatonna GRANITE & MONUMENT
1180 Frontage Rd. E,
Owatonna, MN
507-455-9551
OwatonnaGranite.com

Blooming Prairie Public Utilities
(507) 583-6683
Blooming Prairie, MN

• Personalized Pre–Arrangement
• PreFunding
• Purple Cross Plans
• Continuing Care
• Grief Support Resources
418 Hwy Ave. S. • Blooming Prairie, MN
(507) 583-7561
Mary Kittleson
NFDA Certified Pre–Planning Consultant
Worlein Funeral Home

HOMETOWNEXTRA
BLOOMING PRAIRIE



Wearing many large hats in a small town

Story & photos by MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

"It's a small town, I think we all wear a lot of hats," said local sports broadcaster and lawyer, Jason Iacovino.

Heavy hats at times, leisure hats at times, a daddy's hat and a husband hat. Whichever one you see him in, rest assured, it is a well-made hat that Jason Iacovino wears. Iacovino is not only an attorney in Blooming Prairie, but many times you may catch him at the local sporting events, not as a spectator, but as a broadcaster.

He is a journalist, he is an attorney, and he was born Minnesota friendly.

He wrote one of his first memorable stories while he was in college at the University of Minnesota while pursuing a degree in journalism. "When I was in college I did a few projects that were memorable. We had a dual program with the St. Paul Pioneer Press and they had me covering western



Wisconsin sports at the time. I remember I did a feature on this hockey coach in Somerset. The guy called me after it ran and he said, 'boy it was a really nice story that you ran, but there was only one problem.'"

Iacovino had misspelled his last name. "I had to call my editor and make the retraction, so that was not fun, but a good learning experience."

In a public affairs reporting class, he interviewed Speaker Steve Sviggum (56th Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives) when Sviggum was involved in a heated legislative session with then Governor Jesse Ventura. He also got a chance to speak with Ventura's press secretary. "They had quite a battle that spring as I recall," Iacovino said.

Iacovino who did many projects for the Minneapolis papers, even had a front-page sports story published in the Pioneer Press. "That was one advantage of the U of M journalism school," Iacovino said, "My adjuncts were teachers from the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, and we had this program where we would do an internship study type deal."

"It was interesting, but broadcasting which I really just consider a hobby," said Iacovino, "I take a lot of pride in it and I really love doing it. I was into back then, but I also had law in the back of my mind too."

As for the changes in broadcast journalism from when Iacovino was in college until now has changed in a lot of ways. "Back then, the way I was trained, the concept that you would use anything off the internet was a 'no-no' and you needed to get people on the record face to face." Iacovino said. "Even over the phone was kind of questionable. Today, it's just unbelievable as to how it's evolved. I mean… stuff on Twitter is considered 'on the record,'"

"There was always that inherent conflict even when I was being trained between being first and being right." Commented Iacovino. "They said, being right is the most important thing, but being first is a close second. It seems that as time has gone on here, being first has been elevated to the top."

With all the fake news that has circulated and gained momentum of late, Iacovino says that as a society we have become numb to the inaccuracies. He also cited the reason for fake news as being driven by consumer demand.

"On the sports side, we have websites like Deadspin (bills itself as: Sports News without Access, Favor or Discretion) which is basically gossip." Iacovino said. "When asked if they feel bad because they have come away from the training of basic journalism, they responded and said, 'well, that's for the consumer to decide.'"

Media outlets today, bogus or righteous, are concerned more with their readership, how many hits they get on a post or story and how many times they can get their name mentioned. Ultimately, when they take their product to advertisers, and show the advertisers how visible they are, the advertisers don't care if it's reputable or not. They want as many people to see their ad as possible.

One advertiser who has a regular spot in the National Enquirer once said, "Rich or poor, intelligent or ignorant, gullible or not, we don't judge the consumer that visits the paper. Sometimes more people want to read the fiction than the truth, and if that is where we sell the most trinkets, that's where we'll advertise."

And, whether it be the National Enquirer, the gossip magazines about the stars or the smut magazines, it's not the subscriptions that keep them in business, it's the advertisers. And here we go back to the bottom line. "Show me the money."

"Journalism used to be a profession," Iacovino said. "And by that I mean, if you or I wanted to teach, you couldn't just go down to the high school and start teaching. You'd need a degree and a certificate. In times past, you had to have a degree and a license, whereas today, everybody's a journalist."

Iacovino was born in Ely, Minnesota, into a newspaper family. "My dad (John Iacovino) was running a paper called the 'Ely Miner' at the time," Iacovino said. "He also, by the way has a journalism degree from the U of M, so I am cut from that same cloth.

By age 4 Iacovino's family relocated to Blooming Prairie after his dad decided to buy and run a small town weekly newspaper, then called the Blooming Prairie Times. "It was hard work." Iacovino said. "My memories of it are that my parents were gone every Monday night which was their production night. We basically never saw our parents from Monday until very early Tuesday morning."

His dad was with the Times for only a few years and then began his own publishing business in Blooming Prairie called Blossom Publishing.

One of Iacovino's fondest memories of growing up and obviously led to his love of sports was attending a Minnesota Twins game with his dad who was doing a story on the Twins. "I met Kirby Puckett." Iacovino said. "It wasn't a planned meeting, it was a chance meeting. I was on the field during batting practice and my dad was taking pictures. Kirby Puckett was on his way to the outfield and stopped for a picture."

As Iacovino expanded on that day and how his love for broadcasting was discovered as a 9-year-old in a Blooming Prairie backyard. "In 1988 I was nine, and that was the year I watched them (The Twins) all summer long and I remember I was doing Herb Carneal in my backyard, doing play by play. I could still probably reel off the 25-man roster if you gave me the chance. My love of Twins baseball really started that year, and really, my love of sports broadcasting."

Fast forward a few years to Owatonna where Iacovino stepped into local radio legend Roy Koenig's office at KRFO. "I waltzed in there in the summer of 2000 with a cassette tape of me doing the play-by-play of a baseball game and said, hey, I'd love to be on the radio, do you have anything for me?" Iacovino said.

As it turned out, Koenig put him to work as a color analyst for Friday night football in Owatonna. That was the beginning of his illustrious career in sports broadcasting. Here we are 17 years later and Iacovino is still broadcasting local sports in Steele County.

Iacovino's wife, Shannon and his two children, Lauren and Fletcher are some of his biggest fans. The hours, however, can get long as with prep-work and broadcasting and interviewing, but Iacovino says that although it's a sacrifice to his family, he says that he finds a way because he loves it so much.

"There are some late nights and obviously with a wife and two kids it can get challenging," Iacovino said. "But I love the prep work, and getting to know the names and numbers. For the Blooming Prairie football players, I feel bad, because although I couldn't pick them out of a lineup, if they wore numbers, I'd know exactly who they are and what position they play."

The other love in Iacovino's life is the law. After getting his journalism degree, he being very much the overachiever,



decided to opt for law school.

"It's a profession where you do a lot of talking, much like broadcasting," Iacovino said. "but at the end of the day, it's really about helping people and being able to go to bat for them."

He was also intrigued by the television law programs. He and his wife watched many cases within the many Hollywood courtrooms from the friendly confines of his living room couch. Now as a lawyer he cannot stomach the "un-reality" of it all. You might say his wife is now an L.A. Law widow – left to enjoy the show by herself.

"Believe it or not, the O.J. Simpson trial had a lot to do with it." Iacovino said with a grin. "I was fascinated and I said, 'I want in on this' to this profession, although the kind of law I do now has nothing to do with the kind of law F. Lee Baily and Alan Dershowitz practice. But that's what people think law is, and trust me, we try to do good work and hard work for the folks here locally."

Iacovino was at BP high school, sitting in a classroom where his teacher had a television set up. "When they read the verdict, I'll never forget that moment." Iacovino said. "That was it for me. I decided, I'm going to be a lawyer. I want to be that guy."

As for his career in Blooming Prairie where he just recently became a partner and primary shareholder with Frank Henefield at Henefield Law Office, Iacovino has found out that Blooming Prairie is a million miles away from the brightly lit courtrooms of MGM or NBC or even CNN.

"The challenge locally in a small town is you're not specializing. We do a lot of Real estate, estate planning, city attorney (Henefield Law Office is the representing firm for the city)." Iacovino said. "My main goal is to get people comfortable with seeing a lawyer and using our services. People are scared of lawyers, and I agree, lawyer services are not the most fun services to get."

Iacovino also mentioned that to instill confidence in his services are something he strives for. He wants to let people know that he will go to bat for them. His long term is also to grow the office and serving southeastern Minnesota.

Iacovino summed up his practice as he said, "I want to have a personal relationship with my clients. Yeah, I might have JD next to my name, I might come into the office with a shirt and tie, but at the end of the day, I'm just a regular guy just like the rest of you."

A regular guy with an impressive collection of hats.



Blooming Prairie Times
66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE 1867–2017

Blooming on the Prairie for a century and a half!

Minimizer
Proud sponsor of BP's 150th year!

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Remember Me
WHEN YOU BUY
THAT BILL OF...,
FURNITURE

Which you figure on putting in your residence this fall. My stock is complete in every particular and in all grades, at prices that defy competition.

Perhaps you want a nice Carpet or Rug. You will find just what you want in this line at my store.

Call in and look my stock over. You will see that goods and prices are right.

K. O. HAUG,
UNDERTAKER & EMBALMER.

106.3 FM Train 1170 AM
KOWZ 100.9 FM
KRUE Country 92.1
KOWZ/KRUE
Home & Recreation Show
presented by: Deml HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Deml HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Four Seasons Centre ◆ Owatonna, MN
Fri. March 24 • Sat. March 25 • Sun. March 26
3pm - 8pm 9am - 5pm 11am - 3pm
Something Fun For Everyone!
Decorating - Insulating
Heating & Cooling
Carpeting
Landscaping
Siding - Cabinets
Water Conditioning
Electrical - Decks
Wall Covering
Realtors - Financing
Storage Buildings
Remodeling - Windows
Resorts - Spas
Lawn mowers, & MORE
Don't Miss!
A Weekend at Tuck-A-Way Resort
one given away every day of the show
Tuck-A-Way resort and campground
Win a 50 inch Flat Screen TV!
Must be over 21 to win
Free Admission ◆ Free Parking

QUAKER DOCTORS

of the Quaker Medical Institute, 235 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota, will be at the ....

West Hotel,

Sun. noon to Mon. noon,

July 17 and 18



These expert Specialists will visit Blooming Prairie every month

Those who are suffering with chronic diseases of the eye, ear, nose, throat, lungs, heart, liver, stomach, kidneys, blood diseases, nervous affections, tumors, ulcers, cancers and chronic diseases of the skin, or any form of male or female weakness, should call on these good old QUAKER DOCTORS now and be Cured.

No matter what your ailment may be, how long you have suffered, or who has failed to cure you, there is still hope of you being restored to health and happiness by the QUAKER DOCTORS.

When they promise a cure they never fail; then they will not fail in your case. Would you be well? Then do not despair.

Consultation and Examination Free!

A HOME BANK MINNESOTA UNDER STATE SUPERVISION

Considering A Banking Change?

If you are considering a banking change and know any of our depositors, have a talk with them.

If you don't happen to know any of our depositors–come in and have a talk with us.

Most of our new business comes to us directly or indirectly through our customers–evidence of our satisfactory Service.

You'll be satisfied, too.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS STATE BANK
Blooming Prairie, Minn.

Blooming Prairie Times
66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

March madness revisited

Local legend takes a trip down memory lane for Blossoms hoops

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

March madness in the NCAA tournament is upon us once again, but that annual extravaganza reminds me of Blooming Prairie's own March madness and one of a kind experience way back in 1966, when the Blossom boys earned their first and only trip to the high school state tournament in Minneapolis. It morphed into a trip that was very disappointing, but also filled with good memories of the historical time.

To reach that pinnacle of success, the team had to defeat Northfield and Red Wing, both from schools much larger than Blooming Prairie. During the season BPHS had also overcome Owatonna and Austin, which gave them the distinction of defeating five Big Nine conference teams that year. Remember, no classes existed in the schools, and everyone played on equal terms

The victory over red wing in the Region 1 finals, proved almost unbelievable to the Blossom faithful, and sent the entire town and community into a week-long frenzy of celebration and adulation of school spirit. Every business in town had signs of congratulation and good luck in their windows, and the players were met with cheers and good luck wishes every time they appeared downtown.

At the high school students and teachers alike had great difficulty concentrating on school work, and most would admit that not much teaching happened that entire week. In the gym, the team went about the business of preparing for play at the tournament. Radio and newspaper reporters asking for interviews or access to the players constantly contacted coaches.

In that regard a little levity entered into the proceeding. When Star Tribune veteran sports writer Sid Hartman asked Coach Jim Poole to what he attributed the team's success. Coach Poole replied succinctly, "We scored more points than the other team." No one was sure if Hartman appreciated the levity or not. Unfortunately, the tournament experience had more than its share of disappointment as well.

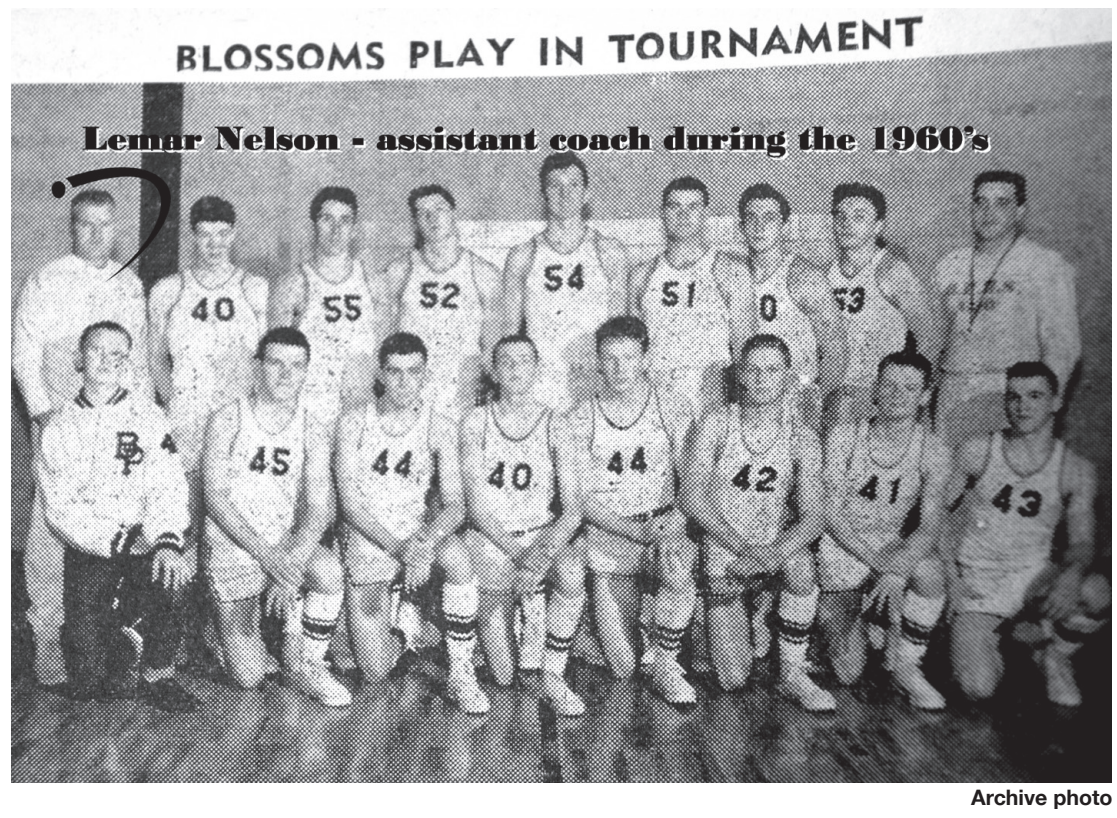
The day before the team was scheduled to travel to Minneapolis, one of the worst snowstorms in years hit the community, canceling school and any plans for the trip. On Wednesday night The Minnesota State High School League sponsored a big dinner for all of the eight teams competing in the tournament. Unfortunately, we could not attend, as much of the team was still snowbound. In fact, one of the team members had to be rescued from Albert Lea by snowmobile, as most roads were impassable.

Thursday morning the team finally managed to get on the road and on the way to Minneapolis and Williams Arena.

One other obvious drawback remained in that all the other teams had a short practice chance on the raised floor of Williams Arena. BP arrived in town too late for that luxury, as well. To make matters just a little more difficult, two of the starters came down with a case of the flu and played under great duress.

That takes nothing away from the games themselves. Henning, a very good team from up north, had a pair of twins who would go on to college and have stellar careers. Henning dominated the second half, outscoring a tiring Blossom squad for a relatively easy win. Still suffering from illness and the rest of the stress caused by the storm, Blooming Prairie provided little resistance, and Windom ended the BP tournament experience with a lopsided. Big school Edina eventually won the tournament.

As one of the coaches on that team, I can attest to the fact that, despite the hardship encountered in that tournament, it made memories for coaches, players, and fans and brought a school sprit to the entire community that has not been matched before, during, or after. This was truly a unique and wonderful week in the annals of history.



Archive photo

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE

A place for all kids to feel welcome.
A place that nurtures kids—a place where they can grow.
A place that gives them every opportunity to be their best.
The Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie is
the place for everyone.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMING PRAIRIE
401 4th St SE,
Blooming Prairie MN 55917
507.583.6699
msundine@bgclubroch.org
www.bgclubroch.org

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE
MY BP
RECOLLECTIONS
In honor of Blooming Prairie's 150th anniversary, the Times is looking for reader submissions detailing life in the community.
Help us celebrate Blooming's rich heritage!
One winner will be chosen every month and awarded a pair of tickets to the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre!
• No more than 300 words
• Signed with contact info
• Submit to the Times
• E-Mail: bptimes@frontiernet.net
• Mail: P.O. Box 247, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
• In Person: 411 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE
Blooming Strong
Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
314 E Main St, Blooming Prairie 507-583-7528
A BP ANCHOR SINCE 1997
ANCHOR OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
JOHNSON, DOERHOEFER AND MINER P.A.

150 1867–2017 BLOOMING PRAIRIE
Blooming on the Prairie for a century and a half!
Minimizer
Proud sponsor of BP's 150th year!
150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Hometown Living

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, March 21, 2017



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

The cast of the Medford's Wizard of Oz welcome people to the Emerald City as they rehearse one of the musical's biggest numbers. Students from both the high school and elementary help make up the cast.

The Wizard of Oz lives in Medford

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Follow Medford High School down the yellow brick road, as they present The Wizard of Oz under the direction of Shelly Fitzgerald.

This musical spectacular has a cast of over 50 students dancing across the stage to one of America's most beloved classics.

The play follows Kanas native Dorothy as she is sucked up by a twister and dropped into the magical world of Oz, inhabited by wizards and munchkins alike. She's on a quest to best a wicked witch and return home with the help of her merry band of companions she meets along the way.

"Visually wonderful to see," is how Fitzgerald described the show. Everything from the set to the costumes has been pushed to the limits. She says the audience can expect a few surprise special effects as well.

A classic musical, the show contains more songs than the famous film adaption. Students tap-dance and swing dance their way through numbers like "The Jitterbug" that will be new even to those who know the film by heart.

Senior Michael Kannes plays the titular wizard. His favorite part is the song, "Wonders of the World." He says it's a beautiful song that's added to the beginning of the show, while Dorothy is still in Kansas.

This is Kannes seventh production and fourth musical one. He's excited to share the show with the public. "It's a very classic play," Kannes

WIZARD
Continued on page 7B

In Blooming Prairie, who done it?

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Who done it?

A capacity audience of 218 participated in a whodunit murder mystery presentation at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday night, March 18.

"Pasta, Passion and Pistols" was presented by a dinner theatre group sponsored by the groups that comprise the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club: American Legion, VFW, their auxiliaries, Sons of the American Legion and the Servicemen's board.

This show was the third in a row. All proceeds for the fund-raiser go to the Servicemen's Club.

Eight local actors and actresses used a high percentage of ad lib remarks to bring across the message of the murder mystery. Kari Bottin directed the performance.

"I loved working with this cast and it was fun to see them grow as the rehearsals and the actual performance took place," said Bottin.

Audience members, at the conclusion of the play, were invited to cast their votes as to who the murderer was. Clues as to the murderer's identity were placed routinely on a table near the stage.

The mystery takes place in New York City's most popular Italian eatery, LaSperanza.

The action takes place in 1995 when four days earlier, restaurateur Guiseppe (Pepi) Roni was found murdered in the kitchen of La Sperenza. He had been shot in the back with his own pistol. On this particular night, family and friends gathered to pay their respects to poor Pepi and to eat a feat of Italian food in his honor.

Prior to the beginning of the play, guest were treated to appetizers and had a chance to interact at their tables with cast members.

Volunteers served a salad, Lasagna and garlic bread and Tiramisu to table guests.

Suspects of murder were:

Rocco Scarfazzi (H. Peterson), Pepi's twin brother, a tough-talking no-nonsense Italian business man. In addition to his vineyards and real estate holdings, it is rumored Rocco is in the (laundering" business. He had no love for his brother Pepi.

Tara Misu (Jaclyn Schlichter), Rocco's vivacious young fiance.

Mama Rosa (Judy Engelken), Pepi's grieving widow.

Marco Roni (Justin Esplan), Pepi and Mama Rosa's only son who desired to play on a world Cup soccer team.

Angel (Jessie Christianson), Pepi and Rosa's daughter who desired to marry a good Italian boy.

Bo Jalais (Jason Iacovino), cousin of a cousin of Rocco and manager of Scarfazzi vineyards.

Father Alfredo (Jeff Zwiener), Italian priest and long-time family friend of the Ronis.

Clair Voyant (Joanne Sorenson), Rosa's best friend and astrology advisor.

Following a sharing of the audience's pick of the murderer, the true identity of the murderer was revealed.. Bo Jalais was tagged the murderer.

In a spontaneous conclusion, a uniformed Blooming Prairie police officer Jake Peterson and an audience member, Chief Greg Skillestad went on stage to arrest Jalais (aka Jason Iacovino).

Organizers Karen Beede and Carol Holman thanked guests and volunteers for being a part of the special evening.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Clair Voyant (aka Joanne Sorenson) takes a look into the future during the production of "Pasta, Passion & Pistols" at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club on Saturday, March 18.

BP Elementary students make auction items



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Fifty-six Blooming Prairie Elementary School kindergarteners in three classes worked on this canvas creation, "Be Awesome Today." The letters are made with photos of kindergarteners.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Blooming Prairie Elementary School students are having a chance to show off their creativeness when many of their creations will be part of the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auctions.

With the guidance of some creative teachers, all grades participated in making classroom items to be placed on either the silent auction or live auction at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company on Saturday, March 25

Each classroom of the seven grades writes a book that is part of the large group of offerings from the students.

First graders made photo puzzles. Kindergarteners put together special canvass paintings. All three kindergarten classes totaling 56 students participated in the project of making a canvas print entitled "Be Awesome Today".

Sixth graders created an "I Spy" photo and riddle book.

Third graders built a large lawn Jenga game with the help; of Brady Johnson and his grandfather Kevin Johnson.

Pre-schoolers made a table and chair containing their handprints.

Fourth graders built a grillers delight table.

Fifth graders made Minnesota sports baskets.

Sixth grade boys worked on a tie blanket that took them only about 30 minutes to make. Artists for this creation were: Jacob Weinberger, Jesse Cardenas, Cade Christianson, Jayden Schewe, Aidan Holmes, Sam Pirkl, Tyler Miller, Cyprus Schleicher, Alexander Riley and Travis Poe.

BP Elementary Principal Chris Staloch said BP students, staff and parents "do a good gob of putting baskets together" for the Education Foundation Auction. We have some very creative individuals, great parent support and we work to include our students' skills in the projects and baskets," Staloch added.

AUCTION
Continued on page 2B

Generosity in our community



MICHELLE REDMAN

What is generosity? The dictionary states it is the quality of being kind and generous. Then we may ask, how would you describe generous?

Google describes it as a person who shows a readiness to give more than is strictly necessary or expected; or showing kindness towards others.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota witnesses generosity daily from our volunteers who give of their time to spend with a child; to our donors, who believe in our mission and that every child should have the opportunity to succeed in life.

This weekend, I was able to experience true generosity. We held our annual gala, Evening for Kids' Sake on Saturday. Attendees not only paid for a ticket, but also bid on silent and live auction items.

Don't get me wrong, everyone in attendance was demonstrating generosity by being there, but that isn't where the true meaning of generosity came in.

That happened during the part of our live auction called fund-a-need. This is the time of the auction where we present an initiative and ask for support. People raise their bidder numbers not to receive an item but to donate to the cause.

Big Brothers Big Sisters initiative Mentoring Children of Prisoners was the cause. I spoke about the program and how truly vital it is to our community. In 2016, 32% of the children we served in our program had a parent or significant family member incarcerated or involved with law enforcement. Studies show, if these children don't receive any intervention, such as a positive role model like a Big, they have a 70% chance of being incarcerated or involved with the law when they become an adult.

I had the opportunity to introduce a wonderful Big Sister and Little Sister to tell their story. The Little's story isn't an easy one, but in her words "it's my story to tell". The only sound in the room of over 250 people was that of a young lady giving words to an unthinkable childhood.

As she told her story, her Big Sister was by her side lending support and quiet confidence.

As she finished her story, she told the audience she's proud of who she has become. She will be the first in her family to graduate high school and to hold a job for a year. She told everyone that the one constant in her life, was her Big Sister. As she spoke, tears were shed by many. When she was done, hands were raised and bids were made.

In under a few minutes, $34,000 was raised and true generosity was shown. People giving not to receive, but to show kindness and offer other children the opportunity to benefit from a Big.

True generosity isn't one sided though. As the saying goes; in giving, we receive. I would like to believe that everyone who gave on Saturday to this important initiative, received something in return. Because when good is given, it multiplies.

Michelle Redman is the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota.

Blooming Prairie Living

Learning to be leaders in agriculture

"We learn from one another. . ."

- Patrick O'Connor

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Who are our rural leaders in agriculture?

Two of them just returned from a week-long leadership seminar in Washington, D.C. They are Patrick O'Connor, Blooming Prairie area farmer and Ashley Schmeling, a precision agronomist for Central Farm Services, a cooperative of Blooming Prairie.

O'Connor and Schmeling are two of 30 individuals enrolled in the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership (MARL) program. It is a two-year research and development project that is a collaboration between Southwest Minnesota State University of Marshall and the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Cenex Harvest State (CHS) and the Minnesota Corn & Soybean Growers Association among others are sponsors of the program.

The main goal of MARL is to further develop leaders in agriculture. O'Connor is the youngest of the 30 enrolled in the program.

"We learn from one another how to be a leader and advocate in our communities," O'Connor informed. Ashley said she had "her eye on the program" for some time before she applied last year.

The two-year educational experience started last November for O'Connor and Schmeling. They are both part of class #9.

The program features nine three-day in-state seminars, a six-day national study seminar and a 10- to 14-day international study seminar.

The curriculum is designed to have immediate applicability for active leaders. Each session features a mix of leadership study, personal skill-building, and location-related subject matter.

Participants in the program represent two thirds agricultural producers and the other third represents people involved in agribusiness or rural leadership positions.

Patrick and Ashley are both Blooming Prairie High School graduates, 2008 and 2006, respectively.

O'Connor is part of O'Connor Farms with his father James and brother-in-law Sam Wencl. The family farm is dedicated to crop farming and to raising 7200 hogs. O'Connor's father is a graduate of the sixth class of MARL.

Patrick said he watched his father go through the program and learned from him by going to various MARL events.

Schmeling works with 42 area farmers with their precision agriculture needs. She addresses farmers' needs including helping service monitors in tractors and combines. Ashley helps make variable rate rules for fields and collects pertinent data.

Ashley, who has a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, also farms with her father Larry, uncle Ron and brother Cody. The Schmelings grow corn and soybeans and the fields is where you will find Ashley in the spring during planting and in the fall during harvest time.

Choosing agriculture over journalism, "Ashley proudly says, "This is where I belong."

O'Connor praises Ashley for her expertise in agricultural consulting. "She is good at what she does and she is our go-to person," O'Connor said.

O'Connor attended Riverland Community College, studying business. Talking about MARL, O'Connor said it helps strengthen personal and professional growth. "You try to be the best person you can be," he said.

"It was just the right time for me to get involved," O'Connor said.

The transparent program is active from November to March with a meeting also scheduled in June. In total, 11 meetings are held each year.

An upcoming meeting is scheduled for Crookston where the MARL participants will learn more about sugar beets. "Raising corn and soybeans in this area, we don't know too much about sugar beets," O'Connor said. The group meets in Austin in December.

Each session has a theme. Conflict resolution will be an upcoming topic. Future meetings are also scheduled in Willmar, Marshall and St. Paul.

"Everyone brings something different to the table and getting to know your classmates is very rewarding," Ashley said.

One of the final steps in the MARL program will see participants traveling to a foreign country. The location is unknown at this time.

O'Connor and Schmeling just recently spent five full days in Washington, D.C.

"We did everything including visit the embassies of Chile, Germany, Morocco and Kazakhstan," shared Schmeling. O'Connor visited the Arlington National Cemetery. Schmeling visited the Ford Theatre. Both visited the Kennedy Performing Arts Center.

The MARL students also toured monuments and met with legislative leaders in the House and Senate including First District Congressman Tim Walz and U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.

MARL classmates had an opportunity to see an agriculture committee draft and review a new Farm Bill.

"We were encouraged to be more engaged and be a voice at home," said Ashley. "Let your voice be heard," Pat interjected. "We have the power to make an impact," Ashley says.

Visits with lobbyists were arranged. "We found out how lobbyists bring the message forward," said O'Connor.

Schmeling listened to presentations on renewable fuels. She also met with representatives of the North American Meat Institute. Pat met with officials of the Humane society of the U.S.

The two MARL representatives from Blooming Prairie met with the National Association of Counties. Small groups were formed with Ashley and Pat working with Illinois, Indiana and Washington state.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Blooming Prairie High School graduates Pat O'Connor and Ashley Schmeling are two of 30 Minnesotans involved in the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (MARL) program.

"We had a full schedule from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.," Ashley related.

The take-aways from the Washington visit were many for the MARL students. Ashley and Pat are now connecting on the local level with their state legislators including Rep. Peggy Bennett and Sen. Dan Sparks.

As the meetings progress back in Minnesota, the strength of leadership increases. Part of the charge for Ashley and Pat will be to point out to young people that there are many career paths available in agriculture.

"There are a lot of high-tech, good jobs out there," Pat says. "Agriculture is continuously changing and many challenges await us," Ashley said.

Young people must take the steps needed to move forward, O'Connor said. "The young must take one step forward and older people must take one step back," O'Connor theorized.

O'Connor and Schmeling say they "are blessed" to be involved in agriculture in such a productive farmland area. Blooming Prairie is celebrating 150 years this year and its growth has been spurred by agriculture, O'Connor and Schmeling believe.

"It's been a blast," O'Connor says when reflecting on the program thus far. He says the personal and professional growth will continue "when we get to know ourselves before we can lead others."

O'Connor and Schmeling hope to use their knowledge learning in the MARL program to promote rural living.

"The real work has started and hopefully we can use this training for the good of others in our community," O'Connor concluded.

This week's auction will fund BP education

AUCTION: from page 1B

Most of the elementary student creations will be featured on the silent auction part of Saturday's 14th annual BP Education Foundation auction.

Continuing, Staloch said: "The students are very fortunate to have a community that supports their growth and development so much. The students enjoy doing these projects and having their skills and talents be such an important part of the Auction."

The silent auction starts at 3 p.m. and closes at 6 p.m. when the live auction begins.

"We made $29,000 on our first auction 14 years ago," said Sue Zwiener, one of the organizers of this phenomenal money maker which benefits the kids of the Blooming Prairie School District.

Last year's silent and live auctions brought in $80,000, a record. Taking a total on all of the BP Education auctions, one learns that $750,000 has been raised for the benefit of the local education system.

Proceeds from the auctions are used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year.

Funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, the robotics team at the high school and the lego project at the elementary school.

Event planners again expect 300-plus items to be auctioned. Bid numbers can be picked up at a cost of $5 each, beginning at 3 p.m. the day of the auction.

Some of the items to be auctioned, include: handmade furniture, beautiful quilts, one-week stay in Mexico, Hillbilly Bash, birthday parties, delicious baked goods, Minnesota Vikings tickets, Minnesota Twins tickets, Minneosta Gophers football helmet signed by Coach P.J. Fleck, handcrafted gun cabinet, 2 Justin Bieber concert tickets, 1950s BPHS cheerleading megaphone, antique pay phone, utility shed and many golf packages.

A "Buy It Now" section will be introduced this year, in addition to a purse auction and a mystery raffle. Chances will also be sold to determine the child to be on next year's auction poster.

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.

Chamber Spotlight

Communities can celebrate local businesses

Owning a business is the goal of many would-be entrepreneurs. Being your own boss has certain perks, including making your own hours and not having to report to anyone but yourself.

But owning a business is a lot of work, especially for new business owners trying to get their businesses off the ground. According to Bloomberg, eight out of 10 entrepreneurs who start businesses fail within 18 months of opening their doors. The Small Business Association indicates the numbers are not so dire, saying 30 percent of new businesses fail in the first two years of operation; 50 percent during the first five years; and 66 percent during the first 10.

Local businesses face an uphill battle to survive, but there are many things residents can do to support these valuable additions to their communities.

• Shop locally. Shopping locally not only supports local businesses, but it also contributes to the local economy. Shopping locally keeps money in the community, which can benefit everyone. Shopping locally produces a trickle-down effect, as local businesses that are thriving may patronize other local businesses, and so on. This, in turn, helps grow other businesses in the community, making it a nicer place to live and work.

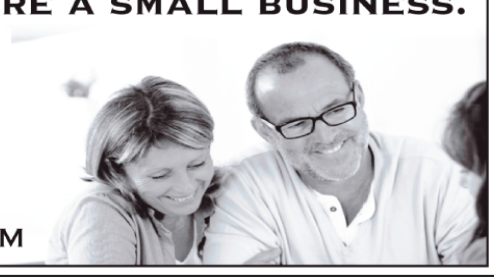
• Spread the word. Word-of-mouth advertising is effective. A respected member of the community who shares a good experience with a local business may propel others to patronize the business. Speak up when you feel a business owner has provided an exceptional level of service. Recommend a company to friends and neighbors. You also may want to review a business via online rating websites such as Yelp or Angie's List.

• Attend grand openings. Each community is unique, and often the vibe of a community is defined by the businesses that call that community home. Attend grand openings to show you are invested in the quality and vitality of your community. When others see a business doing well, they may be more inclined to shop there as well.

• Apply for work. Another way to support a local business is to work for one. Small local businesses employ millions of people across the country, and many foster great working environments. In addition, small businesses are known for their customer service, and employees often become experts in their products and services because of the hands-on experience they gain while working for small businesses.

Supporting and celebrating local businesses can instill a sense of community pride and benefit the local economy in a myriad of ways.

WE UNDERSTAND SMALL BUSINESS
BECAUSE WE ARE A SMALL BUSINESS.
Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
583-7528
314 E. Main St. • Blooming Prairie
WWW.JOHNDOERCPA.COM



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

A Touch of Charm donates $920 in daffodil sales

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

With eight inches of new snow on the ground, it is troubling to think that spring is around the corner.

Take a look at the vase on the kitchen counter holding a bunch of daffodils. The pretty, yellow flowers are now opening after being purchased five days previous.

Leanne Hanson of A Touch of Charm turned over $920 to Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group. Hanson sold 120 bunches, 30 more than last year.

"The whole Blooming Prairie community can pat itself on the back for its contributions," remarked Hanson.

Krejci said she always buys a bunch on the first day and on the final day of the sales drive. "They sure are beautiful," said Krejci.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Leanne Hanson, owner of A Touch of Charm in Blooming Prairie, presents $920 in monies, gained from the sale of 120 bunches of daffodils, to the BP Cancer Group. Cheri Krejci, right, accepts the money.

Sponsored by **Krejci** Ford

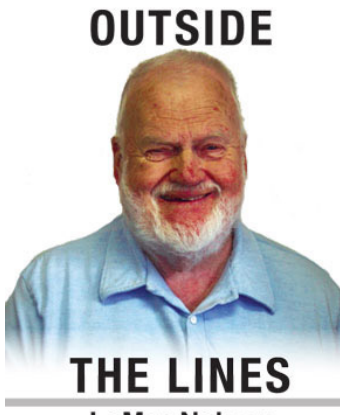
Four Blossoms commit, 4B

Hometown Sports

@SCTZimmer

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 www.steeledodgenews.com 3B

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

Area schools see success

Our area of the state continues to turn out some of the best basketball teams in the state, both boys and girls. In the state tournament just completed several area teams competed for titles. In our conference, a big tip of the hat goes to the NRHEG girls, who made it back to the big dance again and won the consolation title after losing their opener to No.1 ranked Rosseau. In a bit of irony, the Panthers defeated Lourdes for the consolation prize.

And in a real rarity, the Panther boys also advanced to the state tournament with a one-point victory over Jordan. This isn't the first time both the girls and boys from the same school have competed in the state tournament, but it hasn't happened more than a handful of time. That is quite an accomplishment for our neighbors to the west. I have maintained for a coupe of years that the Panthers are riding a very high cycle of athletic success, and the state tournament appearances offer proof of that. They have been on quite a roll, for sure.

In our section, Goodhue went to the tournament for the second straight year and then repeated as state champion. The team represented section 1A in excellent fashion. Lourdes also earned a trip to the state, but lost its first round game and then won the next one. From the state corner, Winona also earned a trip to the state and won its first two contests.

In the college ranks, if I hadn't picked our own Gopher men to win their first round game, I would have done quite well in picking winners of the first round games of the NCAA tournament. Now we will have to see if my luck can continue for the next round. The Big Ten did all right with Purdue, Wisconsin, Michigan, Michigan State, and Northwestern all emerging victorious, while the Gophers and Maryland were the only losers.

It isn't very often that four high school athletes can earn continued playing time at college, but this year four BPHS players signed letters of intent to continue their careers at various college. Although Taylor Christianson signed to play golf at NAIA College in Iowa and is slotted into the No.2 golfer for the Vikings. Marissa Larson will continue her basketball career at Beth College, where she will join BPHS graduates Anthony Nelson and Shelbie Swenson. Seth Bedenbaugh, the son of Times editor Mark and Robyn DeLap, will continue his basketball playing at North Central University

Finally, Elly Strunk will join the Gustavus Adolphus student body and participate in two sports. She will play softball for the Gusties and also become a member of the champion hockey team. Strunk has been a team leader for the Blossom softball team for three years and has played her hockey career as a team member of the Dodge County Wildcats out of Kasson High School, as Blooming Prairie has no hockey program.

SCHOOL HISTORY!



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Members of the NRHEG basketball squad celebrate after winning the Section 2-AA title over Jordan High School Friday at the Taylor Center on the campus of MSU-Mankato. The Panthers defeated Jordan High school 65-64 in the finals seconds after Oakley Baker held onto the ball on the final inbound, running out the final 4.5 seconds.

Panthers earn school's first ever state tournament berth

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Mankato – In any sport, coaches look to their star players to make the game-changing and often the game-deciding plays.

However, for NRHEG High School's boys basketball coach Pat Churchill, it was what his star player didn't do Friday night in the Section 2-AA title game that decided the game.

After a Jordan layup cut the lead to 65-64 with 4.5 seconds left, Panthers forward Oakley Baker held on the ball on the ensuing inbounds, running out to clock to to only only beat Jordan High School for the Section 2-AA title, but send NRHEG to the state tournament for the first time in program history.

"That's just basketball IQ," commented Churchill. "He just knew that situation and handled it perfectly."

He continued to add that he doesn't have the words for this team's performance and noted that earlier in the year, they kind of wanted a chance to go, but didn't say it.

"We knew deep down that this was the goal we had and they worked every day for it and its just a great achievement for them," added Churchill.

Coming into the title game Friday night, the Panthers knew that the big task was trying to stop Jordan from getting into a

BOYS
Continued on page 4B

Panthers finish strong

NRHEG's girls win two-straight to take fifth at state tournament

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

St. Paul – Similar to its first two Class AA state tournament games, the NRHEG girls basketball team was in a one possession game midway through the first quarter.

Then Betsy Schoenrock delivered the block that set the tone for the Panthers and they never looked back.

Four different Panthers reached double digits as NRHEG (27-6) downed the Rochester Lourdes Eagles (22-11) Friday afternoon at the Gangelhoff Center on the campus of Concordia University-St. Paul, earning a fifth place finish at the Class AA state tournament.

"I can't say enough about this group," commented NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson. "They work extremely hard, they have a great attitude and they play with a lot of heart which is great to see."

The opening minutes of the game were similar to Thursday's contest against Esko. The Panthers quickly jumped out to 13-8 lead after a pair of Marnie Wagner treys from the corner. Wagner, who scored nearly 17 points in each of NRHEG's tournament games, made all three of her attempts from deep in the first half for 11 points.

The senior finished with 15 points as well as being named

GIRLS
Continued on page 4B



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Captains for the NRHEG girls basketball squad celebrate at Concordia University-St. Paul Friday after winning the consolation championship over Rochester Lourdes. With the win, the Panthers took home a fifth place finish.

CASH WISE Employee Owned #1 IN LOW PRICES!

Large Selection & Low Prices Right To Your Door!

CashWiseDelivers.com

495 West N. Street, Owatonna
507-451-7220 • www.cashwise.com

OPEN 24 HOURS



4 Blossoms solidify athletic futures



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

From left to right: Marissa Larson, Elly Strunk, Taylor Christianson and Seth Bedenbaugh are accompanied by their parents as they take part in a signing day ceremony at BPHS Thursday morning.

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Any time an athlete has an opportunity to take their athletic careers to the next level, there's a cause for celebration.

And that's exactly what Blooming Prairie High School did.

Blossoms athletes Taylor Christianson, Marissa Larson, Elly Strunk and Seth Bedenbaugh gathered at Blooming Prairie High School's library to take part in a signing day ceremony Thursday morning.

While Christianson was the lone athlete who actually had to sign a letter of intent, Activities Director Alison Mach said that the recent change to the Division III signing makes it a more memorable experience for the athletes. After a brief introduction, all four Blossoms athletes – accompanied by their parents – started the signing process as their classmates looked on.

Christianson – who a National Letter of Intent to NAIA Grand View – noted that her decision to continue her career with the Vikings was because of the resume with former standouts.

"The coach helped Lisa Meshke get through her career and she is a great player," commented the Blossoms' standout. "I want to be just as good as her."

Christianson also noted that as of right now, they currently have her slotted at the No.2 slot on the team. She plans to study nursing. Her parents, Denny and Terri Zwiener and Mike Christianson were in attendance.

Marissa Larson, who was supported by parents Jeff and Tammy Larson, chose Bethel University to continue her basketball career.

"It kind of hits you like 'wow it's actually happening, I'm actually playing in college," added Larson. "It's crazy to think that there are so many opportunities opening up."

The Bethel commit noted that her decision to play collegiately actually started become firm after mentor Mark DeLap encouraged her to take a look at the possibilities that could come from playing college athletics. Larson plans to study Pre-Med.

DeLap, who is also the Managing Editor for the Steele County Times, was in attendance, but for a more personal reason. His son Seth, was finalizing his commitment to play college basketball at North Central University. his wife Robin was also in attendace.

Unlike his classmates, Bedenbaugh has a much more winding road. Moving to Minnesota in August after spending much of his high school career in Michigan, he would have just months to create chemistry with a team that had the vast majority of players together since they were at a young age.

Despite the unsuspecting adventure that made him finish his high school career in Minnesota, he smiled and noted that it must have been planned by a higher power.

"God's been great," commented the Rams commit. "It's been a journey for sure. It's been crazy how inviting people have been here and how easy the process of getting all settled here and making it feel like home."

Bedenbaugh noted that he's glad to be staying in Minnesota for college, stating "I think it will be good for me to come here every once in a while and see the people here."

He plans to study studio music production.

Elly Strunk, who was accompanied by her parents Kyle and Suzzi Strunk, will be showing off her talents in two sports over the four years at Gustavus Adolphus College. Strunk is planning on playing both women's hockey and softball for the Golden Gusties. Since Blooming Prairie doesn't sport a girls hockey team, Strunk has been playing her hockey for Kasson-Mantorville for her high school career.

The dual-sport athlete noted that finally putting pen to paper closes one chapter and opens another for her.

"I went through a lot of tryouts over my high school career that left me with uneasy feelings. So, knowing I found a place is completely stress relieving," she added.

Strunk noted that she was sold on the Golden Gusties because it felt right, and that it should feel that way. She also added that the women's hockey program is currently in the frozen four and that softball often plays in Hawaii.

"I heard there softball program goes to Hawaii and their hockey program goes to Europe every four years," she added.

Strunk plans to study journalism, possibly as a news anchor.

Lady Panthers take fifth at state

GIRLS: from page 3B

to the Class AA All-Tournament team. The lead was short lasted as the Eagles surged back to generate a 20-19 lead late in the half.

Enter Schoenrock.

Scoring 13 of her 20 points in the first half, the junior's block midway through the first half shifted momentum into the Panthers favor. Generating a 9-0 run – six points coming for Schoenrock – the Panthers appeared to heat up as Rachel Collins and Kayley Camerer hit back-to-back three-pointers before the half. Collins and Camerer each had their best game of the postseason, scoring 11 and 12 points respectively.

While the Panthers were rolling heading into the half, the Eagles were ice cold.

Adding insult to injury, after missing its final four shots of the first half, Rochester Lourdes missed its first six shots of the second half as the Panthers raced out to a 41-29 lead. For a span of roughly seven minutes between the two halves, nothing seemed to go right for the Eagles and NRHEG would increase the lead to 49-29 after a pair of baskets from Maddie Wagner. Wagner, who reached double digits in the win over Esko, recorded a double-double after scoring 15 points and grabbing 13 rebounds.

After Rochester Lourdes' Megan Hobday was sent to the line, the Eagles started to generate some life. In fact, a 12-3 run that cut the lead to 52-42 was generated from Hobday and Alyssa Ustby. The two combined for 10 points during the span to include a pair of three-pointers from Ustby. Hobday finished with 14 while Ustby finished with a team-high 18 points.

"Even though we were up by 15 or so, it was 'you still got to be there and got to be focus," Peterson added. " It took a felt like it took forever, it's like ' c'mon clock get going' because all they have to do is hit however many threes to be back in the game."

After a three from Marnie Wagner, the Eagles lapsed back into a cold streak, missing nine of their final 15 attempts. As for the Panthers, the final 16 points of the contest from the line as the Eagles attempted to slow final two minutes of the contest. For the game, NRHEG was able to connect on 22-of-28 for the charity stripe.

Editor's note: To read the recaps from NRHEG's State quarterfinal game against top-seeded Roseau and its consolation semifinal matchup against Esko, go to www.steeledodgenews.com

Panthers earn first ever state berth

BOYS: from page 3B

rhythm and for the first half they did just that.

Sam Prigge exploded out of the gates, scoring seven of the first 12 points and Baker would add a deep two from the top of the key to give NRHEG an 18-13 midway through the first half. As for Jordan, the Hubmen managed to cut the lead to 16-13 before going ice cold.

In their next six possessions, the Panthers' defense forced three turnovers and three more highly contested shots. Missing their ensuing two baskets, the Panthers were looking for a spark.

Enter NRHEG's star sixth man Benji Lundberg.

The explosive guard was just that, tallying eight of NRHEG's final 10 points to extend the lead to 20-16. Lundberg finished with 14 points.

Holding a 26-23 halftime lead, Prigge started the final half just how he started the game, by nailing a deep three-pointer in the corner to extend the lead to 29-23.

The turning point for the game could easily be the defensive performance put forth by the senior Raimann.

After a monster block on the defensive end, the senior threw down a massive dunk as the Panthers quickly generated a 6-0 run. Raimann arguably played his best half of basketball as a Panther, scoring 13 of his team-high 17 points. He also recorded 9 rebounds.

Things started to turn sour immediately following. After a Hubmen timeout, Jordan implemented an aggressive full court press that forced a pair of turnover. The Hubmen proceeded to quickly cut away at the Panther lead, lowering the deficit to as close as 49-46 with roughly seven minutes left.

"When they came out and started pressing us, we sort of loss our cool a bit and they made a run," added Raimann. "We just needed to cool down and get what we were doing. We ran through it in practice."

Then the defense stepped in.

For the following three minutes, Jordan ran into a shooting slump, failing to register a bucket. While the Hubmen slumped, the Panthers attacked, scoring five-straight to extend the lead to 55-49.

In fact, if not for a foul called on Raimann – which Jimmy Volbrecht converted on both attempts – the Panthers may have ran away with the game.

Volbrecht was the lone bright spot for the Hubmen, scoring a game-high 22 points. One thing that kept Jordan in the game late was the struggles that NRHEG had from the line late. Of their final eight attempts from the line, NRHEG managed 10 points.

The Panthers will open tournament play later in the coming week.

Sub-Section South Final
NRHEG 45, Fairmont 42
Three Panthers reached double digits led by Tyler Raimann's 14 points to edge the Cardinals (18-9).

27 letter for OHS boys hockey program

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

On Tuesday night, the Owatonna high school boys hockey program capped off the 2016-2017 season with an awards banquet at the Owatonna Country Club.

Senior Carter Broton and junior Tyler Wencl were the lone Huskies named to the Big Nine All-Conference hockey team while 27 members of the Huskies' hockey team received letters while five individual players received awards during the two-hour ceremony.

Broton led the team in goals with 18 on the year.

Juniors Nate Smith and Mitch Wiese were joined by seniors Adam Rehman, John Swenson and Mitchell Mayer on the Big Nine Honorable Mention team.

Head coach Josh Storm noted that junior Mitchell Wiese was just shy of being on the All-Conference team due to a recent change in the process.

The banquet – attended by members of the program, their families and members of the Blue Line Club – was a final chance for the team to recognize and congratulate the seniors that will be graduating at the end of the semester.

As Huskies head coach Josh Storm noted, "We start with the seniors tonight because it's all about them."

Storm noted that in his perspective, it was a good year for OHS hockey.

"If you locked me in a room at the beginning of the year and asked what our record would be at the end of the year, I don't think I would have said 15 wins," he added. "To be 15-12, I think is a very strong year for us and I was very pleased to see how the kids performed and improved."

He also noted that sweeping Rochester John Marshall and Mayo were second in terms of the key wins behind the 3-2 win over Farmington earlier in the season.

Storm ended his recap by calling each of his eight seniors, (Adam Rehman, Cameron Trout, John Swenson, Kodey Kiel, Carter Broton, Mitchell Mayer, Joseph Howell, Blake Pfiefer) to stand in where they were sitting so that he could say a few parting words.

After each senior was recognized, remaining members of the coaching staff were asked to come forward to help with the awards portion.

The Patrick Arnfelt Scholarship Award was given to Rehman. The award is given to the OHS player that displays the commitment, hustle, drive and teamwork remember in Arnfelt, according to Storm.

Rehman also won the Lee Hara Hockey Award - the team's most valuable senior - as voted on by his teammates.

Senior Kodey Kiel was presented with the Ken Wilcox award. The award is given to the player who donates time and effort to the OYHA youth program. The player who is awarded with the Ken Wilcox award also sets an example to which all younger players may aspire.

He places team goal ahead of personal achievement and consistently demonstrates respect for the game and respect for his teammates, coaches and opponents by his conduct on the ice.

Swenson won the Ken Austin Award. The award is presented by the Blue Line Club to the player who by his actions on the ice displays leadership, dedication, teamwork, hustle and enthusiasm for the game of hockey.

The final individual award was the Dudley Otto Award. Receiving that award was junior defenseman Walker Nelson. The award is presented by the coaches to the most improved player.

Letterwinners

Adam Rehman, Carter Broton, John Swenson, Kodey Kiel, Blake Pfiefer, Mitchell Mayer, Cameron Trout. Jacob Dub, Mitchell Wiese, Kenneth Johnson, Breck Henderson, Braeden Meier, Walker Nelson, Nate and Nick Smith, Tyler Wencl, Landon Thurnau, Matthew DeHaan, Drake Gleseke, Luke Kubicek, Thomas Lehrer, Andrew Munns, Mason Oland, Easton Sletten, Evan Steinberg, Dominique Wondra,

Managers- Kendall Travis, Mackenzie Karsten, Danika Brown



Sports Editor Josh Zimmer released his new column called "Light The Lamp" exclusively on www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday.

"While I never actually played the sport, I have been a fan of hockey since I was a kid and have been closely following the sport for years," Zimmer added. "Now that I live in the State of Hockey, there isn't a better fitting column for me to start than this one."

From college, the NHL and even highschool, his column will cover all things puck for hockey fans.

Editor's note: To read Zimmer's colum, just go to www.steeledodgenews.com every Tuesday. You can also find his column on Twitter and Facebook!

Follow Josh ***(@SCTZimmer)*** *and the Steele County Times* ***(@SteeleC_Times)*** *on Twitter.*

If you're searching for it on Facebook, just search Steele County Times and look for ***"Light The Lamp."***

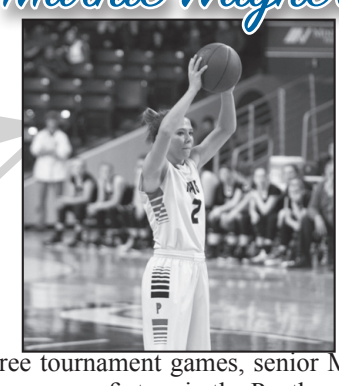
STARS OF STEELE

Tyler Raimann



In the biggest game of his career, senior Tyler Raiman played possibly his best game. The senior registered a team-high 17 points, nine rebounds and three blocks as the Panthers clinched their first ever berth to the state tournament.

Marnie Wagner



In three tournament games, senior Marnie Wagner was a fixture in the Panthers offense. Averaging nearly 15 points in three games, she led the Panthers to a fifth place finish and was named to the All-Tournament team.

Stars of Steele is brought to you courtesy of:

CA$H WISE FOODS #1 IN LOW PRICES!

WAY TO GO!

Congratulations Panther Boys' Basketball Team

NRHEG qualified for its first ever state tourney.

Section 2AA Champs
Gopher Conference co-champions
28-2 overall record





We're proud of your awesome accomplishments… *Good luck this week at the state tourney!*

This message sponsored by these NRHEG sports boosters:

Titan Pro Seed • Chemical • Insurance
Your Local Dealer
Chad Johnson
Ellendale
507-391-2757
Call today and ask about our diverse seed line-up & chemical programs for this years harvest.

Radio Link Internet
507-417-4176
8162 SW 81st St., Ellendale
www.radiolinkinternet.com

SunOpta™
Grains and Foods Group
Hope • Ellendale • Blooming Prairie
451-4724 or 800-342-6976

HARD WORK PAYS OFF
Corn Palace Ag Center
121 NE 3rd St
PO Box 35
New Richland
507-465-3320
www.cornpalaceagcenter.com

L&D Ag Service
408 Broadway • Hartland, MN
Great Job!
Build your future, your way!
507 845-2100

Midwest Repairables
Buy – Repair – Save
www.repairablevehicles.com
334 3rd St NE • New Richland
507-465-3101

Al's Body Shop
702 School St. S.
Ellendale
507-684-9617

Bohlen Plumbing & Heating
328 N. Broadway
New Richland
Great Job!
TRANE "It's hard to stop a Trane"
507-465-8376
Rick 507-402-6766
James 507-475-2430

BUDACH IMPLEMENT, INC.
229 NE 3rd St. • New Richland
NAPA 507.465.3237 NAPA
www.budachimplement.com

PIONEER® BRAND · PRODUCTS
BRIAN WAYNE
Ellendale
home 684-9663 • office 684-3021

STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.





National Ag Day

Generations Nourishing Generations

Recognizing - and celebrating – agriculture every day.

NATIONAL AG DAY

Did you know American agriculture not only provides you food and clothing, but also helps meet the needs around the world?

Too few people truly understand this contribution -- of *abundance*.

There are about 2 million farms in the U.S. today.

Agriculture is Part of Your Life

Products we use in our everyday lives come from plant and animal products produced by America's farmers and ranchers.



The last century has seen a host of changes in farming. Today's agriculture is characterized by enhanced productivity, mechanization, selective breeding, genetic engineering, precision farming with reduced pesticide and fertilizer use.

Thanks, farmers and ranchers for all you contribute to the world!

© National Agricultural Institute March 2013

That's Ag-mazing!

Ag 101

Did you know...

Spam luncheon meat became a popular item for the soldiers in World War II and continued to be a popular meat product after the war.





Hormel Foods developed technology for canned precooked meat products and marketed the canned ham. The labeled ingredients include chopped pork shoulder meat with ham meat added, salt, water, sugar, potato starch (binder) and sodium nitrite (preservative).

History of Spam

- 1937 - Hormel Foods introduces SPAM luncheon meat
- 1941-45 - More than 100 million lbs. of SPAM are shipped to U.S. troops
- 1959 - The 1 billionth can of Spam is produced
- 2001 - SPAM museum opens
- 2007 - The 7 billionth can of SPAM product is produced
- 2012 - SPAM celebrates its 75th anniversary

© National Agricultural Institute January 2014

Sponsored by these following area businesses:

SALINAS AUTO REPAIR INC.
656 3rd St. NE • Blooming Prairie, MN
Robert Salinas
Family-Owned
507-583-6620

Vandal's FAMILY MARKET
237 Hwy Ave. S • Blooming Prairie 583-6671

Blooming Prairie Bus Company
"Safety First! Be on Time!"

You Are Looking at a Revolution In...
Water Conditioners
Call today!
Authorized Independent Kinetico Dealer
Garlick's Water Conditioning
507-526-3616 or Toll Free 1-800-722-1282
www.garlickswater.com
Sales • Service • Rentals • Leasing

Hope CREAMERY
TRY HOPE BUTTER FOR YOUR BAKING!
507-684-2019
Locally Produced

Your ad could be here!
STEELE COUNTY TIMES
Always local, all the time.

DARRICK'S PREFERRED AUTO
Darrick Schewe
Owner
507-583-9994
Located in NAPA Auto Parts Building

Minimizer
www.minimizer.com
800-248-3855
Blooming Prairie

CASH WISE
Employee Owned
www.cashwise.com
LARGE SELECTIONS
LOW PRICES
495 West N. ST.
Owatonna
507-451-7220
"like" us on facebook

Dr. Deborah Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST DDS, MBS
Building Healthy Smiles!
132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613 * FREE CONSULTATION

Mike's REPAIR
Ag & Truck Tire
870 32 Ave. NW, Owatonna
Emergency or on the farm repair
507-455-0388
(After hours 507-455-0483)

Sorenson's
Appliances & TV
GE, Frigidaire, Direct Tv, Danby, Crosley, Broan, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, Maytag, Panasonic, RCA, Samsung, Toshiba, Whirlpool
Geneva, Mn
507-256-7258

misgen auto parts
507-684-2100
12880 SW 72nd Ave, Ellendale

County Living



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Emily Schoenbeck, Matt Ketelson, Kris Lake, and Ron Revere field questions along with their fellow panelists. They were volunteers from across the community's media landscape.

Drop and give me six

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

When you think of boot camp, the words, "drop and give me 20 come to mind."

In the mindset of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce, the boot camp monthly series are initiated not as much for the physical body as for the mental aspects of honing your business skills. It is a program developed to make the businesses of Steele County "lean, mean, fighting machines."

But… right after everyone was treated to "Taco Thursday."

There were six experts chosen from their prospective fields in media that were put together by the Chamber to answer questions on all things related to marketing and using media to promote their business.

Autumn Van Ravenhorst, from the Owatonna People's Press, Emily Schoenbeck from the Steele County Times, Matt Ketelson from KOWZ radio, Kris Lake, director of sales from Townsquare Media, Ron Revere, chief idea officer from radio station 107.5 FM, and Scott Limberg from Limberg productions and Owatonna Live made up the panel that answered questions set forth by Chamber President and mediator, Brad Meier.

After introductions were completed, Meier began a series of questions tailored for business leaders who want to grow their businesses with the use of a strong media presence. The consensus of the panel stated and reiterated that for business to find success with media assistance, some early goals must be established.

"You need to know your end goal," said Ravenhorst who works in both print and digital sales. "You need to know what you are looking to achieve, whether that be brand awareness or getting customers into your business."

Schoenbeck, the news editor who also works closely with the sales team agreed and said, "You have to know who you are targeting, whether that's a sports audience or a young or older crowd, you have to ask yourself, 'who are you trying to reach?'"

Lake added, "And, you have to ask, is it working for you? You should get a $6 return for every dollar you spend."

The panel was consistent across the board as to the idea that to be more effective, you must use more than one media outlet, whether that media is print, broadcasting or television. More visibility in more markets was said to be able to cause an increase in business growth.

Another great point brought forth was the idea that visibility of the ad can be seen by two people. The two people you reach can be significant because if those two people you reach are natural spokespersons, then word-of-mouth can be huge, but may not be seen on the demographical charts.

After the panel had finished answering questions, there was a five minute question and answer period from the audience before the program moved into activity sessions.

The bottom line idea was that communication is the key to any successful business relationship with the media that is readily available. Ask a lot of questions and build a good working relationship with the media as you are also entrusting them with your customers.

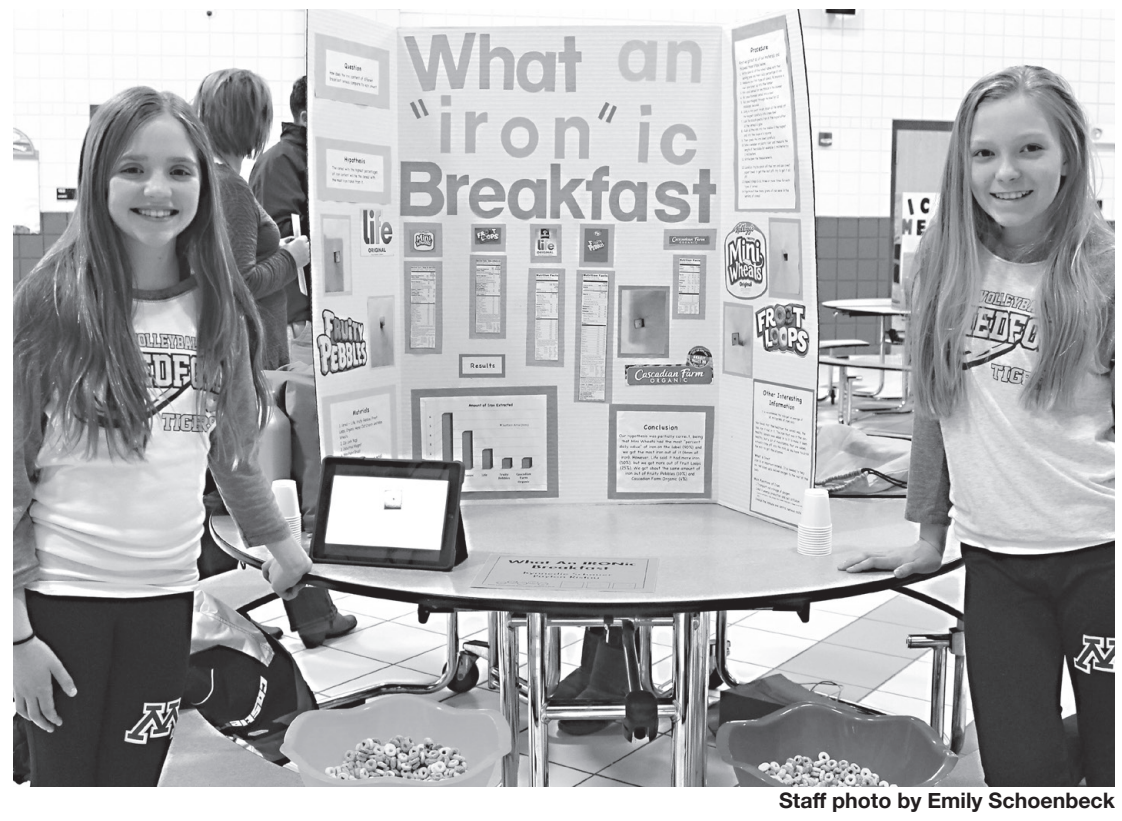
The Chamber depends on local businesses to sponsor the boot camps, and this specific program was sponsored by Profinium. The company's VP of personal banking, Taylor Herman introduced himself and his company. "Profinium is so much more than just a bank," Herman said. "We also specialize in insurance, wealth planning, loans and credit." He also mentioned that Profinium had just built a new seven story building in Mankato and that the company was also headed in the direction of building investments.

Experimenting with a good time



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Melia Schema presented her findings on bees for the Medford Elementary Science Fair. Her family farms bees allowing her to get an up close look at how the insects live and produce honey. The science fair was open to all elemntary school students, and contained roughly 20 boothes showcasing the students' experiments and research.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Kynnedie Schauer and Payton Ristau ran an experiment checking for the amount of iron in a given breakfast cereal. They picked several popular brands, crushed them up, and then ran magnets over the powdered remains. After measuring the amount of iron the magnets picked up from a given cereal, they concluded Mini Wheats was the most iron heavy cereal.

Medford goes big for their spring musical

WIZARD: from page 1B

said, "We're still pulling it together, but it's looking really good."

Sophomore Jacob Gasner, who plays the Lion, is equally excited for the show. Gasner played the prince in Medford's fall production of the Twelve Dancing Princesses, and he's returning for his eighth show. Gasner describes the Lion as everybody's favorite character, because he's the comic relief, a role Gasner is more than happy to play in the show.

After some intense rehearsals, he ready to show people what they've accomplished.

"The four of us have been working our tails off the mast two and a half months," Gasner said of Dorothy's band of heroes, "Our singing is the best it's ever been."

His favorite part, however, isn't his own. Gasner says the best part of the show is the iconic Wicked Witch of the West.

"I couldn't be her, but…" Gasner quipped, but continued that the actress who plays her is doing a great job.

Every Medford production he says ends with audience either laughing or crying, and this show Gasner said is no exception.

"It's a great family production," he finished.

At the center of the production is Senior Rachel Bluhm. She like Gasner is back after appearing in The Twelve Dancing Princesses, but this time as the star of the musical.

"At first I didn't know if I could handle being Dorothy," Bluhm admitted thinking of how hectic her final year of high school has been, but she, "decided to do what I want to do because it's senior year."

The special effects, Bluhm thinks will take people by surprise. She believes they go beyond what "people might think a high school production could do."

Sixth grader Payton Ristau is also impressed with the show's special effects. Ristau plays one of the munchkins and an extra throughout the show. Elementary students were invited to audition to help boost the population of Munckinland. They also make for some cute, if not quite fearsome, flying monkeys.

"It's a lot of fun," Ristau said, "We get to do a lot of singing and dancing." She also shares Gasner's love of the Wicked Witch, and says the villain's entrance is her favorite part of the show.

With over 10 shows under her belt, that Wicked Witch is indeed something to sing about. Senior Cassie Larson plays the memorable witch. It's a lot more screeching and cackling than Larson's used to, having never played a villain before, but she's really enjoying a different side of acting.

She described it as, "hardest role I've ever played."

All of the actors are working hard to bring this larger than life production together for the stage, though not all of it keeps to the stage. Moving through the aisles, the cast makes use of the entire auditorium. Audience members should keep arms and legs out of the aisles, lest a rogue flying monkey should trip over them.

The Wizard of Oz can be seen Friday, March 24 at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 25 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased a the door.

Audience members can also anticipate the performance of the cast's most beloved member, Sammy the Shitzu, who will be playing Toto. It's her theatrical debut, and The Time's wishes her the best of luck.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Rachel Bluhm stars as Dorothy along with Jacob Gasner as the Lion, Greg Larson as the Tin Man, and Ben Sutcliffe as the Scarecrow. The four had their work cut out for them, as the majority of the show's dialogue is split between them.

Softener Salt Fundraiser
TO SUPPORT THE BP QUARTERBACK CLUB
SALE! SALE!
REGULAR SOFTNER SALT CRYSTALS
$6.00 per 50# bag
RUST REMOVER PELLETS
$7.00 per 50# bag
Pre-payment required before delivery. Please make check to :
BP Quarterback Club
Free Delivery within BP School District
Order before March 29th
Delivery will be April 22nd or
May 6th (Rain Date)
Call 507-456-0607 (after 2:00PM)
Email: bp_qbclub@yahoo.com

Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Theft. On March 14 at 10:09 a.m., a Hayfield woman called deputies to report that her vehicle was stolen from the 500 block of 2nd Ave. SE. She had since gotten the vehicle back, however, it was heavily damaged.

Crime brief

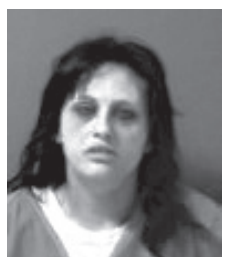
Woman charged after domestic scene covered in soot

A woman who started the basement carpet on fire faces charges for allegedly assaulting her father and possessing drugs.

Katherine Davis, 32, has been charged with two counts of domestic assault and third-degree possession of methamphetamines in connection with the incident in the 300 block of Hazeltine Avenue in Owatonna.

Police responded to a physical domestic on March 13 at the home. Davis' father returned home after being notified that she started the basement carpet on fire. He confronted her about the fire and an argument broke out. Davis allegedly began hitting and kicking her father, police said.

A detective saw drug paraphernalia and obtained consent from the father to conduct further searching in the common areas of the home. The detective found a pipe and 13 grams of meth. A search warrant was drafted for the bedroom where Davis was staying. Officers found a meth pipe and more than $500 cash.



Katherine Davis

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
March 10

Accident. At 9:23 a.m., police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Elm Ave. S. and 18th St. SE. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 200 block of Hickory Lane NE at 9:28 a.m.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 2:44 p.m.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Florence Ave. NW at 6:28 p.m.

March 11

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 2:30 a.m. They made an arrest at the scene.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:44 a.m.

Restraining Order. At 7:50 p.m., police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 400 block of Larch Ave. NE.

Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 900 block of 22nd St. SE at 9:56 p.m.

March 12

Pursuit. At 1:30 a.m., officers engaged in a pursuit with a subject at Rose St. W. and Oak Ave. N. They took a subject into custody.

March 13

Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 300 block of Arglen Dr. NW at 7:28 a.m.

Domestic. At 9:58 a.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Hazeltine Ave. NE. They made an arrest at the scene.

Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SE at 3:04 p.m.

March 14

Disturbance. Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Pearl St. E. at 1:24 a.m. They took a subject into custody.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in injuries in the 1700 block of Austin Rd. at 8:31 a.m. They issued a citation to one of the drivers.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 400 block of State Ave. at 10:43 a.m.

Fraud. At 11:32 a.m., officer took a report of a fraud incident in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 8:35 p.m.

March 15

Domestic. At 9:26 a.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 600 block of Cedar Ave. S. They took a subject into custody.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:08 p.m.

March 16

Arrest. Police assisted other agencies with arresting subjects in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 10:39 a.m. and on 25th Ave. NW at 1:31 p.m.

Warrant. At 3:29 p.m., officer took a subject into custody for an outstanding warrant on Richard Place SE.

Burglary. Officers responded to a burglary in the 1100 block of Hawthorne Ave. SW at 6:05 p.m.

Weapons. Police responded to a weapons incident in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:52 p.m.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 6 with Judge Joseph A. Bueltel presiding:

Samuel C. Bolton, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats. He was sentenced to $381, 45 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, mental health evaluation, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Ray D. Cabrera, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault and felony possession of firearm – conviction or adjudicated delinquent for crime of violence. Cabrera was sentenced to $131 and 60 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 6 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Amber L. Brockmiller, 23, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of cocaine or meth and felony possession of marijuana (stay of adjudication). The defendant was sentenced to $581, 8 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, complete treatment, obtain permission to leave the state and 10 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of March 6 – 10:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Carlos N. Gonzalez, 37, Kasson, no license and expired registration, $231; Richard W. Lundin, 51, Clinton, IA, careless driving, $181; Michael P. Merten, 20, Austin, speeding, $131.

MN Dept. of Natural Resources

Brian J. Kosel, 67, Owatonna, failure to report a fire, $131.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Matthew D. Bartsch, 26, Ellendale, speeding, $131; Scott J. Bjorge, 26, Ellendale, seat belt, $106; Aaron R. Caswell, 32, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Jacquelyn M. Fallon, 52, Duluth, texting while driving, $131; Nikki R. Gesme, 37, revoked license, $281;

Christina M. Getchell, 37, Blooming Prairie, improperly used child passenger restraint, $131; James C. Grubish, 58, Waterville, seat belt, $106; Hyung T. Ha, 42, Little Canada, speeding, $131; Eric J. Hallengren, 35, Sioux Rapids, IA, seat belt, $106; Kathryn A. Hawbaker, 24, Kenosha, WI, speeding, $281;

Muktar M. Hilowle, 23, Faribault, speeding, $131; Joseph H. Howell, 18, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Lee T. Huston, 26, Kiester, revoked license, $281; Dominique I. Lawson, 29, Chicago, IL, failure to use designated lane, $131; Elsa A. Ortega, 32, Claremont, revoked license, $281;

Stacey Y. Powell, 45, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Keith A. Rosendahl, 28, West Concord, seat belt, $106; Leyna Springwater, 30, St. Cloud, revoked license, $281; Claudia K. Stepnick, 65, Roseville, speeding, $121; Timothy E. Stepp, 58, Savage, speeding, $121;

Tracy B. Tonsager, 19, Farmington, speeding, $281; Corinne L. Turner, 47, Rochester, revoked license, $281; Pang S. Vang, 61, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Aura O. Veloso, 44, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Alan J. Wermerskirchen, 31, Jordan, weaving over lane lines, $131.

Owatonna Police Department

Jamal A. Cobb-Ferba, 22, Benson, domestic assault, $381, 37 days in county jail, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearms, maintain employment and 1 year of supervised probation; Crystal M. Cox, 29, Brooklyn Center, burglary – possession of tools, $75, diversion program and 2 years of supervised probation; Anival Cuellar, 39, Owatonna, fleeing a peace officer, $131 and 20 days in county jail;

Steven C. Dunnum, 55, Owatonna, theft, $181; Raquel A. Dvorak, 43, Waseca, theft, $81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Lindsey L. Dwyer-Rodewald, 24, Owatonna, revoked license, $281;

Tai'ricca C. Einfeldt, 25, Austin, cancelled license, $281; Stetson P. Fox, 30, Owatonna, suspended license, $431; Amy J. Garza, 35, Owatonna, no license, no insurance and speeding, $521; Chad G. Griffin, 36, New Richland, theft, $415.91, no trespassing and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Bridgett D. Mitchell, 43, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481; Natalie A. Moe, 31, Owatonna, assault, $381, 29 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Glen C. Morris, 21, Roseville, theft, $81, diversion program and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Brandon J. Neitzel, 33, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Pamela R. Porras, 53, Faribault, failure to obey traffic control device, $131;

Paulina L. Rivera, 18, Owatonna, no license, $181; Sonya L. Sullivan, 56, Faribault, no insurance and revoked license, stay of adjudication and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Stacey S. Thomas, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Claudia Vargas, 25, Owatonna, vehicle noise limits violation, revoked license, registration violation and no insurance, $631; Candy L. Wunderlich, 55, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, stay of adjudication and 6 months of unsupervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Crystal D. Bartelt, 39, New Richland, speeding, $121; Carrie S. Cook, 39, Morristown, revoked license and speeding, $331; Brendan L. Davidson, 24, Hayfield, no insurance, $131 and 1 year of supervised probation; Jose L. Garcia Pina, 24, Owatonna, speeding, $141;

Ashley N. Gilbertson, 18, Medford, speeding, $141; Chad G. Griffin, 36, New Richland, revoked license and speeding, $131; Ethan W. Hollingsworth, 19, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Darren P. Johannsen, 32, New Richland, speeding, $121;

Samantha J. Kalis, 22, Albert Lea, expired tabs, $111; Jason R. Keller, 42, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Audie S. Krivjanick Jr., 34, Spring Valley, no license, $131; Graham A. Kyllo, 16, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $281; Kuany W. Machar, 49, Owatonna, DWI, $406, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms and 1 year of supervised probation;

Roger F. Nechanicky, 66, Ellendale, speeding, $121; Susan C. Petersburg, 62, Waseca, speeding, $121; Katherine T. Peterson, 39, Owatonna, speeding, $121; James M. Sauve, 22, North St. Paul, speeding, $131; Daniel S. Schoeneman, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Glen R. Senske, 48, Princeton, speeding, $121;

William B. Simonet, 63, Dundas, suspended license and speeding, stay of adjudication, $200 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Darin L. Waldhauser, 43, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Ann M. Wobschall, 50, Owatonna, speeding, $141.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office received 214 complaints during the week of March 8 – 14. Some of them include:

March 8

Threats. At 9:03 a.m., a woman called deputies to report that subject came into her work and dropped off a threatening letter on Main St. E. in Dodge Center.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to two juveniles breaking garage windows in the 200 block of Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center at 4:25 p.m.

March 9

Larceny. Deputy took a larceny report in the 300 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield at 8:53 a.m.

Fire. Deputies responded to a report of black smoke coming from the junkyard in the 600 block of 1st Ave. NE in Dodge Center at 9 a.m.

Harassment. At 10:12 a.m., deputies responded to a harassment incident at the Court House.

Warrants. Deputies arrested a male subject for several out of county warrants on 5th Ave. NW in Hayfield at 5:06 p.m. They turned him over to Rice County officials.

March 10

Warrant. At 1:53 p.m., deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the Court House and transported him to the Steele County Jail.

Fraud. At 4:58 p.m., deputy took a report of fraudulent charges of $401.94 on a Hayfield citizen's credit card.

Threats. At 7:28 p.m., a Claremont citizen reported receiving threats over the phone and Facebook.

March 11

Burglary. At 11:34 a.m., a Dodge Center resident reported an attempted break-in that occurred in the 1200 block of 5th St. NW during the past week.

Sex Offense. Deputies began an investigation of a sex offense on Main St. W. in Dodge Center at 12:35 p.m.

Weapon. A slug from a handgun was found in a yard in the 20900 block of 602nd St. in Dodge Center at 4:17 p.m.

March 12

Criminal Damage. At 10:32 a.m., deputy took a report of damage to a truck in the 100 block of 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

March 13

Disturbance. At 9:34 a.m., deputies received information regarding a past action disturbance in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield.

Child Neglect. At 3:40 p.m., deputies received a report of a young girl around 4-years-old who was outside by herself in the 200 block of 1st St. NW in Dodge Center.

March 14

Mental Health. Deputies responded to a mental health incident in the 700 block of 2nd St. NW in Hayfield at 7:33 a.m.

Court news
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 6 – 13 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Ryan B. Severson, 36, Hayfield, previously appeared and was convicted of felony receiving stolen property and misdemeanor disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to $1,155, 15 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, chemical dependency evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of March 6 – 13:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Tanner J. Becvar, 20, Hayfield, speeding, $140; Renard L. Carter, 26, Dodge Center, revoked license, $280; Douglas E. Dahl, 38, West Concord, invalid license and no insurance, $380; Leo R. Gaxiola, 37, Le Sueur, DWI, $1,005, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 2 years of supervised probation; Gregory E. Idso, 31, New Richland, revoked license and speeding, $340; Darrin D. Otterbein, 44, Brownsdale, parking violation, $32; Kyla M. Phillips-Tucke, 20, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Evonne E. Robbins, 40, Hayfield, parking violation, $32;

Avery E. Thompson, 20, Kasson, possession of marijuana, $380, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment and 1 year of supervised probation; Emily S. Winn, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Boyd A. Winslow, 63, Claremont, parking violation, $32.

Kasson Police Department

Brandon D. Hughes, 17, Rochester, speeding, $220; Jason A. Markwardt, 33, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32; Paula J. Nelson, 52, Kasson, parking violation, $32.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Tedd E. Adelsman, 52, Minnetonka, speeding, $130; Rogelio Chable-Perez, 29, Claremont, no license and no insurance; Britnie A. Dorsett, 29, Owatonna, speeding, $220; Jessica L. Karrmann, 17, Cannon Falls, speeding, stay of adjudication, $120 and 1 year of unsupervised monitoring without conviction;

Courtney R. Kispert, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, $140; Paul R. Mills, 56, Golden Valley, log book violation, $130; Susanna L. Morelos, 36, Rochester, no child passenger restraint system, $130; Jason P. Roeker, 36, Owatonna, using a hand-held phone while driving a CMV, $280; Diana L. Welborn, 38, Faribault, speeding, $140.

West Concord Police Department

Louise M. Carpenter, 56, Harmony, revoked license, $300; Tammy L. French, 41, West Concord, parking violation, $32.

Arrest
Steele County

Owatonna Police

Francis Bernard Feeley, 70, arrested at 11:33 p.m. March 10, assault/domestic assault, held for court.

Charles Quartermain Bridgeman, 37, arrested at 3:12 a.m. March 11, felony assault and domestic assault by strangulation, held for court.

Payton Marie Nelson, 19, arrested at 8:14 p.m. March 11, order for protection violation, held for court.

Jeffrey Kenneth Hokanson, 45, arrested at 1:36 a.m. March 12, felony fleeing in motor vehicle, suspended license and speeding, held for court.

Katherine Jean Davis, 32, arrested at 10:28 a.m. March 13, felony domestic assault and possession, held for court.

Levi Jeffrey Westling, 25, arrested at 3:30 p.m. March 15, contempt of court warrants arrest, $6,000 bail and body only.

Shawn Michael Lyons, 23, arrested at 11:13 a.m. March 15, domestic assault/assault and paraphernalia, held for court.

Michael Edward Payne, 24, arrested at 11:57 a.m. March 16, probation violation arrest, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Jyl Noel Todd, 30, arrested at 12 p.m. March 10, warrant arrest, body only.

Zeljko Nuhanovic, 44, arrested at 11:11 a.m. March 11, felony burglary, held for court.

Todd Allen Mielke, 43, arrested at 11:11 a.m. March 11, felony burglary, held for court.

Nicole Bernal Torres, 22, arrested March 14, warrant arrest, $2,000 bail.

Tina Marie Brown, 31, arrested

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.

- Albino Gallegos-Garza – false name - $6,000 bail
- Anthony Galloway – DWI – no bail
- Reginaldo Galvan – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Raymond Garavito – DWI - $1,000 bail
- Arthur Garcia – theft - $500 bail
- Ezequiel Garcia – failure to register as sex offender – no bail
- Zalvador Garcia – burglary – no bail
- Elizandra Garza – theft, shoplifting - $500 bail
- David Gatheright – possession of controlled substance - $20,000 bail
- Domach Gatluak – DWI – no bail
- Conrad Ginter – DWI – no bail
- Claudia Gomez – criminal abuse - $3,000 bail
- Mark Gomez – assault - $10,000 bail
- Miguel Gomez – theft - $1,000 bail
- Valente Gomez Jr. – DWI – no bail
- Christopher Gonzalez – theft - $500 bail
- Hiran Gonzalez – dishonored checks – no bail
- Douglas Greier – worthless check - $1,000 bail
- Brandon Grunwald – DWI – no bail
- Alma Guajardo – no insurance - $1,000 bail

at 1 p.m. March 14, warrant arrest, $20,000 bail.

Nicholas Michael Lacroix, 30, arrested at 12:40 a.m. March 15, warrant arrest, $30,000 bail.

Drew Randy Ferguson, 24, arrested at 3:06 p.m. March 15, burglary and theft warrants arrest, body only.

Kelly Adam Barry, 33, arrested at 7:07 p.m. March 16, warrant arrest, body only.

MN State Patrol

Jessica Joy Blunt, 34, arrested at 12:20 p.m. March 16, warrant, $12,000 bail.

Owatonna Fire

Owatonna Fire
March 12

Crash. At 7:06 p.m., fire rescue responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Interstate 35.

March 13

Elevator. Fire fighters assisted with the removal of a victim from a stalled elevator in the 100 block of Elm Ave. N. at 9:03 p.m.

March 14

Crash. A motor vehicle accident with no injuries occurred on Austin Rd. at 8:35 a.m.

Police Matter. Fire personnel assisted with a police matter at 9:01 a.m.

Fire. Fire fighters responded to a building fire in the 5400 block of Dane Rd. at 9:51 a.m.

Burning. At 5:57 p.m. fire fighters responded to an unauthorized burning in the 500 block of Cedar Ave. S.

Carbon Monoxide. A carbon monoxide incident occurred in the 1300 block of Leif Ave. at 7:38 p.m.

March 16

Malfunction. Fire personnel assisted with a system malfunction in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 5:23 a.m.

Crossword solution

H	A	L	M	S	■	■	R	A	P	■	T	S	A	R
A	L	O	O	F	■	M	I	L	E	■	Y	O	G	I
M	A	I	D	■	S	O	B	E	R	■	R	R	N	A
S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S	■	S	A	B	O	T
■	■	■	M	A	R	E	S	■	M	E	N	■	N	A
R	P	M	■	N	O	R	■	L	I	A	N	A	■	■
A	L	I	T	■	S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E	■
M	A	M	A	S	■	T	A	E	■	S	E	E	D	S
■	T	A	X	I	D	E	R	M	Y	■	S	N	A	P
■	■	S	I	R	E	S	■	A	P	E	■	S	M	A
H	B	■	M	E	G	■	A	R	R	A	S	■	■	■
M	A	T	E	D	■	B	E	V	E	R	A	G	E	S
O	B	I	T	■	M	I	D	I	S	■	B	A	A	L
N	O	D	E	■	A	D	E	N	■	B	E	I	R	A
G	O	E	R	■	P	E	S	■	■	P	R	A	N	G

Medford celebrates Saint Patrick's Day





Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Medford Elementary School hosted a dance to raise funds for the Make a Wish Foundation. While it just landed on St. Patrick's Day by chance, it gave families an opportunity to celebrate the holiday with a dance, face painting, photos, and crafts all for a good cause.

December Public Records

Steele County Births
December 2016

Edmund Leo Dieter, Parents: Emily and Paul, Dec. 1.

Augustus Jon Dahlstrom, Parents: Lindsey and David, Dec. 2.

Edrick John Wermerskirchen, Parents: Sheranda Morrison and Eric Wermerskirchen, Dec. 2.

Addison Grace Maloney, Parents: Andrea and Kyle, Dec. 4.

Harrison Michael Reinhard, Parents: Kara and Brent, Dec. 4.

Rylea Eleanor Tschopp, Parents: Natalie and Stephen, Dec. 4.

Bryar Charles Berg, Parents: Carlie and William, Dec. 7.

Camila Hernandez Jacobo, Parents: Rocio Jacobo and Daniel Hernandez, Dec. 8.

Brayden Maximus Peterson, Parents: Nancy Boyett and Spencer Peterson, Dec. 9.

Axel Roger Yenish, Parents: Devin and Alex, Dec. 10.

Alaina Jo Joubert, Parents: Anne and Robert, Dec. 12.

Cade Jeffrey Corning, Parents: Steffanie Sahr-Corning and Daniel Corning, Dec. 14.

Kennedy Lou Ann Corning, Parents: Steffanie Sahr-Corning and Daniel Corning, Dec. 14.

Teagan Gladys Terpstra, Parents: Caitlin and Derek, Dec. 15.

Micah Patrick Hayden, Parents: Emily and Andrew, Dec. 18.

Noah Francis Caswell, Parents: Amber and Tavid, Dec. 18.

Ismahan Abdulkadir Haji, Parents: Mana Aidarus and Abdulkadir Haji, Dec. 19.

Esperanza Perez, Parent: Ruth Perez, Dec. 20.

Oaklyn Leigh Arnold, Parents: Jessica and Robert, Dec. 20.

Charlee Quinn Nielsen, Parents: Brittany and Ryan, Dec. 21.

Max James Manke, Parents: Malory and Christopher, Dec. 21.

Gabriel James Escobedo, Parents: Christine and Jose, Dec. 21.

Carina Lin, Parents: Lucinda Zhang and Feng Lin, Dec. 23.

Grayson William Schultz, Parents: Katherine and Travis, Dec. 24.

Mia Carolina Lopez, Parent: Lanie Ahlman, Dec. 25.

Lauren Grace Robbins, Parents: Kristin and Sean, Dec. 27.

Manha Cabulaahi Mohamed, Parents: Khadra Jama and Cabulaahi Seraar, Dec. 27.

Valen Raphael De Marco Fox, Parents: Melissa and Damien, Dec. 28.

Oliver Harper Stiernagle, Parents: Hatti and Jesse, Dec. 29.

Charlete Marie Troyer, Parents: Christina and Scott, Dec. 30.

Steele County Deaths
December 2016

Charles Edward Plumb, 89, Medford, Dec. 4.

Martha Mae Zak, 92, Owatonna, Dec. 4.

Peter James Gnam, 68, Owatonna, Dec. 8.

Elaine Harriet Klemmensen, 86, Blooming Prairie, Dec. 9.

Eloise Rose Techau, 69, Owatonna, Dec. 10.

Jewel Miriam Von Ruden, 89, Owatonna, Dec. 10.

Wallace John Hildebrandt, 85, Richland Township, Dec. 10.

Mary Kathleen Oswald, 93, Blooming Prairie, Dec. 11.

Lorene Ann Swearengen, 85, Owatonna, Dec. 14.

Charles Leroy Mauldin, 88, Owatonna, Dec. 15.

Susan Marie Meyman, 59, Waseca, Dec. 16.

Eldon Sherman Tharp, 87, Rochester, Dec. 16.

Roger Vernon Anderson, 79, Owatonna, Dec. 19.

Marvin Elmer Stark, 90, Blooming Prairie, Dec. 20.

William Wesley Quick, 89, Medford, Dec. 20.

Roger Dean Larson, 82, Owatonna, Dec. 21.

Helen Joann Tukua, 70, Albert Lea, Dec. 25.

Hedwig Maria Karoline Johnson, 69, Owatonna, Dec. 26.

John Andrew Schultz, 77, Faribault, Dec. 26.

Alice Rosemanda Sutlief, 89, New Richland, Dec. 29.

Jerry Lorne Enfield, 67, Owatonna, Dec. 29.

David Allen Mcallister, 74, Owatonna, Dec. 29.

Jeanne Larson, 66, Aurora Township, Dec. 30.

Allen Leroy West, 75, Owatonna, Dec. 30.

Charles Richard Waddell, 70, Owatonna, Dec. 31.

Steele County Marriages
December 2016

Brady Jarl Kubat and Darcy Jean Skala, Dec. 3.

Garth Christopher Sevcik and Grace Katharine Anders, Dec. 3.

Juan Luis Bernal Padilla and Krystal Correa, Dec. 5.

Julio Cesar Baldo-Salvador and Matiana Jeeni Salcedo, Dec. 9.

Jory Michael Sweet Isenhower and Terra Lee Lester, Dec. 9.

Gregorio Hernandez Mendoza and Isabel Cristina Mendoza, Dec. 12.

Khole John Wheeler and Kelsey Leann Schmidt, Dec. 15.

Kristopher Michael McCollum and Vanessa Lee Dicus, Dec. 17.

Abraham Ricardo Valdez and Caitlin Lois Riihl, Dec. 17.

Noah Michael Kreitinger and Jenna Whitney Turtle, Dec. 18.

Jeffery Paul Schultz II and Ashley Rose Ripka, Dec. 21.

Daniel Edward Rhoades and Shari Leigh Johnson, Dec. 23.

Todd Kimsan Nin and Jaimie Kristine Leiven, Dec. 30.

Lillian Joyce Maas and Corey Gene Katzung, Dec. 31.

Mark Joseph Barrie and Lisa Maria Barrie, Dec. 31.

Jesse Ray Christofferson and Danielle Marie Evans, Dec. 31.

Steele County Divorces
December 2016

Krista Louella Wiuff and Troy Michael Wiuff.

Bridget Sara Wagner and Andrew Charles Wagner.

Vanity Seville Hutton and Ricky Jay Hutton.

Matthew D. Chandler and Kirsten L. Chandler.

Julie Lynn Tuma and Chad Michael Tuma.

Gillian Marie Sauer and Theodore Justin Sauer.

Amber Lawrence Yahnke and Ryan James Yahnke.

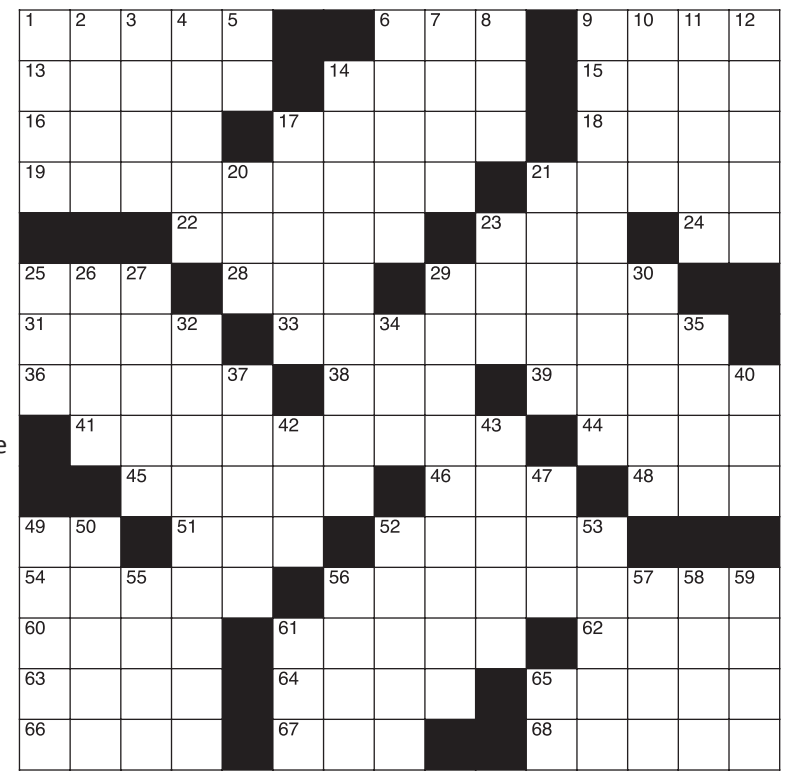
Zachary Wayne Schroeder and Courtney Ashton Schroeder.

Amanda Marie Baynes-Williams and Robert Maurice Williams III.

Coby Paxton and Theresia Ruby Faye Paxton.

TIMES
Always local, all the time.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pea stems
6. Type of music
9. Leader
13. Distant
14. 5,280 feet
15. Beloved Yankee great
16. A female domestic
17. Free from alcoholism
18. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
19. Entertains with song
21. Wooden shoe
22. Female horses
23. Group of males
24. Sodium
25. Revolutions per minute
28. Neither
29. Woody climbing plant
31. Dismounted
33. Orbits the earth
36. Female parents
38 Separates acids
39. Origins
41. Stuffing and mounting animal skins
44. Rupture
45. Fathers
46. Large primate
48. Shape-memory alloy
49. Halfback
51. "Family Guy" daughter
52. Irish mountain chain
54. Paired
56. Drinks
60. Death notice
61. Skirts
62. Fertility god
63. Where a curve intersects itself
64. Red Sea port
65. Mozambique seaport
66. Leaver
67. The human foot
68. Crash

CLUES DOWN

1. Excessively theatrical actors
2. Wings
3. French river
4. Internet device
5. Where Tony Bennett left his heart
6. Flowering shrub that bears gooseberries
7. Brews
8. For each
9. Dictatorships
10. Slavic person in Saxony
11. Nobel laureate Shmuel
12. Lasso
14. Tones down
17. Lunar period
20. Leavened Indian bread
21. Military elite
23. One thousandth of an inch
25. L.A. footballer
26. Land plan
27. A satellite of Saturn
29. "Cat Ballou" actor
30. Obscure aspect of Sun God and a group of asteroids
32. Indicates the fare
34. __ and feather
35. Round Dutch cheese
37. Begat
40. Relaxing place
42. __ Hit'an of Alaska
43. Belgian city
47. Organ of hearing and balance
49. Isolated Southeast Asian people
50. "Power Rangers" villain
52. Yellow-fever mosquitos
53. Heavy cavalry sword
55. Laundry detergent
56. A way to wait
57. Mother and wife of Uranus
58. Justly obtain
59. Stony waste matter
61. Helps you find places
65. Oil company

Let's get you movin!

KELLERWILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY

Jennifer Walsh
507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com





YOUR AGRI CONNECTION

FARM LIVING PLUS

www.steeledodgenews.com

New app tracks trials

Mobile-friendly app helps with farmer field evaluation

The TrialsTracker app enables farmers to quantifiably compare results of their own trials and see if they are statistically meaningful. Using a simple note-taking interface, farmers can describe a trial in a sentence and draw polygons.

After harvest, the farmer is presented with the average yield value associated with each trial, which can be compared to the rest of a field, said Aaron Ault. He's a full-time farmer and part-time senior research engineer for Purdue's Open Ag Technology and Systems Group.

"TrialsTracker can show the yield difference between all the areas on which a farmer took notes during the growing season and during harvest," Ault said.

"The most important target feature is that the farmer can view and run stats on all his yield data on all fields at the same time on his mobile device, whether it's 100 acres or 100,000 acres, just like you can use Google Maps to zoom out and look at the entire world or zoom in on your street."

Learn more

TrialsTracker is being developed by Samuel Noel, a graduate student in agricultural and biological engineering. WinField is sponsoring development of the nonproprietary tool.

The app aims to foster more open-source contributions to agriculture, which benefits the entire industry, Noel said.

"Aaron and the team at Purdue have really been thought leaders in shaping open ag data principles as well as finding a way to experiment with proof of concepts," said Joel Wipperfurth, ag technology applications lead at WinField.

Last year, he and Teddy Bekele, WinField's vice president of Information Technologies, visited Ault in Indiana and walked his farm, talking about how -- as the world's going mobile -- farmers want instantaneous answers from mobile devices.

The trio discussed how TrialsTracker is a bit like Google searches for your farm.

"You're walking your farm and you say, "I really wonder what's here.' You draw a little polygon around the area you're interested in, and right there you've got the answer of what may have happened last year. Or you could at least save that polygon and build a query on that later, towards harvest," Wipperfurth said.

The app conforms with Open Ag Data Alliance (OADA), a framework that fosters compatibility and seamless integration across systems. "It consumes data from OA-DA-compliant data providers to perform the statistical calculations," Noel said.



The source code is available for anyone to use, modify or contribute to at https://github.com/OpenATK/TrialsTracker. Note, this is not for amateurs, it's a techy page where a developer can take a look at TrialsTracker and perhaps put it to use. In essence, it's still under development but should be ready for prime time soon. If you're computer savvy, check out the site all the instructions are there.

New software ahead

TrialsTracker is the flagship addition to a suite of open-source apps the group is developing under a larger project, Open Ag Toolkit, which began four years ago with USDA funding, said Prof. James Krogmeier, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The apps each target and solve a single problem, such as marking rocks or where a nozzle plugged on a nitrogen applicator for yield analysis later.

"The idea here was really simple apps that do very simple things, and they work together with some sort of back-end syncing through the cloud or some other mechanism," Krogmeier said.

"Our experience with farmers was that a lot of things don't get recorded because farmers are too busy. They're out in the field. They don't have time to write down copious notes and then when the end of the day comes, they don't have time to log these notes back into some sort of a farm management system."

Open source in ag is revolutionary and relevant, Ault said.

With TrialsTracker, a farmer who sees a weedy spot in his field, for example, can pull out a phone and within 30 seconds notate that spot. Later, while harvesting, an alarm alerts the farmer that something happened here and suggests comparing the yield from that spot to another spot.

TrialsTracker can tell yield correlations among all places you sprayed, chiseled, applied a cover crop and more. When you get to your analysis, you don't need to re-enter data, Ault said.

It helps with more formal trials, too. Say your agronomist gives you a new microbial product to try. You mark where you put it down and share that with the agronomist.

"When harvest data comes in, you don't have to do any work," Ault said. "It's just magically there. It says, 'Hey, that spot where you put the microbials, it was this many bushels better or worse than the rest of the field.'"

March weed of the month: Baby's Breath

■ By: Margaret Wiatrowski
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Last month we learned about how the cut-flower industry can be a pathway for new invasive plant introductions. A good example of a plant that got its start in the Midwest through this inroad is baby's breath, Gypsophila paniculata. Baby's breath has become a problem across the northern and western U.S. and is listed as a noxious weed by California and Washington. It is known to occur in Minnesota, but the exact distribution is unknown. The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Committee (MISAC) (http://www.mda.state.mn.us/misac/) lists it as a species to "Watch," and notes that it is known "to be problematic under certain conditions, but the invasiveness…in all Minnesota conditions has yet to be determined." Baby's breath has not yet been petitioned for review to the Minnesota Noxious Weed Advisory Committee (NWAC) for risk assessment and evaluation as a potential state listed noxious weed, but is on their list of potential species to review over the next three years.

Baby's breath is a perennial herbaceous plant that can reach heights of three feet. It has a highly branched, bushy appearance studded with numerous distinctive small white flowers. The leaves are commonly not seen in floral arrangements; they are opposite, narrow, lance-shaped, and hairy. Baby's breath has a large taproot which can resprout if the plant is cut. It is a prolific seed producer, releasing 10,000 seeds or more per plant.

Baby's breath is a common filler in floral arrangements. When the arrangement has finished blooming, the cut flowers can still produce seeds. This discarded seed is a source of new infestations. Once in the landscape, it forms dense monocultures which outcompete and displace native species. The plants tend to break off at ground-level and become tumbleweeds; this serves to disperse seeds widely as well. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions which makes it a superior competitor.

This species is difficult to control once established and you can help to prevent its spread by properly disposing of spent floral arrangements in garbage bags or burning if local ordinances allow.

• Small infestations can be controlled by cutting, digging, or spot herbicide treatment. Hand-pulling is difficult due to the tenacity of the root system.

• Larger infestations should be cut or mowed to prevent seed production. Mowing should be used in conjunction with properly-timed herbicide treatment.

• Heavy and continuous grazing can help by preventing seed production and applying pressure to mature plants. Deep tillage can be effective as well.



INDEPENDENT | Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Baby's breath plant growing in grassland in Minnesota.

MDA requests proposals for Good Food Access Program grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is requesting proposals for grants to increase access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods in underserved and low- and moderate income communities. Roughly $150,000 is available for Equipment and Physical Improvement Grants through the Good Food Access Program (GFAP).

Grants must stimulate sales of affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods – including fruits and vegetables – by assisting grocery stores and small food retailers in making physical improvements or purchasing equipment.

According to a 2016 study published by the Federal Reserve Bank and Wilder Research, roughly 30 percent of Minnesotans have low retail access to healthy food.

"Many communities in Minnesota face challenges when it comes to connecting people to healthy, affordable food options," said MDA Grants Specialist Ashley Bress. "Fresh fruits and vegetables are essential parts of a healthy diet. These grants help retailers stock those nutritious foods by purchasing equipment and related physical infrastructure, which can be an expensive barrier for smaller grocery stores and farmers markets."

Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant funds may be used to purchase retail display coolers and freezers, storage coolers and freezers, shelving, mobile food trucks, permanent infrastructure at farmers markets, architectural work, and costs associated with the installation of equipment for physical improvements. For-profit and not-for-profit small food retailers and grocery stores (including farmers markets) are eligible recipients.

In addition to the Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant funds, approximately $75,000 for Technical Assistance Grants will be available through the Good Food Access Program later this spring.

To apply for Equipment and Physical Improvement Grants online, visit http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/gfapequipmentgrant.aspx. Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 P.M. Central Standard Time on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

WAGN offers "Becoming a Preferred Employer" seminar

Women in Agriculture Network (WAGN) is excited to announce its April seminar: "Becoming a Preferred Employer".

The event will take place April 4, 2017 at the Heintz Center in Rochester, Minnesota (1926 Collegeview Rd E, Rochester, MN 55904). Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the program runs from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The fee is $20, which covers the cost of lunch. Payment can be made the day of the event.

Betty Berning, Extension Educator shares, "Finding and keeping employees is a challenge for agricultural employers. We hear about this issue often. Farmers are also concerned about employee safety and managing employee risk on their operation. This program will cover all of these topics. Participants will leave with ideas on how to attract and retain employees. We'll also spend some time on talking about how an employee handbook can help retain employees, increase employee safety, and manage a farm's risks."

The Women in Ag Network offers more information about the program, including registration details at: http://z.umn.edu/AprWAGN.

To learn more about Women in Ag Network, please visit: http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/business/women-in-ag/.



Let Us Put A Drainage Project Like This On Your Farm
We can also help you with:
• Aggregate Products • Hauling
• Waterway Cleaning • Septic
• All Excavation Projects
LOKEN
Excavation & Drainage, Inc.
41 Years in Business!
Call Dallas for all your Drainage Needs!
507-451-2873
Toll-Free 1-855-298-2568
3695 Hoffman Drive NW • Owatonna • loken@qwestoffice.net

CFS
THE POWER OF PROGRESS
an Ag-focused Cooperative that turns Progress into Powerful solutions for our customers.
cfscoop.com
Agronomy • Energy • Grain • Feed • Financing

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
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

3/7, 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
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

3/7, 3/14, 3/21
3/28, 4/3, 4/10

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

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

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-415

Estate of
Billy Lee Johnson,
Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of April, 2017, at 10:45 A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 111 E. Main St., Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated May 1, 2013, and for the appointment of Billie Jo Schwierjohann, whose address is 14340 SW 92nd Ave, New Richland, MN 56072 as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Clerk of the Court within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,

Karen R. Ducan
Judge of District Court
3-6-2017

Jason J. Iacovino
Attorney at Law
415 E. Main St.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(507) 583-6663
Attorney Registration Number 386770

3/14, 3/21

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.
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
(16-1786-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:
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.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-1553-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

3/14, 3/21, 3/28
4/4 4/11, 4/18

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

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

Foreclosure

17-106085

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

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 02/21/2017
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
• Glynn/Abbe to approve the agenda. Ayes all.
• County Engineer, Anita Benson gave an update on the Public Works Building and reviewed with the board the options if they are looking at changing the overall project.
• County Attorney, Dan McIntosh gave an update on the changes regarding the Court Rooms at the Courthouse. The MCIT adjuster will be preparing a scope of repair document within the next couple of weeks.
• Glynn/Gnemi to go into Closed Session at 7:01 p.m. for a security briefing regarding the temporary Courthouse facilities. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to re-open the Board Meeting at 7:22 p.m.
• Abbe/Gnemi that, based on the information provided by the Sheriff, County Attorney, County Administrator, Probation Director, Court Administrator and District Judge Duncan and after full consideration of Minnesota law pertaining to public bidding, the Board should invoke Minn. Stat. §375.21, subd. 1 and declare a public safety risk due to further delay in the courthouse project. Ayes all.
• County Administrator Elvebak was requested to seek out interest from individuals/firms for a contract with a Project Manager to facilitate and coordinate the repair, code compliance, and improvements to the Steele County Courthouse.

Motion by Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 7:44 p.m. Ayes all.

3/21

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 03/07/2017
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
• County Engineer Anita Benson gave an update on the Hope Tile issue. Soon, there will be an informational meeting with the Board and residents of Hope and would look at pursuing a petition to make it a county tile.
• County Administrator Laura Elvebak gave an update on the Courthouse Pipe Burst. A meeting of, County Administrator Elvebak, MCIT Adjusters and the On-Site Project Manager from ROCON took place to look at the scope and then will be compared to the County's estimated scope in determining the scope and insurance coverage. The City Building Official was on site also, looking to see if we could do it in phased stages. The Fire Department would also need to sign off.
• Glynn/Krueger offered the Resolution delegating County Administrator Laura Elvebak authority to execute agreements on behalf of the County relating to the January 10, 2017 Courthouse event. Upon the vote being taken, five Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Krueger/Gnemi approve having a Building Committee comprised of the County Administrator, Board Chair, Board Vice-Chair, County Engineer, Building & Grounds Director and County Attorney. Ayes all.
• County Engineer Anita Benson gave an update on the Public Works Building.
• Glynn/Gnemi approve the County Attorney to terminate the contract for concrete work at the Public Works Building. Ayes all.
• The Board met with the Public Works Complex Project Manager, Architect and former Task Force members to review drawings and discuss different options available.
• The meeting was open to comments from those in attendance.

Motion by Gnemi, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to adjourn to the Call of the Chair at 8:06 p.m. Ayes all.

3/21

Steele County

STEELE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:
That on Monday, April 3rd, 2017 starting at 7:00 pm., the Steele County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the Commissioner's Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN, to receive comments on the following permit application.
Michael Remick has requested to renew CUP #250 allowing outdoor receptions at the Monterey Ballroom located at 4712 South County Road 45. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearings and be heard on these matters.

Dale Oolman
Steele County
Zoning Director
630 Florence Ave.
P.O. Box 890
Owatonna, MN 55060
(507) 444-7482

3/21

Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.

Horoscopes

With the end of March comes the begining of Spring. Find out what waits ahead for you.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, if you have been working too much, you have to find time to relax or you will not be able to grow. Your brain and body need recharging to work at their optimal levels.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, be sure to follow through on any promises you made to others and yourself. Set aside some extra time to address each of these commitments.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, work on honing your flirting skills. Whether you are attached or looking for new romance, think about the subtleties that will draw others close to you.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, prioritizing goals and maintaining some flexibility are the keys to managing what life has in store for you this week. With the right mindset, you can handle a busy week.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, there is a time for buckling down and a time for having fun, and this is a great week to let loose. Plan an excursion with friends or go on a solo holiday for pure enjoyment.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Do not underestimate other people, Virgo. There may be more to them than meets the eye, and you don't want to be at a disadvantage in a relationship. Learn all the facts first.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Be mindful of what you say and with whom you chat for a little while, Libra. While it's good to be friendly, you may be sharing too much personal information right now.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Stop focusing on what you could have done differently in the recent past, Scorpio. Looking back is not going to change anything now. It's better to focus on the future.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, share more details of an important situation with others. They will need more than just bits and pieces as they try to help you figure out your next move.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, although life has been a bit hectic lately, you have managed to hold things together quite well. Others may even remark on how calm you have been.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, exercise caution, but try to avoid being overly suspicious of others who are trying to help. Let some things go and you'll be happier for it.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
There's no need to rush a special project, Pisces. You have more than enough time to get it all done. Plan out your steps and dig in.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS
MARCH 26
Steven Tyler, Singer (69)

MARCH 27
Nathan Fillion, Actor (45)

MARCH 28
Vince Vaughn, Actor (47)

MARCH 29
Elle Macpherson, Model (53)

MARCH 30
Celine Dion, Singer (49)

MARCH 31
Ewan McGregor, Actor (46)

APRIL 1
Kip Moore, Singer (37)



STEELE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTPRIVATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: that on Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Steele County Administration Center, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, Minnesota, the Steele County Board of Adjustment will hold Public Hearings on the following variance applications:

The Steele County Trail Association has requested to construct one building 38 feet from the road right of way and 15 feet from the rear property line and re-located another building 35 feet from the road right of way and 15 feet from the rear property line. This property is located in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼, Section 30, Somerset Township. The property address is 9028 37th Ave, SW., Hope, MN.

Brian and Brad Keck have requested to replace a swine confinement barn 67 feet from the road right of way. Steele County ordinance requires new barns to be 100 feet from the right of way. This property is located in the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ , Section 5, Lemond Township. The property address is 5374 SW 82nd Ave.

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing or contact the planning and zoning office to be heard on this matter.

3/21

HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Blooming Prairie

March 21
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
4:45pm - 5:45pm BP Boys N Girls Club Brd Mtg
7pm BPHS band concert, BP high school
March 22
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
March 28
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
6pm - 7pm BPBL Book Club

Event Spotlight: SKYWARN Spotter Training

Are you interested in severe weather? Steele County SKYWARN will be holding certified spotter training next Tuesday, March 21st at the Owatonna Community Education Building (Roosevelt School) at 122 E McKinley Street in Owatonna.

The class runs from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM. The class is free and open to the public. If you want to spot for the National Weather Service or just want to learn more about severe weather, you are invited to attend.

A second class is being held at the Blooming Prairie City Hall on Monday, April 24th also at 7:00 PM. If you are interested but not able to make either of these dates there are other training sessions available around the region. See our website (www.SteeleCountySKYWARN.org) for more information.

Event Spotlight: Winter Star Watching

On March 24, you can observe the stars at the Sola Fide Observatory at 8 pm.

Learn about the night sky from our local experts.

From I90 take Hwy 218 south 2 miles to CR 28. Turn right (west) 1 mile to stop sign. Turn south on CR 29 for 1.5 miles to 180th St. Turn right for a quarter of a mile - the driveway is on the right.

For more information, call Keith at 507-440-1244 or email imstar@smig.net.

Austin/Mower County

March 21
9am - 11am Open Dome Family Time, Packer Dome, Wescott Field
10am - 5pm Gallery Show - Z Puppets Rosenschnoz and Youth Gallery, Austin ArtWorks Center
10am - 11am Hearth and Home Series - Drumming for Life and Mind, Hormel Historic Home
March 22
11:30am - 12:30pm SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House
2pm - 3pm Legal Costs, Taxes, and Nursing Home Care Mower County Senior Center
7pm - 8pm Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Peer Support Group, First Congregational Church, Austin
March 23
10:30am - 12pm Fused Glass Night Light, Austin ArtWorks Center
2pm - 3pm Mower County Historical Society Presentation: An International History of Slavery.
March 24
9am - 3pm American Red Cross Blood Drive, Mayo Clinic Health System - Austin
5:15pm - 7:15pm Bingo, Austin VFW
7pm - 9pm Austin ArtWorks Open Jam Session, Austin ArtWorks Center
7:30pm - 9:30pm The Cat's Pajamas Concert, Frank W. Bridges, Riverland Community College
March 25
10:30am - 12pm Kids' Studio: Flower on Canvas, Austin ArtWorks Center
1pm - 3pm Meet the Author: Judi Bergen, Sweet Reads Books and Candy
2pm - 3pm Cellula - A Z Puppets Rosenschonz Show, Historic Paramount Theatre
7pm - 10pm Austin Bruins vs Coulee Region Chill, Riverside Arena, Austin
8pm - 9pm Sola Fide Observatory Viewing
Where: Sola Fide Observatory
March 26
2pm - 4pm The Creative Kitchen - Asian Fusion, Hormel Historic Home
6pm - 10pm Ahockalypse in Austin Filming, Holiday Inn Austin Conference Center
6:30pm - 7:30pm Friends and Volunteers Appreciation Program, Ruby Rupner Auditorium, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center

Ellendale/Hope/Geneva

Mar. 21
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
March 23
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
March 27
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
March 28
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

It was Green Day everywhere on Friday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Participating in their own parade at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club are, from left to right: Becky Johnson, Susie Thorson, Gary Thorson, Patty Trott and Archie Trott.

LAST YEAR



Archived submitted photo

A group of seventh grade Owatonna Public School students testified a bill that they prompted to the Minnesota House of Representatives at the State Capitol building on Thursday, March 17. The trip to the Capitol began last year with letters and a petition to acknowledge the men and women that built the State Capitol. Pictured is a group of last year's sixth grade students holding the letters that they sent to legislators.

Owatonna/Medford

March 21
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
10am - 11:45am OPL So Many Books...So Little Time Book Club
4:30pm - 5:30pm OPL Brd Mtg, Gainey Rm
6:30pm - 7:30pm Court St Anne Catholic Daughters Meeting, Medford
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
March 22
9am-2pm Medford Honor Society Blood Drive, Medford Elementary School Gym
2pm - 3pm OPL Independent & World Films
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
March 23
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
March 24
7pm Wizard of Oz Musical, Medford High School Auditorium
7pm - 8pm Movie Night, New Beginnings Church, Owatonna
March 25
9am-3pm SCHS Archaelogical show, History Center
2pm Wizard of Oz Musical, Medford High School
7pm Wizard of Oz Musical, Medford High School
March 26
2pm Wizard of Oz Musical, Medford High School
March 27
All Day - No School, Medford, Teacher Work Day
1pm - 1:35pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
4pm - 5pm Owatonna Housing & Redevelopment Authority, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
March 28
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
4pm - 5pm OPU Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall
7pm Medford City Council Meeting, Medford City Hall

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: 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.

12TH ANNUAL FISH FRY
Sponsored by The St. John's Catholic Women
March 24 • 4:00 - 7:30PM
DODGE CENTER AMERICAN LEGION
All You Can Eat Fish, Batter Fried & Baked,
Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans, Salads & Desserts



$10.00 Adults
$6.00 Children (6-12 yrs.)
Free 5 yrs. and Under

- Quilt Sale sponsored by the "Common Thread" Quilters
- Proceeds Go To St John's Youth Faith Formation Program



Dr. Deborah Lien
DDS, MBS
FREE CONSULTATION
132 2nd Ave NE • Blooming Prairie
507.583.6613
www.drdeborahlienorthodontics.com

THE CLASSIFIEDS- Where the Deals Are!
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
SITUATIONS WANTED
AUTOMOBILES FOR SALE
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
GARAGE SALES
HOMES FOR SALE
Steele County Times
Always local, all the time.
Call to place an item in the Classifieds today:
507-583-4431

Minimizer
Blooming Prairie
800-248-3855
www.minimizer.com

J&H LIQUOR'S:
340 E. Main St. Blooming Prairie, MN• (507)583-7557

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

-BLOOMIN' GRAPEVINE WINE CLUB
TUES. 7-8:30 P.M. @ J&H
FEE CHARGED 21 AND OVER. APRIL 4

MAY 9: BOYS & GIRLS CLUB BENEFIT
7-9 P.M. @ J&H
TICKETS : $12.00 ADVANCE/ $18.00 DOOR
BUY YOUR TICKET BY APRIL 15TH, NAME ENTERED INTO A BASKET DRAWING!

-CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY:
APRIL 1ST
DRINK & BEER SPECIALS,
MUNCHIES, MEAT RAFFLES
"31" YEARS OF BUSINESS!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.

CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 24
PARKING LOT DANCE: JULY 1ST
STREET DANCE: JULY 3RD
JULY 4TH : OPEN 10 AM- CLOSE
B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS" JULY 22

ALL EVENT DETAILS AVAILABLE AT J&H LIQUOR'S

NEW PRAIRIE SPORTSMAN
HUNTING • FISHING
COOKING • HABITAT
THURSDAY EVENINGS
7:30 o'clock
Sponsored by
AL'S Specialty Marine
ROCHESTER, MN • 507-282-5532
WILD GOOSE Sports
Channel 15 with Antenna, Dish Network, Direct TV, Jaguar,
Charter Channels 779/13/8 Other local cable providers
PRAIRIE SPORTSMAN is a Production of Pioneer Public Television, Appleton, MN
KSMQ TV
The Better Choice



IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS...
CIRCLE TRACK TRUCK RACING IS BACK!

Minimizer

WE ARE PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF THE BANDIT BIG RIG SERIES!

2017 SCHEDULE

*CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Saturday, March 25
Hickory Motor
Newton, NC

Saturday, April 15
Greenville-Pickens
Easley, SC

Saturday, May 13
Montgomery Motor
Montgomery, AL

Saturday, May 20
Florence Motor
Timmonsville, SC

Saturday, June 10
Greenville-Pickens
Easley, SC

Saturday, July 1
Highland Rim
Greenbriar, TN

Saturday, July 15
Hawkeye Downs
Cedar Rapids, IA

Friday, July 28
Madison International
Madison, Wi

Saturday, August 5
I-44 Speedway
Lebanon, MO

Saturday, September 2
Florence Motor
Timmonsville, SC

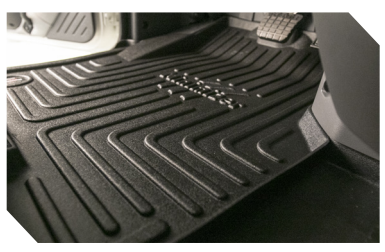
Sunday, September 23
Highland Rim
Greenbriar, TN

Saturday, October 14
Hickory Motor
Newton, NC

Saturday, October 28
Crisp Motorsports Park
Cordele, GA

Fun for all ages!

BANDITSERIES.COM



Minimizer



MINIMIZER.COM | TESTED & TORTURED | 800.248.3855