



STEELE COUNTY Times



\$1

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Tuesday, April 26, 2016

DANCING WITH THE STARS IN STEELE COUNTY

What happens when a police chief and a licensed practical nurse (LPN) get together? They go dancing, that's what.

Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad and wife Allyson, a licensed practical nurse at the Owatonna Clinic, put aside their professional wares and don their dancing shoes on Saturday, April 30 when they compete in the 6th Annual Dancing with Our Steele County Stars.

The popular event, sponsored by Healthy Seniors of Steele County along with Brian and Lynette Dawley, will be held in the Medford High School Auditorium. The evening begins at 6 p.m. with a social/raffle and the program follows at 7 p.m.

Seven couples will compete in the fundraiser for Healthy Seniors, says event organizer Edna Ringhofer. Other sponsors are 92.1 True Oldies, J-C Press, Spherion and Kowz Radio.

Contestants this year are: Thea and Eric Farrington; Annette Frank and Bryan Duncan; Kerri and Tyler Lynch; Jamie and Jeff Morness; Melissa and Michael Peterson; Jennifer and Clint Seykora and Allyson and Greg Skillestad.

Judges for this year's contest are: Dr. Tim Van Gelder and wife Andrea; Michelle and Ross Sletten and Mara Oien.

Angela and Cory Michaelson won the competition last year, dancing the quickstep to "Put'n on the Ritz." The Michaelsons also won the fundraising award by earning more than \$7000. The Audience Choice, Judges Choice and Second Place was won by Glenda and Paul Smith. Third place dancers were Amber and James Konz.

Allyson and Greg have been practicing for weeks, the site of their regimen being either Medford High School or the Blooming Prairie High School gymnasium.

Their dance practices typically last 2 1/2 hours. "We started at 10 one night," says Greg.

Greg and Allyson will be dancing to a modern "Hustle"

song choreographed by Brian and Lynette Dawley.

Allyson has found her wardrobe selection very challenging. "I've ended up with about seven dresses; now Greg will have to take me on a lot of dates for me to use the dresses." Allyson will be in a "two in one" dress with butterfly wings.

Greg will be attired in tuxedo

pants, a flashy shirt and white, patent leather shoes. "I've had to modify my shoes so I don't slip on the dance floor," Greg said. He explained that he used a belt sander to take off the bottom of the shoes and replaced the fabric with suede. "I can now slide better," he says.

DANCING STARS
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Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Greg and Allyson Skillestad show off one of their moves in their two-minute dance routine for the sixth annual Dancing with Our Steele County Stars competition to be held Saturday, April 30 at Medford High School.

Boys and Girls Club Full Staff Makes Plans

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

At the last meeting of the boys and girls Club Board directors, Branch Director Marcy Sundine reported that the club had a full staff on board and that average attendance remained steady at 26 members daily, and that the summer program schedule already was taking shape. Those were just a few of the items discussed at the March board meeting.

Sundine, along with Rochester Director of Operations Ellen Hamernik, and local board member Pastor Charlie Leonardo also found time to meet with approximately a dozen parents on Thursday, Mar. 3. Sundine and Hamernik explained the purpose of the club, the various activities and study time available to members, and some of the parental obligations necessary for a smooth operation of the organization. Holly Jorgensen, representing the non-profit Let's Smile Inc. of Owatonna, also discussed dental health care available to club members for the parents attending the meeting.

Parents were asked to volunteer to head the committee and assist in organizing the annual ribfest coming up on Saturday, June 27, and several indicated

CLUBS
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Blooming Praire swimming pool



Staff Photo by Howard Lestrud

Bishop Excavating owner Benji Bishop moves some earth in the Pine Springs Swimming Pool of Blooming Prairie as part of a cleaning operation. Algae and muck were removed from the pool. The 2016 swimming season is still a little over a month away with the opening set for June 6.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It's not time for the outdoor swimming season yet at the Blooming Prairie swimming pool, but a facelift was in order according to Bishop Excavating of Blooming Prairie.

The pool is located at the corner of 1st Ave. and 1st St. NW. The pool, one of the largest in the area, was named last year as one of the top eight outdoor pools in Minnesota.

Benji Bishop, owner, said his firm has been doing a routine cleaning about every three years and now was a good time to do it. His crews were busy cleaning out the algae and muck from the surface of the Pine Springs Pool, the city's public pool.

Bishop brought in two excavators and a skid loader to remove the unwanted material and transported it away in two 12-yard dump trucks.

This cosmetic work, which lasted about two days, keeps weeds from growing in the

spring-fed pool.

Find out more about the Pine Springs Pool by going to the Blooming Prairie city website. The pool was built by Glenn S. Thorson, better known as "Mr. Blooming Prairie." Thorson was a local attorney who built and dedicated the pool for public use in 1961.

Thorson died at age 82 in 1973. He was honored by his city, county and state as an Outstanding Minnesota Senior Citizen in 1972.

The pool's water comes from a natural spring beneath the city block where it is located.

During the pool season, the pool is treated with chlorine to control the growth of natural algae and bacteria. The chlorine also keeps the pool safe for swimming.

The pool is designed in three parts, 4 feet, 5 1/2 feet and 11 feet in depth. A swimming test is required to swim in the second and third parts. The first part has a platform for children to swim on and around

and sand boxes are available for young swimmers. The third part has a platform for swimmers to swim on and around. Twelve lifeguards are employed during the summer.

Plans are to open the pool on Monday, June 6 for the 2016 summer season. Pool hours are from 1-6:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-7:20 p.m.

Pool rates include a family membership at \$50 and single at \$25. Coupon books are available and daily admission is \$2 per person. Those under 2 and at senior citizen age are free. Parents must accompany children when purchasing a membership. Swimming lessons will also be given this summer.

For more information, contact City Hall at 507-583-7573.

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Vol. 124, No. 47

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Opinion

Our view

Combating impaired driving Tougher ignition interlock law needed

The carnage needs to stop. No family should have to endure the senseless and horrifying results of what happens when a tipsy driver hops behind the wheel and plows into an innocent bystander or motorist. Yet, this totally preventable crime claimed the lives of nearly 500 just in Minnesota alone between 2011 and 2014.

In order to save lives in Minnesota, state lawmakers can take a major step by passing legislation to require ignition interlock technology for all offenders. Rep. Kim Norton, DFL-Rochester, has authored HF 1112, a no-nonsense law that would require anyone convicted of drunk driving for the second time to install an ignition device in their cars if they want to reinstate their license. The device requires a driver to blow into a tube, and the car won't start if it detects alcohol.

Norton said, "One in seven drivers in Minnesota has a DUI. One in 16 has two or more, and 1 in 35 has three or more. This is a significant issue. It can be reduced significantly."

Currently, drivers must use an interlock device only if they've had three DWIs in five years or four DWIs in 10 years. So requiring it for all second time DWI drivers would be a major change, possibly affecting tens of thousands of Minnesota drivers.

Revoking driver's licenses alone doesn't keep offenders from going behind the wheel. Statistics show that up to 75 percent of those who lose their licenses for alcohol-related offenses continue to drive, and sadly, many continue to drive drunk.

More needs to be done.

As our "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose," campaign continues this week and will periodically throughout the rest of the year, it points out the stark realities of what happens when drivers have one too many drinks. Families suffer devastating life-long consequences.

Passing this legislation is one of the top priorities of Mothers Against Drunk Driving across the nation. There are currently only 25 states that require ignition interlocks for all offenders. Minnesota needs to join that list.

Ignition interlocks will save lives. They will protect everyone on Minnesota's roadways.

Time is running out for this year's legislature to enact this lifesaving measure. The safety of Min-

36 years of MADD progress

BY ANNA SEGNER
County Staff Writer

It is no coincidence to members of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) that since the organization was founded in 1980, the number of drunk driving deaths in the United States has been cut in half.

When MADD was founded in 1980, more than 25,000 people were killed in drunk driving crashes each year. Since then, that deadly number has been cut in half.

MADD is celebrating its 36th birthday this year, and MADD State Executive Director Art Morrow said that the true source of joy is the reduction of drunk driving deaths.

Their work, however, is nowhere near completion.

"I'm looking forward to the day when my job in no longer needed," said Morrow.

Morrow's work with MADD runs deep.

"I was drawn to this cause because 33 years ago, my sister Sue was killed by a drunk driver," said Morrow.

His sister, a teenager, was on a weekend drive with friends to the high school state basketball game. A drunk driver crossed over the center lane, head on to the car full of high school teens. Three were killed on impact.

"I realized then and I certainly realize today that this is one of those issues that is 100% preventable," he said.

Morrow's cause connection motivates him every single day. Statistics also motivate him.

In 2014, 2,040 Minnesotans were reported injured and 111 were reported killed as a result of alcohol impaired driving, according to Morrow.

"In 2015 alone, there were teenagers, moms, dads, young and highly motivated individuals getting launched in their careers, killed because of drunk driving," remarked Morrow. "It is just all completely unnecessary and preventable. I do this work for all these people and all these families."

The mission of MADD is "to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes and prevent underage drinking."

From the first candlelight vigil in 1981 to the political marches throughout history to the annual fundraiser Walk like MADD, the organization has kept sight of their goal—to end drunk driving.

MADD Minnesota's mission is lived and breathed by its' hundreds of volunteers that work tirelessly to educate the community about the impacts of driving under the influence.

The "Power of Youth" program involves volunteers talking with students in schools about the dangers of underage drinking, particularly underage binge drinking.

"We encourage people to make good choices, and don't get in the car with a driver who

MADD

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Staying connected in a 24/7 world no matter where you're at

As I take advantage of my two week excursion across Europe with my oldest daughter, one thought has been fledging the entire time. It's difficult to get disconnected from the world, especially in today's society.

I guess I've always known that in theory, but it didn't become real apparent to me until practical application this past week in Belgium and several neighboring countries, including France, Switzerland and Germany. I'm most excited about Germany as it is where my ancestors hail from many years ago. Yes, I'm a full blooded German. Perhaps a little stubborn at times, but I try to keep things on an even keel most of the time.

Technology allows us to basically stay connected no matter where we're at in the world. Sure there are a few times where you may not be able to connect at a certain moment, but for the most part, it's pretty easy to stay in touch.

Through devices like laptop computers and iPhones and services like email, internet and Facebook, it's next to impossible to totally escape everything. I'm finding out the biggest mistake I made was bringing my laptop and iPhone with me on this trip. Or not?

While sometimes it would be nice to totally isolate oneself from the rest of the



world, I must admit it's nice to know what's happening around America and close to home.

Within hours, even though I was half way across the world, I found out that Prince died at his home in Minnesota. I also knew fairly quickly about the tornado that skirted across northern Steele County. And, perhaps most importantly, I have been able to communicate with family members back home that weren't fortunate to come on this trip with me. FaceTime has allowed me to not only hear from my family, but also see them. Oh, the wonders of modern technology.

I've also been able to take care of a few projects that I didn't get done before I left on the trip. And, technology allows my daughter to

continue piecing together all the public safety information that readers are able to enjoy each week from police, fire and court officials. I bet you had no clue that the public safety items have been done in Belgium (where my daughter has been studying abroad) for the past four months prior to being published in this newspaper.

I can't help but wonder what it would have been like even 20 years ago to travel without all the modern day technological advances. I don't really have anything to compare it to because this is my first big trip of my lifetime. I can only imagine. Sometimes imagination can be a dangerous thing and take you to places you'd rather not be.

But I also think not being connected in ways that we are today wouldn't be a bad thing. It certainly would help clear the mind more and totally enjoy oneself without having to worry about anything back home. I totally believe that we are way too connected in a world that goes 24/7 365 days a year.

The world is a much different place today than it was when our ancestors voyaged across the big pond. There is no doubt they would be shocked at how we're able to go in hot pursuit of staying connected no matter where we're at.

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

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 1/2 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

Mark Skroch
507-688-9432

Hayfield Mayor

Greg Demmer
507-477-3535
g.demmer@gofast.am

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

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Last week, amidst the tornado sirens, we practiced – or at least tried to get everyone to practice, their procedures in the case of a severe weather event! It allowed me to reflect a little bit on my 18 years as a certified SKYWARN severe weather spotter, and my equal time in Emergency Services.

HOWEVER, it also concerned me when I realized, during these "tests", how many people did not know why the sirens were activated, despite all of the local and regional media attention in advance. And, once they heard, didn't even give it a second thought. Minnesotans have gotten complacent, and that can be a very dangerous thing when it comes to severe weather.

I wonder how many even

Minnesotans are complacent with severe storms

know that as of last Friday, April 22nd, officials and meteorologists were already giving us a heads up that if the weather models continued in the direction they were currently, that THIS WEEK, we could see more than one day of severe weather – possible including tornado activity.

We are very blessed in Steele County with our SKYWARN volunteer crew. I have been in several "chapters" of SKYWARN in three different states over my 18 year span. Steele County by far has demonstrated the best training, and very well educated leaders and directors.

The chapter has received State and National recognition! Having a airplane pilot as a Director (Dave Purcell), that truly understands ALL weather, is a benefit that our community takes for granted. Our crew, does not fall into the category of solo operating "cowboys" that some chapters experience. We are a Team. A Professional Team. On call, ready to respond, no matter what we have had scheduled or going on during the time of an activation!

Currently, we are exploring an offer of certification in First Aid, CPR, and AED to all members! Steele County would be one of very few chapters with this additional training.

When we are activated we are NOT just looking for Tornadoes but truly are the "eyes and ears for other government agencies and officials. After the severe weather passes, we often take on rolls like Traffic Control, Search & Rescue, Damage

Documentation, and so much more.

Many do not realize that when you see an image on radar, that image is already six minutes old. Six minutes of being unprepared can be an eternity! SKYWARN has the ability to report real time – immediate conditions based on trained eye witnesses strategically placed throughout our County.

I would encourage all of us to take just five minutes and make sure the stairway to our safe spot is clear. That all of the light bulbs in our basement or safe area are functioning, that we have at least one flashlight, and a battery operated radio, extra batteries, a blanket or two, bottled water, candybars, candles and matches, pet food if you have animals, and a first aid kit. EVERY home should have a severe alert radio. These

SEVERE STORMS

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**STEELE COUNTY
Times**
Always local, all the time.

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

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2013 2 National Awards 7 State Awards	
2012 2 State Awards	


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

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

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

ETHICS

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

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Second Front

Defining moments that determine your destiny

I learned at a young age how things can change in a heartbeat. It's what we do after that life changing moment that can determine your destiny. Nothing grows in the feedbag. It contains seed from yesterday's harvest. NOW... what you do with those seeds is what determines tomorrow's menu.

At 19 years of age I was back home from a very mediocre first year of college at the University of Wisconsin. The first semester of college found me away from home and far from the grip of very strict and almost psychic parents. They always seemed to know every one of my secrets and lies even as I was concocting the stories. But that's for another column and another day.

My first year of college I majored in drinking and

LITTLE THOUGHTS ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK DELAP

foosball. I actually did really well in those subjects and if "table soccer" would have been an Olympic sport, I would have made that team. My other grades, however, were a bit bent. Bordering

more on fractured, actually.

After the first semester grades came out I was advised to change my major or completely pay for my own education. They reminded me that professional foosball players don't make enough to support a family. I buckled down.

Where was I? Oh... yeah... Life changing moments. With most of our high school graduating class home for the summer, reunions were the popular thing to do. A time to gather, tell our war stories from our respective colleges, lie about how well we did and boast about our epic freshman endeavors.

A little foolishness and a lot of testosterone led to a WWE wrestling match in the apartment of a good friend. Basketball players taking on a new sport of wrestling.

Play at your own risk. I had never learned what a "pile driver" was until that night. I experienced it up close and personal, in an upside down position, screaming like a mad man.

The friend from Marquette University had me in the clutches of my very first pile driver and as he "piled the driver," I tried to tuck my head. I guess now, looking back on it, I should have been more experienced in the move or in the avoidance of said move. My neck DID bend, but the angle of the tuck slammed my face into my own chest and I experienced my "change in a heartbeat."

Everything went into slow motion and then faded to black. I had a floating sensation and felt as if I had floated up out of my body

that was lying lifeless on the ground. "Well," I thought. "this can't be good."

To make a long story very short, I had broken my neck. Back in those days (ancient of days according to my children), not much had been done with spinal injuries. All I know is that life moved very fast in a very uncomfortable direction. I had a previous neck injury that had been misdiagnosed and as a result, the "ondontoid process" on the second vertebrae was not only shattered, but had completely disintegrated.

I guess that can happen from being misinformed about pile driving. As a result, the first vertebrae had slipped down and the second vertebrae had slipped sideways. I guess the doctor was more expressive when he looked at my parents and me,

and said, "It's a mess."

I had broken my neck in what was termed, a hangman's break, but I was still alive. Not moving, but still, very much alive. It was at this point. At this life changing fork in the road that I had some decisions to make. Decisions that affected my destiny.

I will finish this up next week when we talk again. For a week, suffice to know that I was lying paralyzed with a broken neck and I was out of options. It was a time where my entire life hung in the balance in the hands of others. And for a foosball champion who liked to control his own destiny, it was a nightmare.

MADD

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has been drinking," said Morrow. "There are too many instances of people that get in the car with their friend that has been drinking, and they end up tragically hurt."

One of MADD's best kept secrets, according to Morrow, is the three victim service specialists that work directly with Minnesota families that have been impacted by drunk and drugged driving. The service is free.

"They work with families through their grief and loss," he said. "Beyond emotional crisis, we also connect them with legal or financial help, because we often see families in financial crisis after all of the medical costs."

Morrow admitted that many families need extensive help in the legal aftermath of the incident, so the service specialists help families through the legal processes.

MADD is sustained by a couple of different sources of fund-

ing: government grants, fundraising, donations, sponsors, and the income from victim impact panels.

Many judges or probation officers require first-time offenders to go to a MADD victim impact panel to learn about the impact that poor decision making behind the wheel has on families.

"We're hearing that the panels have a real impact. I spoke with an offender after they attended who said that it woke them up and inspired them to finally get help with their addiction," said Morrow.

The statewide law enforcement recognition ceremony was on April 11, and Morrow said that he was "utterly impressed by the unsung heroes and their efforts to keep the roads safe."

He called the partnership between MADD, law enforcers and prosecutors a "privilege."

"There are just so many good people in this state that are in-

volved to keep Minnesotans safe," he said.

Walk like MADD is coming up on Saturday, September 17 at the Como Park Pavilion, St. Paul, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"Walking with 700 to 800 families that have lost loved ones or injured loved ones... it is just a sense of connection, solidarity, understanding, belonging, advocacy," remarked Morrow. "It is just such an empowering experience."

"Grief and sorrow are a part of the human experience. Choosing social justice causes is not always easy, but what I hear from families is that this MADD is not a cause that they would have chosen, but it chose them."

To register or donate to Walk like MADD, visit www.walklikemadd.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=673

DANCING STARS

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Both Allyson and Greg will have lots of family and friends in the audience. An interest in Dancing with the Stars was tweaked with Allyson and Greg three years ago when they were in the audience. "We were asked to be a couple but kept on putting it off," Greg said.

"I did it for her," Greg said, agreeing to enter the contest. "They kept asking us," he added. The first dance meeting was last October.

Organizers of the event have tried to recruit couples from different areas of Steele County, Medford, Blooming Prairie, Owatonna and Ellendale being locations of dancers.

"My dad and mom always enjoyed going to this competition," Allyson said explaining that was one reason for agreeing to dance.

"I've never danced but found out early on that you don't have to know how to dance; they (the Dawleys) will accommodate you," Greg commented.

Dance contestants met regularly with organizers and were given music on a CD in February. "Boy, was that a joy!" Greg sighed. "I was overwhelmed and wondered how we were going to do this," he added.

The CD material was divided into seven sections. "We have come a long ways, don't you

think?" Greg asks Allyson. She agrees.

The dance routine involves a lot of spinning, mainly for Allyson. "It's like being on a roller coaster and I break a sweat," says Greg.

Both Allyson and Greg admit that practices have been tense at times and have led to arguments. "We can't stay mad at one another because we have work to do," Greg said.

The Skillestads' three sons, Samuel, 12; Elijah, 9 and Levi, 5 are very supportive of their parents' dancing venture.

"It has been quite a commitment," Allyson says and Greg agrees. "It's been a lot of fun," he smiles.

Both admit that this project has been one of the more adventuresome in their lifetime to date. Greg, a former paratrooper, reflects: "I thought jumping out of airplanes was tough but this is tougher because I have to use my brain."

The Skillestads will celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary in July.

Limited tickets for Saturday's big event cost \$25 per person. Tickets may be purchased at Kottke Jewelers, Kristi's, Healthy Seniors Office, Spherion or from participating dancers.



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CLUBS

Continued from Page 1A

they would think about doing so. That event is the second largest fundraiser for the club, and it is expected to be a bigger event than ever.

That event is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, and it will be bigger and better than ever. Besides the usual rib tasting, several kids' games will be available, and a blue grass band will entertain during all four hours of the festivities. This will be a good family outing, and parents and club members are already excited. More details will be forthcoming in the future issues of the Steele County Times. Save the date!



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SEVER WEATHER

Continued from 2A

items should all be IN THE BASEMENT NOW, in a sealed container where everyone knows where it is, and what's in it. The time to get everything together in a panic is NOT once you hear sirens going off or that horrible sound thinking a train is in your back yard!

We want you all to enjoy your

summer in our glorious state! Outdoors is where Minnesotans belong. But we do want you to be safe, not to panic, but to be prepared, and keep an eye in the sky to enjoy many summers to come!

Keith Haskell
Owatonna

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ground maintenance is their specialty

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Residential and commercial customers keep Owatonna Groundsmasters owners and employees busy the year around, sometimes 24/7.

"We do everything outdoors from lawn mowing to snow removal," says owner Bruce Busho when talking about his family business that provides year around grounds maintenance. Owatonna Groundsmasters has been serving southern Minnesota since 1984.

Busho grew up in the Owatonna area, graduating from Owatonna High School. He had early aspirations to be a mechanic and was even very engaged in car racing years ago.

His father Melvin and mother Jane owned a business called Mel's Equipment. Their main services were some mowing and snow plowing. A mechanic by trade, Busho purchased the business from his mother after his father died in 1984. "We had some contracts to complete in the fall," he remembers.

Busho and wife B.J. (Betty Jo) first met in 1976 and agreed on the business venture in 1984. The couple was married in 1986.

The business rapidly grew "by leaps and bounds," says Busho and its services became many including installation and service of lawn sprinkler systems, fertilizing and weed control, aeration and lawn rolling, mowing, leaf clean-up, mosquito spraying, bush and tree trimming, tree spraying, parking lot sanding and sweeping, installation of concrete landscape borders, dump truck hauling and snow plowing and removal.

Owatonna Groundsmasters' service area includes Owatonna and surrounding areas. To illustrate his business expansiveness, Busho points out that his business belongs to four chambers of commerce: Blooming Prairie, Austin, Faribault and Owatonna. He is an Owatonna Chamber ambassador.

Find out more about the business at www.groundsmasters.net or call 507-455-0081 or 800-238-1767.

"We are expanding southward and are proud to be members of the BP Chamber," Busho said.

The name Owatonna Groundsmasters was suggested by B.J. after she glanced at a Toro



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Residential and commercial year around grounds maintenance is offered by Owatonna Groundsmasters, Inc. Key components of the operation are Bruce and B.J. Busho and their son Jake. Groundsmasters has 43 employees.

Groundsmasters unit and said their business reflected that purpose, "masters of grounds."

Groundsmasters currently employs 43 people and during peak snow removal times, the number jumps beyond 60, B.J. says. Son Jake, 28, has been part of the business since he was "about seven or eight," Bruce says. He is involved in all facets of the business. B.J. is the office manager.

Making lawns look nice is a "real satisfaction" to Bruce and B.J. "Our good quality of service to our customers is what has kept us going and growing," Busho said. He said his people have the knowledge and experience to solve disease problems that affect lawn upkeep.

"Our company prides itself on perfection; we have real high standards," Bruce said.

Bruce has been very active in his community, serving on the Owatonna Fire Department for 27 years, following in his father's footsteps that included 30 years of service. He also is a member of the Steele County Fair Board.

"We are thankful for our customers and employees and cannot tell them 'thank you' enough," says Bruce.

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Police made a traffic stop and found that the motorist was intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and Interstate 35 northbound at 11:26 p.m. They took the subject into custody.

Sheriff’s office unveils challenge coins

A new challenge coin honoring Dodge County’s public safety warriors is available to area residents. The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office has unveiled a challenge coin that represents the sheriff’s office, the county’s historic courthouse and highlights the five basic fundamentals followed by employees. The coin displays a blue line with the number “3123” on it. This was the badge number of late Captain Loring Guenther, who was the first county officer killed in the line of duty in September 2013.

Sheriff Scott Rose said Captain Guenther’s focus with the sheriff’s office was always on training. “We wish to carry on that tradition in his honor with this collector coin,” Rose said, adding that proceeds from the sale of the coin will go into a special training fund on the captain’s behalf. On the back of the coin, thin gold and blue lines circle the courthouse. The gold represents the county’s 911 dispatchers, who are heard but rarely seen. Rose said dispatchers do amazing work to keep deputies

and communities throughout the county safe. The blue represents deputies, who patrol the county to keep citizens safe, along with those who’ve paid the ultimate sacrifice. Rose explained that a challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem and carried by the organizations members. They are often collected by service members, used to prove membership, used for recognition, and exchanged in recognition of visits to the organization.

The theory of the origin of the challenge coins varies, according to Rose. The Roman Empire rewarded soldiers by presenting them with coins to recognize their achievements. In WWII, Office of Strategic Service Personnel who was deployed in Nazi held France used challenge coins. The coins were used to verify a person’s identity during planning meetings, a way to prevent infiltration from spies. Rose noted there is another story about an American Soldier sched-

uled to rendezvous with Philippine guerrillas during WWII. He carried a Philippine solid silver coin that was stamped on one side with the unit insignia. The coin was used to verify to the guerrillas that the soldier was their valid contact for the mission against the Japanese. Challenge coins are being sold for \$16 or \$20 with a plastic protective cover. Citizens may purchase them with cash or check (no credit cards) at the sheriff’s office in Mantorville.

POLICE BLOTTER

Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police

No incidents reported.

Owatonna Police
April 15
Domestic. Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 10:38 a.m.
Pursuit. Officers engaged in a vehicle pursuit at Cedar Ave. S. and Park St. SE at 11 a.m.
Theft. At 10:51 a.m., officer took a theft report in the 1000 block of Redwood Place SW.
Crash. Police responded to a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at 24th Ave. NW and Hoffman Dr. NW at 1:23 p.m. They issued a citation.
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 600 block of Florence Ave. NW at 4:08 p.m.
Domestic. Police arrested a subject following a domestic disturbance in the 300 block of Grove Ave. N. at 6:50 a.m.
Mental Health. At 10 p.m., police received a mental health report from the 200 block of Chestnut Ave. NE.
Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 11:13 p.m.
Drunken Driving. Police made a traffic stop and found that the motorist was intoxicated at Hoffman Dr. NW and Interstate 35 northbound at 11:26 p.m. They took the subject into custody.

April 16
DWI. Officers arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 12:48 a.m.
Assaults. Police responded to assaults in the 300 block of Cedar Ave. S. at 8:32 a.m. and in the 300 block of Glendale St. NW at 6:33 p.m.
Domestic. At 1:53 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance on 25th Ave. NW.

April 17, 2016
Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 100 block of Phelps St. E. at 2:08 p.m.
Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:47 p.m.
Theft. Officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Cedardale Dr. SE at 3:27 p.m.
Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 400 block of Pearl St. E. at 7:44 p.m.

April 18
Property. Property was found at Jeffrey St. SW and Kim Lane SW at 9:13 a.m.
Theft. At 4:51 p.m., police received a theft report from the 100 block of Rice St. E.
Warrant. Officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 700 block of State Ave. NW at 5:24 p.m.

April 19
Child Protection. Police received child protection reports from the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:45 a.m. and in the 500 block of 13th St. NE at 2:32 p.m.
Vulnerable Adult. Officer took a vulnerable adult report in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 6:46 a.m.
Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 1100 block of School St. E. at 10:42 a.m.
Hit and Run. At 1:23 p.m., a hit and run crash resulting in property

damage occurred in the 400 block of Oak Ave. N.
Vandalism. Property damage occurred in the 2400 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 1:39 p.m.
Property. Police recovered stolen property in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 11:37 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

April 20
Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 500 block of 15th St. NE at 9:07 a.m.
Warrant. At 9:03 a.m., police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 600 block of Eisenhower Dr. NW.
Crash. Police advised on a crash with injuries at McKinley St. W. and Oak Ave. S. at 12:37 p.m.
Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 600 block of Bridge St. W. at 1:32 p.m.

April 21
Assault. Officers responded to an assault in the 1300 block of Leif Ave. NW at 7:13 a.m.
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 1:52 p.m. and in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 5:17 p.m.
Burglary. At 8:15 p.m., police began an investigation of a burglary in the 200 block of 21st St. NW.
Restraining Order. Police arrested a subject for violating a restraining order in the 400 block of Pebble Beach Dr. NE at 7:51 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
April 15
Warrant. At 12:14 a.m., deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center.
Stop Arm. Deputies received a report of a stop arm violation in the 4200 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 7:59 a.m.
April 16
Property Damage. Deputy took a vandalism report in the 13700 block of County Rd. 3 at 8:20 a.m.
Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 11:43 a.m.

April 18
Medical. Deputies responded to a medical emergency in the detention center at 7:03 a.m.
Vandalism. Deputies received a report of property damage in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW at 2:40 p.m.
Child Protection. At 4:37 p.m., deputy took a child protection report in the 200 block of 1st St. SE.
Transport. Deputies arrested a subject at 69th St. NW and Interstate 35 and transported him to the jail at 7:19 p.m.

April 20
Warrant. Deputy made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 10:45 a.m.
Burglary. At 10:45 a.m., deputies responded to a burglary in the 700 block of Simplicity Dr.

April 21
Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 4900 block of 81st St. SW at 11:05 a.m. and at 84th Ave. SE and Hwy. 218 at 7:49 p.m.
Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 3600 block of 52nd Ave. NW at 3:44 p.m.
Drunken Driving. At 10:54 p.m., deputies made a DWI arrest in the 11400 block of 52nd Ave. SW.

STEELE ARRESTS

Owatonna Police
April 15
Zachary James Eisen, 22, arrested at 7:10 p.m. for fifth degree domestic assault and held for court.
Brandon Gene Schramm, 24, arrested at 11:40 p.m. for third degree DWI and second degree test refusal. He was given \$12,000 bail.

April 16
Nathaniel Thomas Henderson, 29, arrested at 1:11 a.m. for first degree DWI, driving after cancellation and test refusal. He was held for court.
David Mark Perez, 53, arrested at 2 p.m. for probation violations. He is currently being held at Fountain Centers Detox in Albert Lea.

April 18
William James Cupp, 55, arrested at 7:27 p.m. for fifth degree possession of controlled substance and held for court.

April 19
Kirsten Ann McKee, 22, arrested at 11:46 p.m. for second-degree possession of controlled substance and held for court.

Isaac Joseph Cronin, 18, arrested at 11:46 p.m. for possession of stolen property and second-degree possession of controlled substance. He was held for court.

April 20
Jose Pedro Hoy, 27, arrested at 9:17 a.m. for a body only warrant.

April 21
Austin Edward Teele, 29, arrested at 10:25 p.m. for violation of conditions of release. He was held for court.

Steele Sheriff
April 18
Michael James Worden, 38, arrested at 7:30 p.m. for a warrant with \$10,000 bail.
Tara Marie Saltou-Olson, 19, arrested at 7:45 p.m. for warrant and held for court.

April 19
Richard Allen Collins, 52, arrested at 3:48 p.m. for probation warrant and held for court.

April 21
Tyler Adam Nelson, 24, arrested for third-degree DWI and held for court.

MN State Patrol
April 18
Jesse Edward Montoya Rasmussen, 29, arrested at 9:50 p.m. for fifth-degree possession of controlled substance and held for court.

COURT NEWS

Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 11 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:
Cody J. Parkos, 19, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony motor vehicle theft and misdemeanor DWI. Parkos was sentenced to \$581, 30 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, no alcohol or controlled substance use, and 5 years of supervised probation.
Dashawn T. Suggs, 31, St. Paul, previously appeared and was convicted of felony aid and abet theft. The defendant was sentenced to 15 months in St. Cloud County Prison.
Shane R. Roemhildt, 40, Le Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony violation of an order

for protection. He was sentenced to \$581, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 5 years of supervised probation.
The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 11 with Judge Gerald Wolf presiding:
Heather M. Saurer, 33, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance crime. She was sentenced to 14 days in county jail, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, mental health assessment, 120 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 11 – 15:

Blooming Prairie Police Department
Michelle L. Ciochetto, 34, Austin, revoked registration, prohibited passing and possession of Paraphernalia, \$481; Megan M. Janning, 21, Blooming Prairie, invalid license, \$181.

MN State Patrol Rochester
Michael W. Alcott, 55, Rochester, speeding, \$100; Juan C. Altamirano, 45, Waseca, no MN license, \$181; Norma L. Altamirano, 49, Waseca, illegal operation, \$181; Valerie J. Bartelt, 59, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Mark A. Bledenfeld, 37, Minneapolis, speeding, \$121; Laura A. Buser, 41, Waterloo, IA, no license, \$181; Cory A. Camerer, 24, Ellendale, speeding, \$121; Alan P. Christenson, 62, Owatonna, seat belt, \$106; Kali M. Dalton, 27, Owatonna, failure to yield right of way, \$131; Robert J. Donovan, 22, Mendota Heights, speeding, \$141; Jessica M. Dube, 41, Owatonna, move over law violation, \$100; Kristina M. Ecker, 34, Waseca, speeding, \$100; Rebecca N. Gach, 33, Albert Lea, seat belt, \$106; Jeremy R. Gnagey, 39, Dodge Center, expired registration, \$111; Kyle L. Keyes, 24, Rochester, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Michael A. Kloepfner, 41, Farmington, window tint violation, \$106; Darla A. Kratz, 54, Waseca, speeding, \$121; Jeffrey G. Kuhn, 49, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131; Adriana Lazaro, 31, Albert Lea, speeding, \$141; Hsan P. Lit, 23, St. Paul, speeding, \$131; Mona O. Mohamud, 21, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Stephen J. Pigozzi, 31, Chicago, IL, speeding, \$121; Christopher A. Reynolds, 27, St. Cloud, revoked license, \$281; Cesar A. Sanchez, 42, St. Paul, no MN license, \$181; Alyssa M. Sandeen, 26, Mankato, speeding, \$131; Mark S. Sorenson, 48, Eagle Grove, IA, speeding, \$131; McKenna L. Sowden, 24, Des Moines, IA, invalid license and speeding, \$511; Sara E. Spatenka, 44, Owatonna, speeding, \$121.

Owatonna Police Department
Robert W. Beier, 29, Owatonna, liquor sale to minor, \$381 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Mariah R. Caballero, 19, Owatonna, no MN license, \$181; Michelle L. Ciochetto, 24, Austin, revoked license and no insurance, \$481; Carrie S. Cook, 38, Owatonna, no insurance, \$281; Michael L. Corbin, 40, Medford, disorderly conduct, \$181; Lisa Y. Garcia, 33, Faribault, trespassing, 23 days in county jail; Bradley D. Hartle, 57, Owatonna, restraining order violation, \$281 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Skyler N. Heissenbottle, 23, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana, \$131; Amber L. Hill, 36, Mankato, theft, \$181; Christopher P. Jascha, 35, Sandstone, invalid license, 2 days in county jail; Ali S.

Ketsane, 21, Faribault, failure to signal for turn, \$131; Gary E. Kriesel, 74, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Andrea G. Kubes Larson, 39, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Chrystal L. Mireles, 21, Owatonna, expired tabs, suspended license and no insurance, \$511; Oleg A. Osipenko, 27, Manhattan, KS, suspended license, \$81 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Richard B. Polesky, 69, Owatonna, failure to stop for collision and DWI, \$606, 2 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, and 2 years of supervised probation; Duol L. Ret, 23, give peace officer false information and theft, \$929 and 90 days in county jail; Said N. Said, 30, Owatonna, failure to yield, \$121; Ralph E. Sjodin, 51, Owatonna, suspended license, \$281; Sherry L. Smith, 54, Owatonna, shoplifting, \$81; Joshua M. Sommers, 28, Owatonna, false name, \$1,081, 3 days in county jail and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Haley M. Teske, 21, Faribault, no insurance, \$281; Dak R. Thon, 31, Omaha, NE, no MN license and no insurance, \$381; Jaime Trevino, 23, Floresville, TX, no MN license, \$181; Joe Williams, 47, Claremont, speeding, \$131.

Steele County Sheriff’s Office
Joseph R. Aubin, 28, Owatonna, improper information on license, \$101; Alejandra Bargauiarena, 22, Austin, failure to stop for traffic control signal, \$131; Esau O. Batres-Campos, 33, Maplewood, revoked license and speeding, \$321; Vikas Bhardwaj, 45, Eden Prairie, speeding, \$121; Kristie L. Browns, 40, Denver, CO, speeding, \$121; Mark A. Burciaga, 28, Faribault, suspended license, speeding, no insurance and equipment violation, \$581; Russell D. Camp, 30, Fridley, revoked license, \$281; Michelle L. Ciochetto, 34, Austin, revoked license, \$281; Brendan R. Cox, 36, Faribault, speeding, \$121; Patrick D. Duncanson, 54, Mapleton, speeding, \$131; Justin L. Erdmann, 21, Dodge Center, speeding, \$121; Julie A. Guentzel, 48, Owatonna, expired tabs, \$111; Justin L. Iverson, 26, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$281; Kyle L. Kimery, 46, Eyota, speeding, \$121; Alyssa M. Larsen, 19, Wells, speeding, \$121; Travis D. Moore, 40, Owatonna; Abigail M. Mundt, 50, Waseca, speeding, \$141; Jeffrey E. Nelson, 54, New Hope, speeding, \$131; Richard G. Ripplinger, 47, Bismarck, ND, speeding, \$121; Lindsay S. Rollag, 36, New Richland, suspended license, \$281; Cory P. Running, 36, Apple Valley, speeding, \$121; Ifrah M. Saleban, 19, Owatonna, speeding, \$121; Cody Salinas, 25, Owatonna, speeding, \$141; Jacob W. Sullivan, 25, Owatonna, improper information on license and speeding, \$151; Andrew F. Travis, 47, Ithaca, NY, speeding, \$141; Nicholas E. Walsh, 24, Minneapolis, speeding, \$131; Stacey M. White, 39, Owatonna, speeding, \$131; Quinn J. Yocom, 23, Austin, possession of Marijuana, Paraphernalia and speeding, \$221.

POLICE BLOTTER

Dodge County

April 13
Narcotics. At 12:17 a.m., deputies responded to a narcotics incident in the 700 block of 1st Ave. SE in Hayfield.
Domestic. Deputies received a 911 hang-up call from the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 8:02 a.m. They responded and found a domestic assault in progress.

Complaint. A Claremont resident made a complaint that his neighbor was piling brush and trees too close to the standing trees and his property in the 13600 block of U.S. Hwy. 14 at 2:36 p.m.
Animal Neglect. Deputies began an investigation of animal neglect when they received a complaint that dogs weren’t being taken care of in the 500 block of Main St. E. in Dodge Center at 5:41 p.m.
Suspicion. At 10:37 p.m., a citizen called deputies when someone told him that a subject was trying to break into a building on Center Ave. N. in Hayfield. Deputies responded and found that the subject was trying to use the wifi.

April 14
Fire. Deputies responded to a combine fire at County Rd. 3 and County Rd. 126 SW at 3:13 p.m.

April 15
Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 500 block of Eugene St. in West Concord at 3:27 a.m.
Fire. A garage was on fire in the 21800 block of 530th St. in West Concord at 10:07 a.m.

Animal. Deputies received a report that three calves were running near the roadway at County Rd. 16 and County Rd. 11 in Mantorville at 2:15 p.m. Deputies located the owners.
Threats. At 2:20 p.m., deputies responded to a threats incident in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center.
Larceny. Deputy took a report of the theft of seed corn valued at about \$5,200 in the 69000 block of 260th Ave. in Kasson at 3:57 p.m.
Civil. Deputy assisted with a civil matter where a female was trying to kick a male out of their apartment in the 100 block of Center Ave. N. in Hayfield at 4:14 p.m.
Trespassing. At 10:58 p.m., deputies responded to a trespassing incident in the 71700 block of 270th Ave. in Hayfield.

April 16
Disturbance. A disturbance occurred in the 200 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 3:34 a.m.
Animal Bite. At 12:26 p.m., deputies received information that a FedEx driver was bite by a dog in the 75800 block of U.S. Hwy. 218 in Blooming Prairie.

April 17
Animal Neglect. Deputies received a complaint of a severely neglected dog in the 500 block of Front St. E. in Claremont at 11:33 a.m.
Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of 3rd St. NE in Hayfield at 9:20 p.m.

April 18
Abandoned Vehicle. At 1:24 p.m. a trailer was dumped in the 500 block of Hwy. St. E. in Dodge Center.

COURT NEWS

Dodge County

The following cases were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 11 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:
Timothy S. Bale, 32, River Falls, WI, previously appeared and was convicted of felony check forgery – offer/possession with intent to defraud. Bale was sentenced to \$2,241.34, 4 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, mental health screening, maintain employment,
DODGE COURT
Continued on Page 7A

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

Redondo Jose Flores- Domestic assault- \$500 bail
Daniel Freese- Traffic- \$500 bail
Melinda Fuentes- No insurance- \$2,000 bail
Katherine Gaffke- Liquor sale to minor- \$200 bail
Albino Gallegos-Garza- False name- \$6,000 bail
Anthony Galloway- DWI-2nd degree- No bail
Reginaldo Galvan- DWI- \$12,000 bail
Raymond Garavito- DWI- \$1,000 bail
Arthur Garcia- Theft- \$500 bail
Ezequiel Garcia- Failure to register sex offender- No bail

Jorge Garcia- No driver’s license- \$1,000 bail
Lucio Garcia- Altered license- \$500 bail
Zalvador Garcia- Felony burglary- No bail
Elizandra Garza- Theft-shoplifting- \$500 bail
Juan Garza- Drive after suspension- \$500 bail
David Gatheright- Possession controlled substance- \$20,000 bail
Domach Gatluak- DWI-3rd degree- No bail
Claudia Gomez- Criminal abuse- \$3,000 bail
Mark Gomez- Felony assault- \$10,000 bail
Miguel Gomez- Theft- \$1,000 bail

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

Choosing an appropriate walking cane

Dear Savvy Senior,
I have severe arthritis in my knee and could use a walking cane to help me get around. Is there anything I should know about canes before I buy one?
Limping Linda

Dear Linda,
When it comes to choosing a cane for balance and support most people don't give it much thought, but they should. Walking canes come in hundreds of different styles, shapes and sizes today, so you need to take into account your needs and preferences to ensure you choose one that's appropriate for you. Here are some tips that can help.

Types of Canes
The first thing you need to consider is how much support you need. That will help you determine the kind of cane you choose. The three basic types

of canes you'll have to choose from include:

1. Straight canes: These are basic, single point canes that typically incorporate a rounded "crook" handle or "L-shaped" ergonomic handle. Usually made of lightweight aluminum or wood, most of the aluminum models are adjustable in height and some even fold up.

2. Offset-handle canes: These also are single point straight canes, but come with a swan neck curve in the upper part of the shaft that puts the user's weight directly over the cane tip for added stability. These canes are typically aluminum, adjustable-height and come with a flat, soft grip handle that's easy on the hands.

Both straight canes and offset-handle canes are best suited for people who have a slight walking impairment.

3. Quad canes: Also called

broad based canes, these work best for people who need maximum weight bearing and support. Quad canes comes with four separate tips (some have three tips) at the base, they usually have an offset flat handle, and can remain standing when you let go of it which is very convenient.

Fitting the Cane
Once you decide on the type of cane, you need to make sure it fits. Stand up with your arms hanging straight down at your side. The top of the cane should line up with the crease in your wrist, so your arm is slightly bent at the elbow when you grip the cane.

The cane should also have a rubber tip at the bottom to prevent slipping. A worn or torn rubber tip is dangerous, so check the tip frequently to ensure it's in good condition and replace

it when necessary. Rubber tips come in different sizes depending on the shaft diameter, and can usually be purchased in multipacks at your local pharmacy.

The grip is also very important, so choose one that's ergonomically designed, or one that has a molded rubber or foam grip that's comfortable to hold on to.

And if you travel much, consider getting a folding cane that can be packed or stored away easily.

How to Use
When using a cane, it should always be held in the hand opposite of the leg that needs support. For example, if your knee pain is on your left side, you should use the cane in your right hand. The cane should then move forward as you step forward with the bad leg.



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If you have to go up stairs, you should lead with the good leg. And when you go down stairs, you should put your cane on the step first and then step down with your bad leg.

The Mayo Clinic offers a slide show at mayoclinic.com/health/canes/HA00064 that will show you how to choose and use a cane. It's also a smart idea to work with a physical therapist.

Where to Buy
You can buy canes at drug-stores, discount retailers, medi-

cal supply stores and online, usually between \$10 and \$50. You'll also be happy to know that Medicare covers canes with a written prescription from a physician.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, May 2, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher
The Steele County Senior 4-H Dairy Bowl Team and the Junior 4-H General Livestock Bowl Team participated in the State Project Bowl Contest. The teams had both advanced from the regional Project Bowl to the State, where they each earned third place honors. The Senior Dairy Bowl team received the opportunity to compete at the 4-H World Dairy Expo Invitational, and the team included Caitlin Kasper, Jackie Larson, Jana Paulson, Sadie Schroeder, Pam VonRuden, and Zach VonRuden. The Junior General Livestock Bowl Team members were Cassie Balvitsch, Mitch Hawkins,

Ben Zeman, Josh Zeman, Jordan Zeman, and Kyle Zeman.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, April 30, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor
Hundreds of people lined up to take a tour of the Al-Corn ethanol plant for its grand opening. A group of farmers and other interested community members had previously toured a plant in South Dakota and began the plant project back in 1994. For the grand opening, corn prices were at \$4.60, but Al-Corn board of director chairman Brad Ahrens was optimistic about the plant's success, despite the challenges presented.

Corwin Kronenberg spoke at the annual Ecumenical Ban-

quet on how "loving your children benefits all of our futures." Kroenberg, a former teacher, stressed the importance of loving children because "they are a living message we send to a future we never see." Over 100 attended the banquet and listened to Kronenberg's message.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, April 28, 1966
Victor, Vernon and Vyrle Krejci, Editors
Golfing facilities at the Blooming Prairie Country Club opened with new fairways and grass greens. The course had been under construction for two years, creating larger and trickier grass greens.

Blooming Prairie hosted the

state area music contest, marking the first time that the event has been held in the Blooming Prairie schools. Thirteen high school bands performed and ten choruses sang throughout the morning and afternoon competition.

The Blooming Prairie Fire Department answered a call to the Elso Kline farm to put out a fire that had started in a hog house converted into a corn-crib. The stored corn received some damage from the fire that was believed to have ignited from electrical wiring in the structure.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, May 1, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher
Mrs. Vince Schisler, Bloom-

ing Prairie, was named Steele County's Apple Pie Baking Champion. Her apple pie, baked with lard shortening, was chosen as the best of a large field of entries in the official county apple pie contest held at the BP cooking school. For her first place finish-

ing, Mrs. Vince Schisler was awarded \$5.00.

Eight 30-foot sugar maple trees were transplanted on the boulevard of Municipal Light Plant grounds. They are the choice ornamental hardwood trees, serving as a big asset to the municipal grounds.

WET BASEMENT?

- Wet Basement?
- Basement Wall Bowed?
- Foundation Settling?
- Driveway/Concrete Slab Sinking?
- Radon Testing & Mitigation

FOUNDATION CRACKED?



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Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants



Johnson, Doerhoefer & Miner P.A.

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WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Creating a roof over your dreams

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

I believe it was William Shakespeare who said, “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”

If you attribute “greatness” as what you are called to do and have a love for doing it, then Lisa Vaith certainly was born with a gift, was called to her craft and when her husband needed a Realtor – she had greatness thrust upon her.

Vaith is a Minnesota girl, born in Waseca and graduated from Plainview High School. From her early years, and having several moves under her belt, she always had a love for home designs and an eye for home detail. When she became a Realtor, it was like putting the finishing touches upon her years of her love for her calling.

“When I was little, I had an interest in home design,” said Vaith. “I could look at a home and see what it could be, how it could be decorated and could imagine a finished project and how beautiful it could be.”

Sometimes, it may be a well-timed comment that is made from others that can cause us to jump into things that we love, but otherwise wouldn’t have the courage to confront. That little affirmation that makes us think of chasing our dreams.

It happened that way at several key turning points in her life. On one occasion when Vaith was actually being shown a home by another Realtor, she went from home buyer to home seller and started making comments that led that particular Realtor to tell her that she would be good in Realty. Something clicked. The thought process began to germinate and when she met her husband, Steve who is now her partner in Realty and her partner in life since 1998.

“Steve had taken over a project building twin homes,” she said. “He needed a Realtor to do his closings and pretty much just volunteered me to do it.”

The rest, is pretty much as we say, “history.” She came full circle into her dream and into her calling. Her love for home design and interior design led to her now, love for Realty.

Although she expresses her love of finding the history



Lisa Vaith, Broker/owner of Home Sellers of Minnesota, Inc. has been in business for 17 years. Home Sellers has offices both in Blooming Prairie and Owatonna.



of the homes that she sells and getting involved with the families who are selling, she says that the best part of her job is helping first time homebuyers find their dream home. Making that dream a

reality is something she has come to be very good at. Frustrations, adversity and reality of situation come with every dream also. Although there are many frustrations that can come

with selling, timing, and making the dreams of others come true, Vaith commented on the thing that perhaps frustrates her the most. The one thing that makes her, on some days, question the decision to her calling.

“Other than people that can’t get qualified,” she said, “which is disappointing, I’d have to say that the most frustrating thing would be people who are not forthcoming and totally honest with their situations.”

Vaith and her husband Steve own and operate a full service Real estate Company called Home Sellers of Minnesota. She is a full broker/owner who is a graduate of GRI, is certified as an e-Pro and has also earned an accreditation with ASP (Accredited Staging Professional).

She and her husband have been in business for over 17 years.

In addition to being active members of the multiple listing service, Vaith is also on the board of directors for the Southeast Minnesota Association of Realtors. Although their main office is found at the corner of Highway 218 and Main Street in Blooming Prairie, an additional office was just recently opened in Owatonna at 203 N. Elm. Currently, besides the couple, they have three other agents working within the business.

Steve and Lisa have two

children, Leah, who is an RN in Madison, Wisconsin and Zach who is a Quality Assurance Specialist in Minneapolis. When she is not busy selling, Vaith enjoys reading, writing short stories, watching movies and going camping.

She is one that is true to her calling and is making a difference in our community finding perfect fits for the dreams of others. I guess you could say that she is finding you a roof over your dreams... and locating a place where you can make your memories.

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Leanne Hanson

Leanne is the owner of **A Touch of Charm** full service flower shop. She has 4 grandchildren and enjoys Gardening, hunting for vintage treasures for her shop and setting up at flea markets and junk sales. Leanne is a member of Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce and Chairperson for Blooming Prairie Wish Tree.

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Judy Popp-Anderson has been the Aftercare Coordinator for Bonnerup Funeral Service for the past three years. One of the frequently asked questions she gets is “what is aftercare?” Bonnerup Funeral Services recognize that grief continues long after the funeral for most people. Aftercare is a complimentary service that can provide assistance with locating resources, providing grief information or a listening ear to those who want or need that service. Judy personally experienced the compassion of the Bonnerup staff at the time of her husband’s death. She appreciates the opportunity to journey with others as they integrate the loss of their loved one into their lives.

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Judy Engelken is the head teller and handles new accounts at Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Blooming Prairie. She has been servicing customers at the bank for nearly 20 years.

Judy and her husband, Butch, have two children, Mandy and Eric, as well as four grandchildren, Isabel, Dom, Nato and Ava. In her spare time, Judy enjoys reading, water aerobics and her yearly trips to Mexico and Branson. Her special interests are watching football and hockey, spending time with family and friends and running after her grandkids.

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Linda Klemmensen

Sportstitch offers custom embroidery, screen printing, promotional products and tuxedo rentals.

Sportstitch is Blooming Prairie’s “Awesome Blossom” headquarters and specializes in custom logos for businesses, organizations and individuals.

Linda has owned and operated Sportstitch for the past 21 years.

Linda and her husband Randy will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary this summer. They have sons Ryan & Brad and a daughter Rachel. Ryan and his wife Taylor are expecting the Klemmensen’s 1st grandchild due in early June.

Linda enjoys reading, camping, church activities and has been a volunteer for the BP Ambulance for the past 15 years.

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Lien Orthodontics



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

Dr. Deborah Lien is the owner of Lien Orthodontics in Blooming Prairie. She has been practicing orthodontics for 29 years serving the southeastern Minnesota communities of Austin, Owatonna, Rochester, Hayfield, Blooming Prairie and surrounding areas

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

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

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

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

Dr. Lien’s husband, Dale Norell, is a mechanical engineer in Rochester. They have two children, Aaron and Ana. Aaron is a chemist in the Twin Cities and while Ana is a medical student in Nebraska.

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

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Buffer law revisions sent to Dayton for signature



By KAREN JORGENSEN
County Staff Writer

Legislation making revisions to last year's state law on buffers adjacent to streams, waterways and public ditches has passed both houses of the Minnesota Legislature and been sent to Gov. Mark Dayton for his signature.

The buffer law was originally passed last year and required vegetation buffers along streams, lakes and other waterways to protect against runoff. The legislation required buffers with an average of 50 feet and a minimum of 30 feet must be in place for lands adjacent to public waterways by November 2017. By November 2018 buffers of 16.5 feet were required on all ditches.

As the process to implement the law began opposition arose to the way the waterways requiring buffers was determined with Republicans and agricultural groups saying the legislation was never intended to include those private ditches running through fields

Earlier this year Dayton directed the DNR to only consider previously determined public waterways as requiring the buffers.

The bill, which was approved by both the House and Senate, clarifies that landowners are not required to place buffers around private ditches on their property.

"This legislation was clearly needed after the Governor's Office misinterpreted the language and attempted to incorporate private ditches into last year's requirements," said Rep. Paul Torkelson (R-Hanska), who authored the bill in the House. "This bipartisan bill focuses solely on buffer clarification and jurisdiction."

The bill's primary author in the Senate was Sen. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook). Sen. Vicki Jensen (DFL-Owatonna) was one of the co-authors.

The revisions had widespread bipartisan support. The measure passed the Senate on a 61-0 vote

and the House by a 105 to 24 vote margin.

Dayton has said he supports the revisions and is expected to sign the legislation.

"More and more citizens and communities throughout Minnesota are being threatened by water that is unsafe for their drinking, washing and recreation," Dayton said on passage of the bill by the Senate. "These water quality problems must be addressed by all of us recognizing our shared need for safe and clean water, and by our shared willingness to protect this priceless resource."

The bill included several other "clarifications" including identifying the most recent public water inventory and public ditches subject to buffers, codifying the exemption for private ditches; shifting buffer jurisdiction from state to local agencies, reinforcing that the DNR's only role is to conduct the mapping of public waterways, eliminating any change from current statute regarding the measurement of ditch buffers and ensuring fair compensation for farmers by compensating for buffers based on property values prior to buffer installation.

Farm Bureau recognizes Earth Day

Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) encourages everyone to recognize every day as Earth Day.

"In agriculture, every day is Earth Day. April 22 is the day where we emphasize the importance of our natural resources and share agriculture's story," said MFBF President Kevin Paap. "As farmers, we pride ourselves in caring for our water, air, land and its resources. Conserving and protecting the earth for your children and ours is our top priority."

"Farmers are involved in numerous conservation efforts with the goal of protecting the environment, water and providing habitat for wildlife," said Paap. "Seeking continuous improvement using today's technology is top of mind for today's farmers and ranchers in order to preserve the environment for future generations."

"Today's farmers produce food, fiber, feed and renewable fuel using tools such as global positioning satellites and biotechnology," said Paap. "Minnesota Farm Bureau is proud of the dedication and hard work of our farmer and rancher members who care for our natural resources while producing a quality, safe food supply."

Minnesota Farm Bureau representing Farmers • Families • Food is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for young farmers and ranchers develop leadership skills and improve farm management. Promotion

and Education Committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom and safety education for children. Join Farm Bureau today and support our efforts to serve as an advocate for rural Minnesota, www.fbmn.org.





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Minnesota Crop Report:

Minnesota farmers made good progress planting between rain showers during the week ending April 24, 2016, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Though there were only 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork, current year planting progress continues to make gains against the 5-year average for most crops. Field activities for the week included spreading manure, applying anhydrous and fertilizer, tilling, and planting.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 74 percent adequate, and 14 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 11 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Pastures and small grains generally benefitted from the rain, but there were some reports of standing water in low areas.

Minnesota's corn planting increased to 45 percent complete, 2 weeks ahead of the 5-year average and 4 days ahead of last year. This is the second highest amount planted by this date on record, behind 2010. There were scattered reports of corn emerging and soybeans being planted in the central and southern parts of the state. Small grain seeding continues to be well ahead of average. Spring wheat planting was 46 percent complete, 2 weeks ahead of average, but 8 days behind last year. Nine percent of the spring wheat crop had emerged, 8 days ahead of average and 4 days ahead of last year. Sixty-eight percent of the oat acreage had been planted, nearly 3 weeks ahead of average. Twenty-seven percent of the oat crop had emerged. The barley crop was 32 percent planted and 7 percent emerged. Potatoes reached 27 percent planted, 6 days ahead of average, but 3 days behind last year. Sugarbeet planting was 73 percent complete, more than 3 weeks ahead of average.

Pasture condition improved to 6 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Pastures continue to green, but have limited growth.

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Submitted

Donation raised on serving soup

The St. Columbanus confirmation class donated its proceed from their soup supper \$256 to the BP Cancer group community fund. Cheri accepted the donation on behalf of the BP Cancer Group.

From left to right, back row. Ben Smith, Alicia Ptacek, Camden Heimerman, Zach Sissler, Rachel

Peterson, Frank Vorlicek.

Front row: Cheri Krejci, Rachel Kubista, Bria Baldwin, Rose Johnson, Taylor Peterson, and missing is Gina Schaefer.

DODGE COURT

Continued from Page 4A

write letter of apology and 5 years of supervised probation.

Bradley A. Bollum, 51, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of Marijuana. He was sentenced to \$1,075, 6 days in county ail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health screening, maintain employment, chemical dependency evaluation, 100 hours of community service and 10 years of supervised probation.

Hussen H. Hussen, 24, Olmsted County Detention Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to \$1,155, 131 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, no possession of firearms, cognitive skill training, mental health screening, 100 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

Tristin A. Janes, 19, Kasson, previously appeared and was convicted of criminal sex conduct. Janes was sentenced to \$1,000, 60 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, attend sex offender program, no possession of pornography, do not enter places where sexual materials are available, submit to polygraph examinations as directed, no contact with minors, hold no positions of authority over minor females, maintain employment and housing, obtain permission to leave the state, no contact with victim or family, no access to internet without approval, 100 hours of community service and 15 years of supervised probation.

Jeremiah J. Meyer, 31, Dodge

Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault. Meyer was sentenced to \$1,155, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical assessment, no possession of firearms, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, mental health screening, write letter of apology, maintain employment, no contact with people associated with illegal activity, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

Shawn C. Northway, 38, Faribault, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance. The defendant was sentenced to 13 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of April 11 – 18:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Cody A. Ambrose, 20, Rochester, revoked license and speeding, \$420; Avory J. Arndt, 24, Stewartville, suspended license, \$280; Nathan D. Bredesen, 35, Hayfield, cancelled license, \$500 and 6 months of probation; Tanner A. Hart, 17, Kenyon, speeding, \$130; Caitlin M. Irish, 22, Chatfield, revoked license and no insurance, \$480; Justin L. Iverson, 26, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Jonathan A. Knutson, 35, Kasson, speeding, \$140; Kirsten A. McKee, 22, Dodge Center, revoked license, \$280; Deborah A. Mensing, 56, Pine Island, speeding, \$140; James L. Nelson, 38, Kasson, speeding, \$140.

Kasson Police Department

Damian H. Johnson, 22, Kasson, registration violation and parking violation, \$130; Cory W. Kleeberger, 24, Austin, revoked license, \$280; Angel L. Rodriguez, 57, Lakeville, speeding, \$140; Alec R. Smith, 16, Kasson, speeding, \$120.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Mia G. Akervik, 40, Dodge Center, no insurance and speeding, \$320; Amy J. Arndt, 34, Garrettsville, OH, possession of Marijuana, \$230; Jose A. Avilez Granillo, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$130; Victor A. Carrejo, 51, Faribault, cancelled license, \$980, and 2 years of probation; Alex E. Dearborn, 46, Byron, speeding, \$130; Tyler P. Dietrich, 19, Austin, seat belt, \$105; Dawson Dodds Jr., 17, Byron, speeding, \$130; Jillian K. Mathias, 20, Rochester, speeding, \$120; James D. Melroy, 24, Flora, IN, seat belt, \$105; David A. Miner, 39, Blooming Prairie, speeding, \$130; Donna J. Moenning, 54, Hayfield, speeding, \$140; Mark A. Munson, 52, Kasson, speeding, \$120; Brian T. Rudquist, 17, Rochester, speeding, \$380; Rachel N. Rumley, 35, Burnsville, revoked license, \$280; Molly J. Techau, 22, Owatonna, speeding, \$220; Timothy L. Voll, 50, Mantorville, speeding, \$130; Raymond A. Wingert, 54, Plainview, speeding, \$120.

West Concord Police Department

Lora L. St. Andrew, 44, Dodge Center, speeding, \$120.

Crime Brief

Officers help rescue lost dog

For at least a while, some Owatonna police officers put their crime fighting skills aside and turned to rescue skills—for man's best friend, that is.

On April 1, officers took a lost dog complaint on Fox Hollow Lane NE. A woman reported that her 15-year-old chocolate lab was lost. The of-

ficers assured the woman they would try their best to find the astray pet.

Within about an hour, officers found Abby at Rose Street and Countryview in a drainage pond. When they got out of their squad, they heard that Abby was in distress—wet, shivering, covered with mud,

jiggers and nearly frozen. The officers wrapped the deaf dog in a squad blanket as she was unable to move and returned her back home where she was greeted with a warm bath.

Abby's family was so appreciative of the efforts made by the officers that they later sent snacks to the police station.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

Becky Barber pays it forward

Becky Barber, a Blooming Prairie area resident, says she has a debt to pay to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

A Registered Nurse care coordinator at the Owatonna Hospital, Becky experienced the loss of a spouse to cancer three years ago. Her late husband Gene waged a 5 1/2-month battle with Small Cell Lung Cancer.

Becky moved back to Blooming Prairie 2 1/2 years ago and says the BP Cancer Group helped her family fight the battle. Her daughter Raylee, now six, was three at the time.

With her involvement in the BP Cancer Group, Becky says she hopes to be able to help the families who are going through this battle. "Also, I hope some day we will be able to have cures for all kinds of cancer," she emphasized. "It's my way of paying it forward," she says.

To have a support group means a lot to families, says Becky. "It is a great feeling knowing there is a group of people that are there to support you. It is a whirlwind going through this for a family and some of the small things are very much appreciated."

Becky says it is very important for a person and their families to have community support in the journey fighting cancer. "It's very important for the person battling cancer and their family to know there are



Becky Barber, Raylee Barber and Dan Miner enjoy a sunshine day.

people who understand what they are going through. Every situation is different but we can always find a common link. No one has to feel alone going through this scary, stressful time."

Becky points out there are many ways that the group has helped individuals and family while battling cancer. Volunteers are available to help with transportation to appointments and often provide gas cards for that purpose. The BP Cancer Group has also helped some individuals with utility bills when times got tough.

The BP Cancer Group is

always trying to find creative ways to raise money for cancer research and the community fund. Breakfasts, lunches, bingo, parade of flags, special events and auctions in September help bring in funds to fight cancer.

The Blooming Prairie Community donated over \$73,000 to the Eagles Cancer Telethon last January.

Becky and Dan Miner are engaged to be married with a June 11 wedding planned at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie.

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SERVING AND LOVING WITH A GIVING HEART

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

MANY OF THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS HAVE VARIED AND VERY INTERESTING backgrounds, like local resident Gary Thorson. A former submariner in the Vietnam war, a rug importer in India, and a stint as a probation officer in detention centers provide just a few insights into his career.

After retirement, however, he has provided aid to several local entities, and he has had no trouble staying busy. Currently, Thorson drives a vehicle for Cedar Valley Services (formerly SEMCAC), but he also takes time to help cleanup and do odd jobs at the Senior Center. He serves as an advisor to the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and is currently helping Cub Scout Pack leader Craig Schammel.

Thorson recently served two years as the local American Legion commander and still has a hand in many activities at the local Servicemen's club. Besides work as a janitor at First Lutheran Church, there are always other odd jobs around the church that need attention, and he is generally quick to offer service.

He also is a member of a community board connected to Atochem which meets monthly to foster better communication between the community and the chemical company, review safety procedures and discuss concerns that come up occasionally. As he pointed out, "There are many ways to volunteer, and I enjoy keeping busy and involved in the community."

BE A GOOD SAMARITAN: Volunteer!

Thorson graduated from Blooming Prairie High in 1963 and attended college in Mankato and Winona. He received his degree at Winona State University and taught there for a time. He helped his mother in the rug import business by traveling and living in India for four months. He served in the submarine force for four years from 1966 to 1970, patrolling in the Atlantic Ocean on two different submarines. He then took on several different tasks for a time, from selling advertising for ESPN to selling shoes. He had married his wife Susan while teaching in Winona, and he eventually went back to school to earn a law enforcement degree.

He served in both Minneapolis and St. Paul as a correction officer and intake interviewer, and he and Susan became foster parents, both before and after his retirement in 2003. So, besides raising his own family of two daughters, the Thorsons have been foster parents

to at least a half dozen residential treatment alternative children. They have been foster families for as short a time as a couple of months to as long as several years. If this all sounds like an action-packed life, it certainly is. To find time to take on several volunteer efforts in the community speaks volumes for Thorson's character and his desire to serve, and he is to be commended for that.



VOLUNTEERING KEEPS MESHKE YOUNG AT HEART

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

LONGTIME BLOOMING PRAIRIE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH DEAN MESHKE IS NOT QUITE READY TO FADE INTO THE SUNSET.

Just ask him. "I like what I am doing and who knows how long I will keep coaching," he says with an infectious love for the sport of basketball. He is currently a volunteer assistant varsity coach to John Bruns. In total, he has logged 32 years of coaching basketball, 29 years as paid staff and 3 years as a volunteer.

Dismissing his role as a volunteer, Meshke looks over at wife Marilyn and says, "She volunteers for everything."

Meshke, who retired as a math teacher at the high school in 2005, couldn't stay away from the basketball court. "I love working with kids and try to build a relationship with them," Meshke confides.

He becomes sort of philosophical at times saying kids are fortunate to have the opportunity to be on a team. "When you get married and have a family, that's a team," he believes.

"He loves to teach kids skills and uses his coaching sports with parallels of life," admits Marilyn.

Meshke, now a non-staff member at Blooming Prairie High School, makes regular visits to the school and manages to touch base with his former staff members and with former and current players. It doesn't take long to realize Meshke is in the building. Listen for a deep guttural tone and a hearty laugh. That's Dean Meshke.

"I used to be crazy in my early days of coaching", Meshke confesses. "I've settled down," he quickly adds.

Meshke has coached over two generations of athletes. He smiles widely when saying he coached high school principal John Dale Worke. Worke later became girls' basketball coach and retained Meshke as an assistant.

"He (Coach Worke) told me to shut up one time and I told him that I bet he didn't sleep for a week after that," Meshke laughs loudly.

Meshke loves visiting with all ages and says he gets along well with women because he had three sisters. Meshke is the eldest of four children. He graduated from Faribault Bethlehem Academy in 1966. He then became the first in his family to obtain a college education. He obtained a teaching and coaching degree from Mankato State College.

Meshke played three sports in high school, football, basketball and baseball. "I was a gym rat," he says. His father also played sports and was a junior high coach at a Catholic grade school.

Coming to Blooming Prairie as a new teacher in the



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
Dean Meshke has logged 32 years in coaching sports at Blooming Prairie High School, the last three being as a volunteer.

fall of 1970, Meshke said he was to take the place of a teacher on a sabbatical leave. Superintendent Maurice McFarlin encouraged Meshke to stay on, and he stayed for 35 years, teaching math and also physical education for a time.

Meshke says Superintendent McFarlin told him if he stayed on as a teacher, he must be track coach. "I told him I didn't know anything about track, and he told me to read a couple of books on track on the library book shelf. Two years later in 1973, our boys track team took second in the state. We had two relay team champions and one individual champion."

He and Marilyn met in Faribault and were married in 1973 after Marilyn finished her college at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

The Meshkes have two children, Lisa, an intern pastor at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Austin and Todd, a tax accountant in Wayzata. Lisa was a state golfing champion at BPHS in 2000. She competed in the state golf tournament over six years.

Meshke then turned from track to be B squad boys basketball coach for eight years. He followed that run with

a nine-year spin as head varsity boys basketball coach. Meshke said he questioned personal worth about winning being everything and took a break from coaching.

The summer after he left coaching, Barry Olson, head girls coach, left to become head girls coach in Owatonna. "They needed a girls coach and the players convinced me to coach their team," he vividly recalls. He coached the girls for six years, winning the Gopher Conference title twice and at one time, winning 32 consecutive conference games. The Blossom girls were runnersup in the sub-districts on two occasions.

Meshke's last year of varsity coaching was in 1992-93. He went 13 years without coaching basketball. He did help assist golf coach H. Peterson.

A year after retirement from teaching, Meshke had a chance to meet new kids and parents by coaching seventh grade girls basketball for six years. He became a volunteer girls varsity coach in 2013. "It's been an awesome run," Meshke said about still having the opportunity to coach even not being on the payroll.

"Throwing talent aside, we have had some real good kids in Blooming," Meshke insists.

The game has changed, however, Meshke says. "Parents get more emotionally involved, and I believe the kids can make their own decisions sometimes. In the long run, these kids will need to make some big decisions."

Meshke says he "really loves practices and working with kids' skills." He said there are so many things that one cannot control. He looks at his place as a volunteer as being more than that. "I'm a consultant," he chuckles.

The Meshkes both love to golf and have traveled considerably, golfing at Bandon Dunes in Oregon, Torrey Pines in San Diego and Pinehurst in North Carolina. Dean and Marilyn have also been to two Masters golf tournaments.

When Dean is on the basketball court, Marilyn is busy doing her volunteering. She is an active volunteer with the VFW Auxiliary, the American Legion Auxiliary and serves on the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial Committee. She also serves as co-president of AAUW, sings in choir at First Lutheran Church, serves with Dean as co-chair on the FLC Scholarship committee, serves as funeral coordinator and as FLCW coordinator.

It's difficult for small schools to find experienced coaches and that's why Meshke has decided to volunteer as a coach. "You get a different perspective" as a volunteer, he says. "I really enjoy being with kids and they make you feel young," Meshke says. He appreciates the opportunity as a volunteer coach and says he can appreciate more clearly how important volunteers are in other sectors, church, for example.

"Basketball is my thing."

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Community

Obituaries

Doris Jean (nee Johnston) Schildt, 84, formally of Blooming Prairie

Doris passed away on December 14, 2015 at 84 in Mission Viejo, California. Born September 29, 1931 in Chicago, Illinois. Doris' life reflected an American story of overcoming adversity with grace and courage. She and her twin brother Don were the youngest children of Albert and Esther (Paulson) Johnston. When Doris was 2 years old, her mother died unexpectedly, leaving eight children. Because it was the height of the Great Depression and her father was unable to care properly for the family, the children were scattered among various relatives in the Midwest. Doris and Don went to live with their maternal grandparents Hans and Mattie Paulson in Blooming Prairie, Minne-

sota. She often reminisced fondly about her days living and working on the farm, learning many domestic and gardening skills that would serve her well throughout her life. When Doris was ten, her beloved grandmother died and she was sent to live in an orphanage in Chicago. It was a difficult transition; but in typical fashion, she found value in the lessons of hard work and perseverance. After high school graduation, Doris found work and moved into an apartment in the city with a friend. She met her husband Raymond ("Jake") Schildt and they married in 1950. Doris adored her in-laws and especially cherished her mother-in-law, Frieda Schildt. Doris and Jake raised their

only son in Arlington Heights, Illinois. It was a semi-rural suburb at the time; and like many neighbors, they grew a wide variety of crops on the several acres of land each lot had. She enjoyed those years of planting, tending, harvesting, preserving, and especially preparing the bounty of fruits and vegetables they grew. One constant in Doris' life was her love of animals. She was a soft touch for every stray animal that crossed her path, and she rescued countless furry and feathered creatures. After retirement when she and Jake moved to Phelps, Wisconsin to live on Kildare Lake, she was able to enjoy nature's beauty with up-close views of all the many birds and animals of the nearby Nico-

let National Forest. Over the years, the Wisconsin winters became too difficult for Doris and Jake, and so in 2006 they moved to Southern California to be near their son and grandson. Doris loved living close to her son, grandson, and daughter-in-law, and many happy memories were created during those California years. Doris was predeceased by her husband Jake as well as all her siblings and in-laws; and is survived by her son Keith, daughter-in-law Susan, grandson Luke, and many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. She will be interred at Union Cemetery in Blooming Prairie next to her grandmother.

Constance Jean Brainerd Partridge, 84, formally of Owatonna



Constance Jean Brainerd Partridge, 84, of Longmont, Colorado passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday, December 8, 2015. A memorial service will be held in Owatonna, Minnesota on May 8, 2016. Connie was born in Minneapolis on May 8, 1931, to Harold Brainerd and Sigrid "Jo" (Josephson). She attended Blooming Prairie High School and graduated from Hamlin University in 1954. She was Valedictorian at her high school class. Her Hamlin degree, with hon-

ors, was psychology. Before attending college, she worked briefly at Federated Insurance, where she met Van Buren Partridge, the father of her future husband. She married John Van Buren Partridge on August 29, 1953, in Owatonna, Minnesota. As a result of John's business career with the National Cash Register Company, John and Connie relocated often, living in Rochester, Owatonna and Mankato, Minnesota; Escanaba, Michigan; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Littleton and Evergreen, Colorado. John retired in 1985 as CEO of the Benelux NCR Company in Amsterdam, having lived in the Netherlands for nearly 20 years.

While living in Europe, Connie was active with the American Women's Club and published two cookbooks, one featuring family recipes and the other providing Dutch recipes for Americans. Afterwards, Connie and John settled in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where Connie developed her talent as an artist. When John passed away in 2010, Connie relocated to Longmont, Colorado, living near her daughter Kathy. She was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, John Partridge, her brother Jack Brainerd, sister-in-law Jean Kovar Partridge, and her parents and parents in-law. She is survived by son Mark Partridge (Mary) of Chicago, Illinois; daughter Kathy Partridge

(Ira Chernus) of Longmont, Colorado; daughter Elizabeth Conquer (Loic) of Saint Remy les Chevreuse, France; grandchildren Jessie Glasscock, Nicolas Conquer (Florence), Caitlin Partridge, Jean Conquer, Lindsay Partridge, Guillaume Conquer, Rosamond Glasscock, Christopher Partridge, Camille Conquer, Matthieu Conquer, and Pierre Conquer; her brother-in-law James Partridge (Marcia) of Owatonna; her sister-in-law Virginia Brainerd of Fairbanks, Alaska; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial Service, May 8, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 311 South Oak Avenue, Owatonna. Memorials preferred to Habitat for Humanity.

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Weekly crossword on Page 10B

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Milestones

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays April 26 Angela Noble David Kramer Matthew Worke Marge Ilk Mellisa Johnson Missy Korman April 27 Thomas Kramer Margaret Noble April 28 Patrick Trotman April 29 Jennifer Wayne Wendy Hines Kayd Bush April 30 Cash Kruckeberg Linda Christianson Charlie Wallace Lori Krejci May 1 Morgan Davis Alieshia Fristedt Kari Olson Bodurtha Barbie Johnson Paul Smith Anthony Noble Brielyn Thompson	May 2 Brian Hoveland Virgene Doocy Tyler Kruckeberg Trevor Kruckeberg Mason Doyle Donald Bakke Jr Matthew Farr May 3 Kelsey Voeltz Aubryana Alwes Haley Tollefson May 4 Rodney Krell Robert Ingvalson Anniversaries April 27 Linn & Shirley Thoen April 28 Ron & Diane Nelson Dale & Mary Ramsey Greg & Betty Johnson Christopher & Rena Anderson April 29 Mr & Mrs Donald L Bakke April 30 Sam & Kristin Romeo May 2 Joshua & Jenny Winn
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April 27: Cabbage Rolls, Green Beans, P/A Slices w/Cottage Cheese, Tapioca Pudding

April 28: Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce Garn, Pineapple/Banana Dessert

April 29: Tater Tot Hotdish, Coleslaw, Beet Pickles, Apple Crisp

May 2: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Parslied Carrots, French Bread, Tossed Salad, Sr Cream Fruit Dessert

May 3: Cream of Potato Soup, Chicken Salad on Bun, Kidney Bean Salad, Rhubarb Strawberry Dessert

May 4: BBQ Pork Loin, Scalloped Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Dinner Roll, Frozen Yogurt

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Love for our neighbors is how the world will know we are Christ-followers. The whole world will know we are Christians not by our sacraments or our festivals or our buildings ... but by our love. There is not a whole lot of space for ambigui-

ty. Jesus commands us to love one another. It's clear and it's bold. Jesus' own actual act of love was pretty clear and bold too.

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Service: 9:30 a.m. Sunday

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7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Worship 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447

Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Pastor Patti Meyer
(507) 451-2165

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520

www.tlcowatonna.org

9:00 am Worship
10:15 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 p.m. Confirmation;
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Catholic

ST. AIDAN CATHOLIC PARISH
Hwy 30 Ellendale
507-465-8217

The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
Rural Geneva
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Sunday Mass: 11:00 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC
150 NE Second St. Hayfield
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 477-2256

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
Reconciliation: Before Mass
Adoration: Tuesdays 9 to noon

ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC PARISH
114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie
The Rev. Thomas Niehaus
(507) 583-2784

stcolumbanuschurch.com
Reconciliation: 4:30 p.m. Saturday
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5:15 p.m. Saturday
and 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

Adoration: Mondays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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

Sunday Mass: 9:15 a.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
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
Confirmation class: 2nd Sunday and
Wednesday evening

SACRED HEART PARISH
810 S. Cedar Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer
The Rev. Brian Sutton,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 451-1588

www.sacredheartowatonna.org
Sunday Mass: Vigil 5 p.m. Saturday,
7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.

Spanish Mass: 1 p.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

Rev. Edward F. McGrath, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: Vigil Sat. 4 p.m.
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Reconciliation 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday
Daily Mass Tues.-Sat. 8 a.m.

Adoration in Chapel - 24 hours each day

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353

The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass: Vigil Saturday 5 p.m.,
10 a.m. Sunday

Monday Mass: 8 a.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
Deerfield
507-451-4845

The Rev. Edward McGrath,
Parochial Administrator
Sunday Mass 8:30 a.m.

Easter thru Christmas
Winter at Christ the King, Medford

Christian

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

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 Cirkse
(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
Worship: Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45
a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE- LANSING
26875 539th Ave., Lansing
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

Addictions program-
Fridays at 7 p.m.
Worship service-
Saturdays at 5 p.m.

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
303 North Cedar Ave, Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249

Sundays 10:00 AM
enter through Owatonna Fit Lab

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 CHRISTIAN CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 213-9194

Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Bible: 7 p.m. Wednesday

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 Vanessa Syvertsen
(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
and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday



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MINIMIZER has been helping Blooming Prairie business owners by employing a total of 88 people at its 4 Blooming Prairie facilities. As a result, Rachel cuts more hair, Rick & Cheri sell more cars, Waco sells more groceries, Nick sells more ice cream, Tony sells more pizza and Joe services more cars.

WHY WE *LOVE* WORKING FOR MINIMIZER



LUKE SWENSON
Materials Manager

I love working for a local, growing, family owned company. Working at Minimizer has helped me grow personally and professionally with the company while still being able to work locally.



KARI FORYSTEK
Customer Service Representative

I really appreciate the fact that Minimizer is a family-owned company that values its employees. I also love that everything we do is local... from manufacturing, to shipping, to customer service... Everything is based right here in Blooming Prairie. Minimizer gives back to our community in countless ways.



JAY IVERSON
Senior Designer

I love working at Minimizer because they are very family orientated. Everyone is friendly and fun to work with. I live in the town where I work, I do not have a commute that is a half hour, or more to work, they allow me to respond on Ambulance and Fire calls to help the community. It is a growing company, which allows for many opportunities in life.



TOOL BOXES



FENDERS



TOOL BENCH



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Staff photo by Mark DeLap

As per the norm in Minnesota, there has been some extreme changes in the weather patterns. From a blinding fog that didn't lift until well after dawn last week to extreme weather that dropped a tornado in Faribault County and set off severe weather sirens Sunday night in Medford. No damage, but keep your video cameras charged as you never know what Spring has in store for those in our coverage area.

BP Area Chamber members learning new things

Members of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce at a regular monthly meeting at George's of Geneva on Wednesday, April 20 were told of a new business change coming May 1.

Keith and Carol Holman, owners of Holman Insurance of Blooming Prairie announced

that they have sold their business to Hometown Insurance of Blooming Prairie. The Holmans will thus enter retirement on that day after logging nearly 50 years in the insurance business.

More details on the change will be given in an upcoming Chamber Spotlight in the Steele County Times.

Holman Insurance will now become Hometown Insurance, said agent Brian Penkert.

Since he still had the floor for discussion, Holman also announced that he had American Legion raffle tickets for sale.

The chamber meeting at George's was attended by 24. "This meeting is always one of our more fun meetings," said Chamber President Luke Swenson. Chamber members Steve and Jodie Dittrich, owners of George's of Geneva, hosted the meeting.

Chamber Executive Director Becky Noble made a plea for more volunteer help for the 4th of July celebration. "We would appreciate any volunteer help," she said. She said an events coordinator is needed, as well as a bean bag tournament chair.

Fourth of July button sales will begin soon, Noble said.

Mayor H. Peterson, a chamber member, said the 4th of July celebration is a signature event for Blooming Prairie and must continue "on and on forever." He

said the planning will get done.

President Swenson said interviews will soon begin for a new slate of Chamber student ambassadors. Currently, five student ambassadors are on board. Swenson also reported that high school student tours of local businesses are scheduled for May 11.

A city-wide garage sale is planned for Saturday, May 14. The annual Golf Fun Day is set for the Blooming Prairie Country Club on Wednesday, July 20.

Frontier Communications General Manager Darrell Hansen, who is retiring effective April 29, thanked chamber members for their dedication over the years to improving the quality of living in Blooming Prairie. Following adjournment of the meeting, members stayed for a roundtable discussion and spoke about the advantages of being a business in a small community. "There's opportunities in a small town, all you have to be is creative," remarked business owner Lyndon Johnson.

Ellendale looking ahead to improving streets

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

The Ellendale City Council convened on April 14 and covered several things pertinent to the affairs of the city. After the past agenda was read and approved, there were some important things brought forth first from Fire Chief, Mark Lee and firefighter Logan Busho.

According to Lee, the fire department is planning on purchasing seven new handheld radios which will cost an estimated \$5,000 a piece. The chief will have one with him at all times. In addition, there will be six new pagers purchased at a price of \$500 a piece. The new equipment would make it possible to have 12 radios on scene and would be more effective in communication in the event of a fire or crisis. These items are all currently being purchased with funds available in their budget.

The fire department also asked for financial assistance from the city council to do a remodel and extension of the firehouse counter space which would warrant a sealing of one of the overhead doors not currently necessary in day to day operations. Included in the remodel would be a more effective Wi-Fi system, a new router, a new computer and printer. The city council asked for the fire department to put together some figures for an estimate of the cost.

The need for mobile tablets was also brought up by Lee and he stated that he would like to see a mobile tablet in the fire station and in the main fire truck. Mobile tablets would provide an instant mapping system for easier identification in locating a reported fire or crisis. It would also benefit the fighters on scene to know who was going to respond and who could not answer the call. It would also let fire fighters better document on scene pictures for investigations and information.

Saving perhaps the biggest news for last was the readiness to start planning on replacing the main pumper fire truck. This would be a major investment and costs could range from \$300K to \$600K. The current Ellendale truck is 25 years old

and although has passed all of its safety tests, is going to become outdated in the next few years. The fire department asked the city council if they would consider budgeting for the new truck.

"One option is to finance out a new vehicle on a 15 year program," said Lee. "We could also possibly split costs with the county." The importance of beginning to plan for this expenditure was emphasized as Lee went on to inform the council that a truck needs to be specifically built for its location and it could take up to two years to build a truck.

Busho stated, "It is still a good vehicle now, but it is starting to nickel and dime us."

The chief was planning on shopping around for prices and would present to the council what the best possible value would be for Ellendale. The council asked for some concrete estimates before proceeding to the fundraising process.

The other major topic of the night was the badly needed street repairs in Ellendale. The council estimated that the entire project to repair and resurface the streets could be somewhere in the neighborhood of a million dollars. The estimated tax increase for a project of that magnitude would be around 20%. Discussion was also made about the possibility of fixing just portions of the streets that are critically deteriorated.

The possibility of bonding out a project like that would be further discussed and decided at a future meeting after taking a closer look at the strength and continuity of the water piping system beneath the city streets.

There is also roughly \$40,000 left over from a previous 2014 street project that may be used to conduct a quick fix on some of the worst areas. The council agreed that this would be a temporary patch option and the decision would have to be made as to whether the city would do a full bond project or piece meal the effort.

The city finance manager was going to be called to the next meeting and all ideas would be brought up and further discussion would be made.

Semcac to thank event sponsors

By HOWARD LESTRUD

Staff Writer

Rochester, MN -- Semcac (Southeastern Minnesota Community Action Council), a non-profit, community action organization founded in 1966, will gather at the RCTC Heintz Center in Rochester on Friday, May 20 for an afternoon event, including training and exhibits.

Approximately 230 staff and board members will meet at the RCTC Center. This year marks the 50th year Semcac has been helping people.

Community Action Agencies were established under the Economic Opportunity Act to fight America's "War on Poverty."

Semcac assists people to achieve or maintain independence and self-reliance utilizing community resources. The governing board is tripartite, consisting of equal representation from each of the seven designated counties including 1/3 consumer members; 1/3 public officials; 1/3 private community organizations.

Semcac is designed to serve the southeastern Minnesota counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele and Winona.

Semcac contact offices located in each of these seven counties. Semcac also offers limited services in the five counties of Olmsted, Goodhue, Rice, Wabasha and Waseca.

Semcac operates over 25 programs within the departments of Head Start, Senior Services, Outreach & Emergency Services, Community Development, Family Planning and Transportation.

Some of these programs include Meals on Wheels, Semcac Clinic, Community Education, Homelessness Prevention, Food Shelves (located in Preston, Rushford, Caledonia and Kasson), Energy Assistance Program, Weatherization, Rolling Hills Transit, Early Head Start, and many more!

STEELE TALKIN'



TRACY IGNASZEWSKI

Summer synonymous with 4-H

Wow, one can hardly believe that summer is right around the corner when we are still dealing with cool weather. But guess what folks – IT IS!! School is coming to an end, the weather will get beautiful and the camping season will soon begin. Boy, do I love this time of year! It is a very exciting time for 4-H. Summer brings lots of camps and adventure opportunities for all young people in Steele County. Let me tell you about one of these camping adventures at 4-H Camp Patterson on Lake Washington near Mankato. This is where over 120 young campers who have completed 3rd-6th grade will spend three days experiencing this wonderful thing we call 4-H Youth Camp. Older youth who have completed 6th-8th grade can attend 4-H Teen Camp at Camp Patterson also.

Our days start with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the flag raising ceremony. Throughout the days we offer many different interest sessions including crafts, mining for gold, team building, canoeing and outdoor cooking. Every afternoon, campers are able to swim and canoe. And of course a campfire concludes each evening.

If you think these camps sound fun and exciting so far, we haven't even gotten to the most important part – FRIENDS!. Well, this is the most important part for a majority of the campers! By the time Friday rolls around many tears are shed and addresses exchanged.

Well folks, let me tell you – it's not too late to have an experience like that this year. Our 4-H overnight camps at Camp Patterson are scheduled for June 15-17 (3rd-6th grades completed) and June 22-24 (6th-8th grades completed). These camps fill up quickly so call the Steele County Extension office NOW to register – space is limited!

If overnight camping is not your thing, don't worry, we will have many more opportunities for you: Science Adventures, Splash into 4-H and The Great Camp Out 4-H Adventures are among the adventures that will take place every Wednesday in June and July at 11 a.m. at the library in Blooming Prairie & 3 p.m. at the library in Owatonna. If you are interested in these or other opportunities that 4-H has to offer, call the Extension Office at (507)444-7685.

I am sure by now you can tell why I love this time of year! And, I haven't even mentioned anything about the FAIR yet! Summer Here We Come!!!!

Steele Talkin' is a column featuring various organizations around Steele County. Tracy Ignaszewski is a 4-H Program Coordinator with the University of Minnesota Extension Service in Steele County. She can be reached at 507-444-7685 or 507-444-7688.

My favorite brother-in-law???

There are times when I would say he is my favorite brother-in-law and there are other times when he wouldn't even make the list.

I am talking about Darrell Hansen, who happens to be married to my wife Judy's sister Cindi. That relationship thus, maybe really doesn't make us brother-in-laws but we always refer to one another that way.

Darrell even tries to make points with me and saying he and Cindi are taking us to the Hubbell House in Mantorville because I have been named "Brother-in-law of the Month."

Darrell is very quick witted and would often say to his mother-in-law Geri (my mother-in-law, too) that she was his favorite mother-in-law. She would fire back, "You had better watch out, because you can be replaced."

Yes, Darrell is retiring and many say: "Again?" Yes, it is the second time for Darrell who retired nine years ago and went to Krejci Ford to sell cars. He stayed there a year and then returned to his love, communications with Frontier Communications.

Those who know him well, this brother-in-law included, will tell you that Darrell rates high on a scale of 1 to 10 in public relations. He is smooth, sincere, convincing and full of. . .FILL IN THE BLANK.

Darrell is an excellent manager and leader. He knows how to work with all kinds of people including his relatives.

Darrell and I would often compare notes on management issues when I was involved in newspaper management for a large publication on the northern suburb of the Twin Cities. We often sounded out one another on what decisions would be best for our customers, employees and even ourselves.

Darrell is also a very caring family man. Now, I can put in the paragraph that was supposed to have been added in my expose retirement story on Darrell two weeks ago. Darrell and wife Cindi have three children, Nicole, Stephen and Matt and five grandchildren. Another grandchild is on the way.

Darrell and Cindi were like a second set of parents to our young daughter Tammi when she was

REFLECTIONS...
AND HOW



HOWARD
LESTRUD

born in 1972. Darrell and Cindi would borrow young Tammi because they had no children at the time and loved being with little ones.

The Hansen household was always a busy place and it was enjoyable seeing how the family developed. Darrell has also been very giving of his personal time to the community of Blooming Prairie. He was a volunteer fireman for over 25 years, served as president of the BP Area Chamber of Commerce, is active in Masons, was a member of Lions and served in various capacities at First Lutheran Church.

I have had lots of fun together with Darrell. For years, we made annual trips, just the two of us, to the Minnesota State Fair. I hate to admit it but he was hard to track because of his long, sweeping footsteps.

Darrell has been and always will be a trickster. If he travels with you in your car and you manage to stop and leave him in the car, don't do it. Many a time, I would come back to the car, fire up the ignition, and have the wipers flying at high speed and the radio blaring at reverberating decibels.

Darrell, Cindi, Judy and I also made vacation trips together, one memorable trip being to Ely and the other to Camp Lost in the Woods near Princeton where we were eaten alive by mosquitoes. In Ely, Darrell and I put together our own video on diving exploits in the motel pool. He even tossed a five-gallon pail of water on me as I sat in a sauna.

Darrell tries to be one step ahead of most everyone. It doesn't work all of the time for him, however. Just ask Cindi.

There are other experiences of our times together that I could share but choose not to.

Darrell is a true friend, confidant and favorite???brother-in-law. He has not revealed his retirement plans and is maybe truthful when he says he has no immediate plans. Cindi said she is in denial about his retirement.

Good luck in your retirement Darrell and I hope we can continue having fun times together as friends and brothers-in-law.

Blooming Prairie Living

BOOK NOOK



NANCY
VAILLANCOURT

ON YOUR MARK GET READY... READ!

I can hardly believe that we are nearing the end of April! It seems like time passes by more quickly each year. However, as we approach the month of May, I would like to share a preview of our plans for the Summer Reading Program at the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Our theme this year is On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! Here is what we have planned so far:

The fun begins on Monday, June 6 with our kickoff – check out brand new books, and get your reading record. That week we will welcome the kids’ rock star, Mr. Billy, and the Zooman. Return performers for the summer include the Bakken Science Museum, the Mu Daido Drummers, and our favorite magician, Greg the Great. We are excited to introduce Jim Jayes, a puppeteer/storyteller from Austin, the Spins & Strings yo-yo troupe, and Adrienne Lee, hula hoop expert.

Our schedule will include movies on Monday afternoons, storytimes on Tuesday mornings, and Adventure Club on Wednesday mornings. In the next few weeks, stop by and pick up a calendar get specific dates and times for the events. We are going to have a fun, busy summer – both reading and moving. See you at the library!

Going on 16 years of fluffy pillow tal



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud
“It was a good day,” said Mike Carlson of Carlson Pillow Service of Willmar as he reflected on his annual stop at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Here, he goes over an order with customer Joanne Newman of Blooming Prairie.

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie once again hosted pillow cleaning, courtesy of an agreement with Mike Carlson of Carlson Pillow Service of Willmar.

Carlson is in his 16th year of serving parishioners and friends of First Lutheran. He is the only pillow cleaning service in Minnesota.

Carlson came to town on Tuesday, April 19 with his mobile camper and set up camp in the First Lutheran parking lot. A very outgoing sort of guy, Carlson will provide assistance to any situation brought by customers.

“My annual stop in Blooming Prairie allows me to renew acquaintances and even gives me a chance to sit in on the church Bible study,” Carlson said.

Carlson said a share of the profits from the pillow cleaning go to the Esther Circle.

Carlson’s business which has a history of over 40 years with previous owners started out as Fluff & Puff. Carlson has carried on the tradition of making stops at churches in Minnesota and Iowa. He also offers his services to auxiliaries like the VFW and American Legion. “We have our services available for any non-profit,” he said.

“Whatever our customers bring in, they get back,” Carlson said. He says down inserts are the most expensive. Goose down costs \$56 a pound compared to duck feathers at \$16 a pound, Carlson reported. “You get what you pay for,” he added.

Carlson also has polyester and fiber fills available to his customers.

Carlson has two cleaning units set up in his camper. His home away from home is positioned in the front part of the camper.

From Blooming Prairie, Carlson trekked south to Cresco, Iowa where he planned to do some pillow cleaning and also hoped to get in some trout fishing.

\$250,000 technology package approved by BP School Board

by Howard Lestrud

Staff Writer

“Our technology in the Blooming Prairie Schools is first class,” remarked Superintendent Barry Olson after seeing the Blooming Prairie School Board adopt a technology program for the next four years at a lease cost of \$250,000.

“We are keeping up with what needs to be done to benefit our students,” Olson said.

Students in grades 7-12 currently have iPads for use in the classroom.

At a regular School District 756 School Board meeting on Monday, April 18, board members adopted a lease program for the next four years. Total cost of new equipment to be purchased through Apple, Inc. as part of a new lease beginning in fiscal

year 2017, is in the amount of \$277,245.

A lease arrangement for the capital expenditure at 2.64 percent on \$250,000 with American Capital is contingent upon Minnesota Department of Education operating capital guidelines effective for fiscal year 2017.

The technology contract was reviewed and approved unanimously by board members Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten and Pam Hameister. Board member Steve Ille was absent.

The new technology agreement will provide new iPads (240) for grades 7-10, new 11-inch MacBook Airs for 11th and 12th graders and new 13-inch MacBook Airs for staff. The MacBook Air total is listed at 170. Thirty new Mac comput-

ers will also be provided the Blooming Prairie Elementary School laboratory.

Some of the used iPads will be used at the elementary school and all other pieces of equipment will be sold to a company at a “buy-back bid,” Superintendent Olson said.

Two quotes were received, one from Cloud Blue at \$24,550 and one from Diamond Assets at \$36,000. Motion to approve Diamond Assets was carried.

In other business, the board gave approval to hire another elementary school teacher to keep class size at an acceptable lower rate. Class size currently rests between 20-25, said Superintendent Olson.

Applications for the new elementary position are being accepted with the hiring to be ef-

fective for the next school year. The district currently has 30 elementary teachers.

Enrollment data was shared with board members, listing enrollment for the 2015-16 school year as of April 13, 2016, at 408 elementary school students (grades K-6) and 304 at the high school (grades 7-12), 298 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Options). The PSEO num-

ber consists of 2 seniors and 4 juniors who attend full time.

Some important upcoming dates are: April 30, Prom in the high school gym from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.; May 11, Senior Awards in the high school commons at 6:30 p.m.; May 12, school board work session in high school board room at 6 a.m. and May 16, school board meeting in the high school media center at 7:15 p.m.



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Medford Living



Junior Achievement graduations

Spring and Graduation are in the air! Recently, I had the pleasure of going through the graduation ceremony with Becky Peterson's 4th graders and their successful completion of the Junior Achievement (JA) Program and their class topic built around entrepreneurs and our region. What great energy awaited me each week!

The JA curriculum is built around the educational standards for each grade level. I love the materials as they are highly interactive with a learning message each of the five weeks. There are also extended learning opportunity ideas for the regular classroom teacher to add to their established lesson plans and is a real win-win for all involved.

Our topics covered were: 1) Am I an Entrepreneur? Identifying special traits of this individual and realizing how many of them these nine and ten year olds related too. 2) Regional Resources: Tools for Entrepreneurs looking at our big country and identifying the various natural resources in each part of the country that often influences businesses in that area. 3) Hot Dog Stand Game was a really busy hour! Lesson included identifying and keeping track of income and expenses and all the work that goes into a business. 4) Entrepreneurs are Problem Solvers! The class studied business problem-solving-the process and learned of risks and rewards that come with your business. 5)

My Region in the World. How many businesses are influenced by buyers and suppliers all over the world and the interdependence of those resources.

Mrs. Peterson's class is a talented group who grasped all these concepts enthusiastically. They all earned their Junior Achievement Certificate! Congratulations to this special group: Bailee, Ava, Tyler, Lily, Brody, Jelly, Omar, Annette, Addie, Emely, Rachel, Lili, Evan N., Kayleigh, Anna, Jessie, Jair, Hunter, Zach, Kynnedie, Evan S., Lauren, Courtney and Josie.

This is a wonderful program that needs professionals from the area to come to the classroom for an hour over a five-week period of time. The program is available county-wide for all elementary and high school grades; and coordinated by Laura Heyne, District Manager, 507/676-3523. If you are interested in volunteering as an instructor or asking questions about adding to your school curriculum, suggest giving Laura a call. We know we have some very smart students in this area that will be successful community leaders and entrepreneurs in the future.

These weeks have been a special treat for me as had been connected to the program at Wilson Elementary for many years. Now, that it is in Medford, certainly thought this was a wonderful way to share some limited time with tomorrow's leaders.

Medford Casey's grand opening this week

by Howard Lestrud
Staff Writer

Coming off of exit 48 from Highway 35 is a new and inviting addition to Medford. The website of Casey's says, "Home is where the heart is. But what is home? To us, home is more than a roof over your head. It's the community we live in. It's family and friends and a familiar face. It's the memory of simpler times. Home is where we feel most comfortable and where we always feel welcome. It's where we belong and it makes us who we are."

It just seems like a good fit. A good community to call home and a new family moving into the community. Casey's General Store is a flurry of activity as it opened its doors last week for the very first time. District manager Mike Meyer who oversees 54 Casey's stores in Minnesota is excited about the Medford store.

"We make fresh doughnuts every morning," Meyer said and continued, "And we make fresh made to order sub sandwiches and pizza. This is a kind of 'large store' in that it has its own bakery."

The store currently employs 19 people, but both Meyer and area manager Mike Harvey who oversees 9 stores including the Blooming Prairie and Hayfield stores say that they are going to end up with at least 25 on the payroll before the hiring is said and done.

The grand opening of the store is set for the April 29-30 and by that time all new employees should be acclimated to the systems and ready to serve quality customer service. Store manager LeAnn Brown Dahlendug who has transferred from the Ellendale Casey's has seven years of experience under her belt and is hoping to set some impressive sales records for the area.



Staff Photos by Mark DeLap

Top: Joleen Anderson waits on customers Kelly Bauer, Andrew Biebighauser and Andrew's sister, Lauren. Fresh doughnuts were what the kids were anticipating.

Bottom: Diane Alexon and Monte Starson work in the bakery and sub shop at the new Casey's in Medford. Pizza and subs are fresh and made to order.



BP/Hayfiel wrestling pairing

by **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer

Both Hayfield and Blooming Prairie school boards have approved a pairing agreement between the schools for wrestling competition.

The Blooming Prairie School Board on Monday, April 18 unanimously approved an agreement to help maintain a strong wrestling program in the face of declining enrollment and 14 weight classes. Casting "aye" votes were board members Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten and Pam Hameister. Board member Steve Ille was absent.

The Hayfield School Board

PAIRING
Continued on 10B

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RECIPE CORNER

Fluff Pie

- 1 graham cracker crust pie (they have light versions of these)
- 1 pkg. sugar free jello (any flavor)
- 1 regular size container of sugar free or lite cool whip
- 2 containers of light yogurt (any flavor)
- 1/4 cup water

Boil in microwave 1/4 cup of water (I usually do this in a big enough glass bowl to add everything else) stir in package of jello until completely dissolved stir in cool whip and yogurt pour into graham cracker pie crust cover and refrigerate for half an hour...then enjoy!

By Angie Carlson • BP Elementary Teacher

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County Living

Steele County Times adds more new faces

More new faces have joined the Steele County Times as a new business manager and county sports editor have been added in recent weeks.

Publisher Rick Bussler has named Kim Hammer of Albert Lea to a newly created position as business manager and Joe Tischler as county sports editor.

“Both Kim and Joe are going to be valuable assets to our newspaper,” said Bussler. “They bring a variety of experience that is going to help propel the Times to a new level that we have never been able to achieve before.”

Business Manager



In her new role, Kim Hammer will be responsible for managing the office and overseeing the business side of the newspaper operation.

Hammer brings a variety of experience in both newspapers and other professions. Her professional accomplishments include work in accounting, service industries and construction work. In addition to being involved in all aspects of accounting at a variety of jobs, she has managed and owned restaurants in the past.

Her newspaper experience includes a stint as a graphic designer for the Mower County Shopper in Austin. She continues to work as an independent contractor doing graphics work. Hammer has used her skills as a graphic artist and her education in accounting throughout most of her career.

“I like book work because it is logical and important,” Hammer says. “I also like the management end of things because of the diversity and, again, the importance.”

Hammer said to be able to contribute to a business in a way that matters is a necessary component to her on-the-job satisfaction. “I like diving into a new job that needs to

be reorganized and has a few mysteries to untangle,” she said.

As business manager, Hammer’s goal is to help make the Times a smooth running operation that lives up to its full potential. “In a time that many newspapers are shrinking and failing, the Times is an awesome example of what newspapers can and should be,” she said, adding it’s exciting to be part of the team that keeps it that way.

In her spare time, Hammer loves to read books and she admits to an addiction. “I am addicted to unabridged audio. I have a book going whenever I can,” she said. She also loves to travel, scuba dive and ride motorcycle.

She has been involved with several charitable endeavors, including 14 years on the committee that puts on the Albert Lea Pool Tournament for Hospice and the Matt Felt Dillion Gordon Motorcycle Run, which raises money for cancer, organ donation and humane society.

“My super power is that I love to learn new things and am always looking for the next adventure,” Hammer said.

She lives in rural Freeborn County with her two English Springer Spaniels. She has

two grown daughters. Hammer has a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Mankato State University.

Sports Editor



Taking over the county sports editor role is Joe Tischler of Eagle Lake. He replaces James Knoop, who left the paper back in December. Tischler will work closely with veteran sports writer Lemar Nelson in covering the Steele County sports scene.

He has nearly five years of newspaper writing experience, but this will be his first opportunity to be involved in the behind-the-scenes aspect of putting a paper together. In addition to writing, he will

be taking photographs and designing his own sports pages.

“It can be a grinding process, but it is very rewarding when it all comes together,” Tischler said, adding he hopes to bring readers the best sports coverage possible.

The new sports editor considers one of his strengths going beyond just the score and bringing readers the deeper story. “Aside from writing game recaps, I really enjoy getting to know the student-athletes and coaches behind the scenes,” Tischler said. “I am always interested in special feature stories so the community knows who is representing the community both on and off the field.”

Tischler comes to the Times after working at KEYC-TV in Mankato and doing freelance writing for the Free Press in Mankato. He also has been an official scorekeeper and statistician for the Minnesota State High School League.

For several years Tischler was the sports information director at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. In that role, he was the official statistician for all 17 varsity athletic programs and maintained the college’s athletic website and social media pages.

He also has experience as a

sports columnist at a community newspaper, sports intern for KMSP-TV and pitch operator tracking pitches of the Minnesota Twins for MLB.com.

In addition to working in the media, Tischler has also been a schoolteacher in Kansas as well as northern Minnesota. He has also coached middle school and varsity sports in Mankato and Kansas.

Tischler has two Bachelor of Science degrees, one from Minnesota State University in Mankato in elementary education and the other from St. Cloud State University in mass communications.

He may be new to the Times and Steele County, but he has strong family ties to the Blooming Prairie area. His mother was one of 10 From children who grew up in Blooming Prairie.

Not surprisingly, Tischler’s hobbies revolve around sports. “Sports have always been a passion of mine and I’m a die-hard Minnesota sports fan,” he said. “When I’m not covering a game, I like going to them as a fan,” he added.

He likes staying physically fit by jogging and biking on the beautiful trails in the state.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Lance Bergeson of Rochester and his girl friend’s daughter, Elise Holmwig, 4, stopped at Casey’s to get fuel and then opened the end gate on the pickup truck for an instant picnic. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar

OWATONNA

April 26:
9:30 a.m. Owatonna Public Library, It's TALE TIME!
Owatonna
4 p.m. Owatonna Public Utilities – Utilities Commission, Utilities Plant Office, Owatonna
5:30 p.m. Owatonna Planning Commission, Council Chambers, City Hall, Owatonna
6 p.m. Autism Spectrum Disorder Parent Support Group, Associated Church, Owatonna
April 28:
6:30 p.m. Owatonna Public Library Family Story Time, Owatonna
May 2:
1 p.m. Owatonna, Woman's Club Bridge Group, Senior Place, Owatonna
May 3:
Hope, Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
9:30 a.m. Owatonna Public Library, It's TALE TIME!
Owatonna
5 p.m. Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall, Owatonna
7 p.m. Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers, Hop
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall, Owatonna
May 4:
Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

April 26:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
Bloomington Prairie Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
6 p.m. BPBL Book Club
7 p.m. Planning and Zoning Board Meeting
April 27:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The April 2016 Monthly outreach office hours for the Steele County Veterans Service Officer. Rene Gilormini, Steele County Veterans Service Officer will be at Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club.
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
April 28:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
April 29:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
April 30:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
May 1:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
May 2:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
May 3:
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
May 4:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4th at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14th at 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA

April 26:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North, Ellendale
April 27:
11 – 11:30 a.m. The April 2016 Monthly outreach office hours for the Steele County Veterans Service Officer. Rene Gilormini, Steele County Veterans Service Officer will be at the Ellendale Community Building.
April 28:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
May 2:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center, Ellendale
May 3:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellendale

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Steele County Veterans Service officer April 27 from 11 - 11:30 a.m.

he April 2016 Monthly outreach office hours for the Steele County Veterans Service Office. Rene Gilormini, Steele County Veterans Service Officer will be at the Ellendale Community Building.

HAYFIELD

April 26:
1:30 p.m. Golf: Boys Varsity Invitational, Dodge Country Club, Hayfield
5 p.m. Baseball: Varsity Game, Goodhue High School, Hayfield
5 p.m. Softball: Varsity Game, Byron Middle School, Hayfield
April 27:
6:30 p.m. Car/Booster Seat – Elementary Library, Hayfield
April 28:
3 p.m. Chess - Elementary Library, Hayfield
4:30 p.m. Track & Field: Varsity Invitational, Hayfield High School, Hayfield
6:15 p.m. JFK - Elementary Lunchroom, Hayfield
7:30 p.m. JO 17's - East Gym, Hayfield
April 30:
7:30 p.m. Prom, East and West Gyms at Hayfield High School, Hayfield
May 2:
5 p.m. Baseball: Varsity Game, Hayfield
5 p.m. Softball: Varsity Game, Triton High School, Hayfield
7 p.m. Fury - East Gym, Hayfield
7 p.m. Scouts, TL/BR/Room 158 & 103/Workshop, Hayfield
7:30 p.m. Fury - West Gym, Hayfield
May 3:
4:30 p.m. Track & Field: Varsity Invitational, Grand Meadow Track, Hayfield
5 p.m. Softball: Varsity Game, North Alexander Park, Faribault, Hayfield
7 p.m. School Board Work Session, Hayfield High School Library, Hayfield
May 4:
AAA Banquet - West Gym/HS Lunchroom, Hayfield
7:15 a.m. Captain Meeting – High School Library, Hayfield
5 p.m. Hayfield EDA, Hayfield City Hall, Hayfield

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April 28:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner, Medford
May 2:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner



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OTHER COUNTIES

Freeborn

April 26:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
5:30 p.m. Albert Lea Council Workshop, City Council Chambers, City Center, Albert Lea
April 29:
Big 9 Music Festival, John Marshall High School, 1510 14th Street Northwest, Rochester, Albert Lea High School Participating
April 30:
Library Closed, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
9 a.m. Hometown Pride Cleanup Day, City of Albert Lea, Albert Lea
6 p.m. Rock Climbing Open Gym, Community Education, 211 W Richway Dr Albert
May 2:
10:30 a.m. ALPL Story time, Albert Lea Public Library, Albert Lea
5:30 p.m. Charter Commission, City of Albert Lea, Albert Lea
7 p.m. Albert Lea City Council, Council Chambers, Albert Lea
May 3:
5:30 p.m. Albert Lea Planning Commission, City Hall, Albert Lea
5:30 p.m. Planning Commission, City Hall, Albert Lea
May 4:
7:30 a.m. Albert Lea Port Authority Meeting, AL EDA, Albert Lea

Dodge

April 26:
Dodge County Board of Comm Mtg, Conference Room B at the Courthouse Annex, Lower Level, Mantorville
10 a.m. Mantorville Park Board Meeting, Mantorville
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center, Dodge Center
April 27:
6 p.m. Kasson City Council Meeting, Kasson
May 2:
West Concord Study Club
6:30 p.m. West Concord EDA Mtg, City Hall, West Concord
May 3:
10 a.m. Mantorville EDA Mtg, Mantorville
12 p.m. Kasson EDA, City Hall Council Chambers, Kasson
6 p.m. Triton Adult ESL Class, ES Media Center, Dodge Center
6:30 p.m. Claremont P&Z Mtg (as needed)

Mower

April 26:
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin
12:30 p.m. Autism Awareness Presentation by Theory of Mind, Austin
7:30 p.m. Young Frankenstein, Frank W Bridges Theatre, Riverland Community College, Austin
April 27:
Friends of the Library Collection for Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library, 323 4th Ave NE, Austin
12 p.m. Lunch and Learn: Inspiring Your Employees to Thrive, Austin Public Library, Austin
April 28:
7 p.m. Author Visit: Allen Eskens, The Life We Bury, Riverland Community College Library, Austin
April 29:
7 p.m. ArtRocks Jam Session, ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
April 30:
9 a.m. 10th Annual Austin Community Pride Day, Starting at the Austin VFW, 300 4th Ave NE, Austin
May 2:
7 p.m. Brownsdale City Council Meeting, Brownsdale
May 4:
1st Responders Meeting, City of Lyle
Minnesota Bike To School Day, Austin
Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin
7 p.m. Spring Fine Arts Showcase, Riverland Community College, Austin East - Frank W. Bridges and Wegner Art Gallery, Austin

Student of the Week



Sophia Williams is in Mrs. Boran's first grade class. She lives in New Richland with her parents, Scott and Melissa and five year old brother, Matthew. Sophia is an excellent student. She is an outstanding writer, and enjoys writing and illustrating stories to share with her class. Along with great academic skills, Sophia shows Panther Pride daily. She is a great friend to everyone, and shows kindness and respect to students and staff alike. In her free time, Sophia likes to read Laura Ingalls Wilder books, write stories, play piano, dance, and play with her little brother.

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Sports

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Vikings draft history

The same question gets asked every year at the time of the NFL Draft: should teams use their first round selection based on a need at a particular position or by selecting the best player available, regardless of where they play. Recent history suggests, the Minnesota Vikings first round selections pan out much better if they go with the best player available.

Minnesota held the 21st pick in the 1998 draft and weren't thinking of drafting a wide receiver. They already had Cris Carter and Jake Reed, two pass catchers who had gone over 1,000 yards receiving in each of the previous four seasons. But an immensely talented receiver with No. 1 overall potential, kept falling down the board due to his troubled past. That receiver was Randy Moss out of Marshall University. Teams after teams passed on him before the Vikings snatched him up in a hurry when it was their turn to select.

That decision proved immediate dividends. Minnesota went 15-1 in 1998 and set a then-NFL single-season record with 556 points. Moss set an NFL rookie record with 17 touchdown receptions on his way to winning NFL Rookie of the Year honors. (I won't mention what happened to the Vikings in the playoffs, because I'm sure it's still a sore spot for many of you).

Another instance where Minnesota picked best player available ahead of in a position of need was in 2007. Chester Taylor had rushed for 1,216 yards in 2006 in his first year in purple and gold, so they didn't feel the need to draft one with the seventh pick in the 2007 draft. A running back from the University of Oklahoma with injury concerns started falling down to them. With no takers, the Vikings were eager to select, one, Adrian Peterson with the seventh overall selection.

The man they call, "A.P.," is widely considered to be the best running back in football. He nearly set the single-season rushing record in 2012 when he ran for 2,097 yards has led the NFL in rushing three seasons, including last year where he rushed for 1,485 yards.

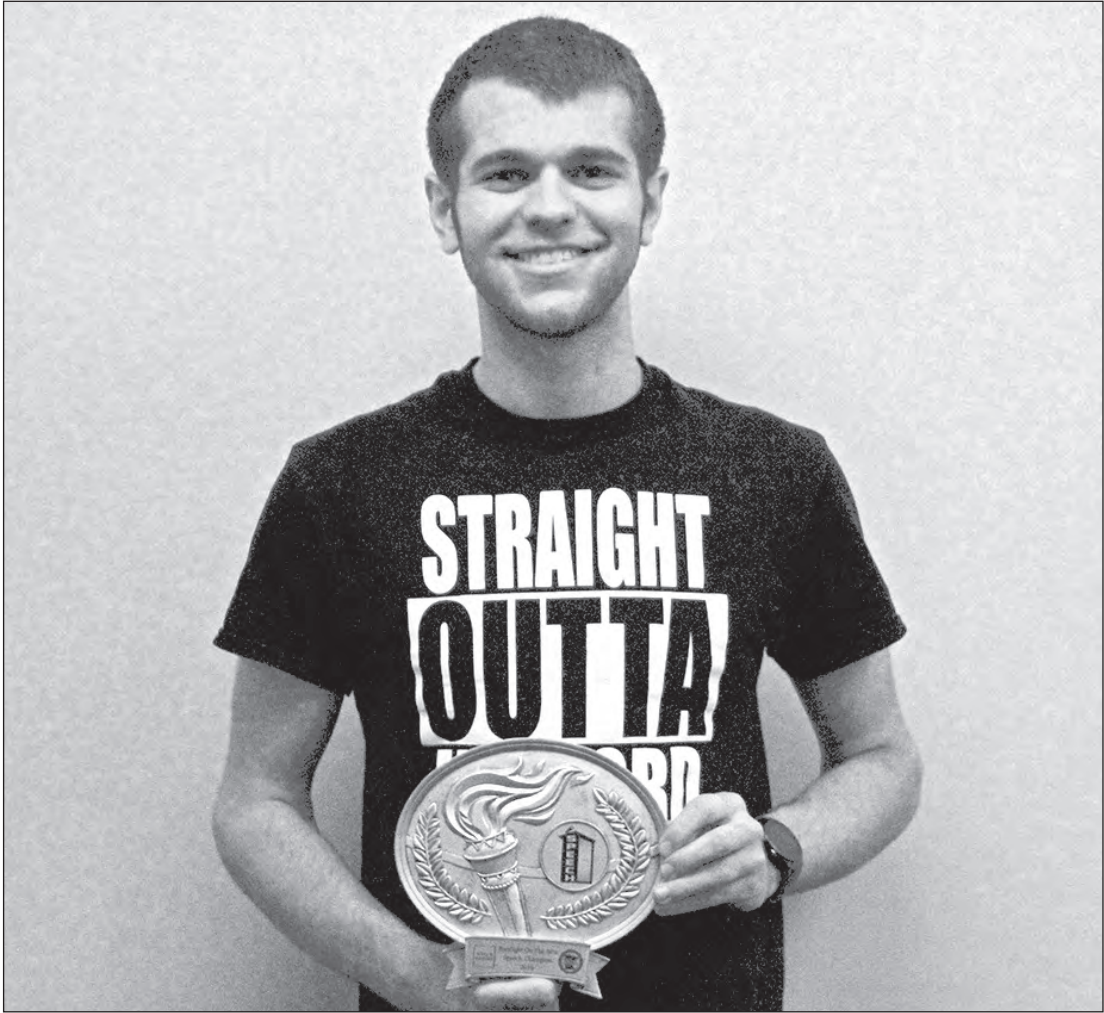
Drafting for a particular need in the first round will not always turn out well and Minnesota has recent blunders in that area.

After Robert Smith abruptly retired following the 2000 season, the Vikings had a need at running back. With the 27th pick, they selected Michael Bennett out of Wisconsin. He had one good year in 2002 when he rushed for 1,296 yards, but was released after five seasons due to persistent injury and ball-handling concerns.

After trading Moss away to Oakland following the 2004 season, Minnesota was in need for a wide receiver. With the seventh pick in the 2005 draft, the Vikings made a surprise selection in receiver Troy Williamson out of South Carolina who would turn out to be one of the biggest draft busts in team history. He lasted only three seasons in Minnesota

VIKINGS DRAFT
Continued on Page 8B

Medford's Matt Swanson makes school history



Staff photo by Joe Tischler
Swanson holds his Class A State Speech Champion trophy in Creative Expression. His state performance can be found on his YouTube channel: matthewtigerswanson

Senior is Medford's first state speech champion

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

Medford has had state champions before, most recently in wrestling, but never had there been a state champion in speech until Saturday, April 15-16 at Lakeville North High School when senior Matt Swanson won the Class A award in Creative Expression.

Swanson's award-winning script was a self-written inspiration based on the unusual combination of The Ghostbusters, The Exorcist, Jim Carrey, and the Book of Mormon.

"In Creative Expression, you can go two different directions," said Swanson. "You can have a very serious creative expression

or a comedic expression with some nice undertones."

With the combination he used for his script, his expression definitely goes the comedic route.

(Note - His state-winning performance can be found on YouTube by searching "matthewtigerswanson").

The senior picked up the acting bug as a freshman after he got encouragement to perform in the school play. Later in the year after performing in the school musical was when Swanson got the itch to perform in everything he could.

"He's a performer and I think that's what shined at state," said assistant speech coach Betsy Cole. "When he puts his mind to

something, it's amazing what he can come up with. He's got great creativity and enthusiasm, and all those things came together right when he needed it to."

Swanson is a part of a growing speech program at Medford that has gone from three students five years ago to 32 this year and with the success of Swanson and others, that number should continue to rise.

"This is a big thing, not only for Medford, but for our speech team," said head speech coach Kim Goblirsch. "This is the largest our team has been. It's only going to get bigger, because Matt has a huge influence and encourages people to come out and see the showcases."

Cole and fellow assistant coach Rebecca Mohr have been

GET TO KNOW MATT

- What is your favorite food: Sushi.
- What is your favorite movie: Breakfast Club, with Ferris Bueller's Day Off and Guardians of the Galaxy a close second.
- What other school activities are you involved in: Fall Play, Spring Musical, One-Act, Basketball, Choir, President of SADD.
- Besides performing, what hobbies do you enjoy: Working out and playing Yu-Gi-Oh.
- If you could have a Superhero power, what would it be: All of Spiderman's powers.
- Who would you vote for president and why: I know it's not going to happen, but I really want Bernie Sanders to win. I like what this guy stands for. I really like that he has a solid plan and that he doesn't change his opinion every two seconds. I do feel like Hillary Clinton is going to be our next president though.
- Who is your role model: Jim Carrey. I follow him on social media and I watch a lot of interviews with him. I know he's not perfect, but from what I see he is a very positive person, very optimistic, and wants to work every day to be better and better. That's everything I kind of stand for.

Krell to compete in elite summer competition



File photo

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

For eighth-grader Colton Krell, it has been an exciting year on the wrestling mat and it will probably get more active this summer. Krell has been chosen by team Minnesota of the U.S.A. Wrestling Association to wrestle with an Elite Minnesota Storm contingent.

Already he has wrestled a tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa, two weeks ago, with the team finished second in the tournament. Krell went 6-1 in his individual bouts. The team has assigned members, according to age, and Krell is still competing in the 14-year age group. He wrestles primarily at 160 pounds, although he occasionally has moved up a weight at

times. Despite his success on the high school mat, where he compiled an excellent 35-5 dual record, he probably was most satisfied to be selected to wrestle on the elite state team. "I had hoped to get the chance", he commented, "and I was really excited at the news."

Maybe his dad, Chuck, was even more excited, "He actually jumped up when we got the announcement", Colton added.

Chuck Krell and his wife, Carmen have been most supportive of Colton and his brief career. They follow him to meets, and they try to look out for him all the time. Colton also plays football, and in what little spare time he has, he likes to ride dirt bikes.

He took first in the Gopher Conference tournament, but finished a disappointing fifth at the section tournament. That is one thing he wants to put behind him, as his immediate goal is to win the section and wrestle at the state tournament. Long-term aspirations include courses in engineering after graduation from high school. English is probably his best subject right now in school and math is one subject with which he struggles at times.

It is a little hard to realize at times that all of this success has come to a student just preparing to enter his freshman year in high school. But Colton is a very unassuming individual, and so far, he has been handling the accomplishments with humility and grace. We will hear a lot more from him, for sure.

Sloan earns state honor

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

The Minnesota Football Coaches Association has named Grand Meadow football coach Gary Sloan as the MFCA Coach of the Year, as reported by the association's historian Dave Giles.

Sloan completed his 23rd year as the Grand Meadow nine-man mentor with the third 9-man state championship in a row.

Sloan's career record is an impressive 178 wins against only 72 losses for a winning percentage of .712. Grand Meadow has made six state

playoff appearances, with those three state titles, plus a state runner-up.

He earned class 9-man coach of the year twice, in 2013 and 2014, and was named sub-district Coach of the Year in 2015 as well.

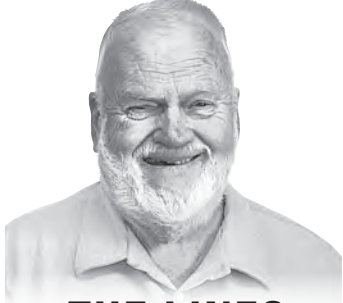
Sloan served as outstate assistant coach in the 1998 Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game and has coached six All-Star players; ninth most of any nine-man head coach.

Sloan grew up loving sports at an early age, despite some heavy teasing from three older sisters. As Sloan's sister Cheri Krejci, commented, "Gary was the baby

of the family and was always treated as such. He was a fighter, however, and was a good athlete himself in his high school days. He graduated from Ellendale high school and went right into coaching after graduating from college. Although the baby of the family, I know our parents would be very proud of his accomplishments."

Sloan maintains an optimistic attitude towards the team as some outstanding players return for another year of football. THE MFCA congratulates Gary Sloan on his selection as 2015 coach of the Year. He is an outstanding "Keeper of the Game."

OUTSIDE



THE LINES
LeMar Nelson

GOLF TEAM THRIVES

Probably the most successful team this spring in BPHS sports is the boys' golf squad. In the last week they won two Gopher Conference invitationals, and then last Thursday, finished second to Byron in a big, 14-team invite in Rochester. In that meet, Tommy Braaten finished runner-up and Jon Hatch also placed in the top ten with

a seventh-place tie. It ended a very good week for the boys.

The Gopher Conference girls also had a meet Friday with USC the winner and NRHEG and Maple River following. As usual, the Blossoms had no team to play, but Taylor Christianson took individual honors with a 41, nine strokes better than the next best golfer. Megan Pyzick of USC shot a 50 in the meet this week. A tip of the hat goes to the golf boys and Christianson for their success.

Several of the track individuals have had success this season and the softball team is starting to play much better. The two wins over Lyle-Pacelli, both 10-run victories and the close loss to Austin have raised the spirits of the girls and also their optimism for the rest of the season. One oddity in the 20-run

OUTSIDE THE LINES
Continued on Page 8B

Sports

Prep Report

BASEBALL

- Monday, April 18
WEM 15, Blooming Prairie 1
Medford 5, NRHEG 2
Minnetonka 10, Owatonna 5
- Tuesday, April 19
Randolph 14, Blooming Prairie 9
NRHEG 7, Martin County West 2
Maple River 4, Medford 0
Owatonna 9, Albert Lea 4
- Thursday, April 21
NRHEG 9, Blooming Prairie 5
WEM 10, Medford 0
Owatonna 4, Century 1
- Friday, April 22
JWP 14, Blooming Prairie 4
Fairmont 12, NRHEG 0
Medford 11, LCWM 5
Owatonna 5, Mankato East 1
Owatonna 3, Mankato East 2

- Monday, April 25
Faribault BA at Blooming Prairie
- Tuesday, April 26
Red Wing at Owatonna
- Thursday, April 28
NRHEG at Faribault BA
USC at Medford
Owatonna at Rochester Mayo
- Friday, April 29
Mkto. Loyola at Blooming Prairie
USC at NRHEG
- Saturday, April 30
Lyle-Pacelli at Blooming Prairie

GOPHER CONF. STANDINGS

(As of Sunday, April 24 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

USC	4-0	5-1
WEM	4-1	5-3
Faribault BA	3-1	4-4
Maple River	4-2	4-2
Medford	2-4	4-6
NRHEG	1-4	2-6
Blooming Prairie	0-6	0-8

BIG 9 CONF. STANDINGS

(As of Sunday, April 24 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Mankato West	4-0	6-0
Owatonna	4-1	5-2
Rochester Mayo	4-1	5-3
Red Wing	4-2	5-2
Northfield	3-2	5-3
Rochester JM	4-3	4-4
Albert Lea	2-3	3-4
Austin	2-4	3-4
Winona	2-4	3-5
Rochester Century	2-4	2-4
Mankato East	1-4	3-5
Faribault	0-4	0-7

SOFTBALL

- Monday, April 18
WEM 13, Blooming Prairie 8
NRHEG 16, Medford 6
- Tuesday, April 19
Owatonna 16, Albert Lea 2
- Thursday, April 21
NRHEG 9, St. Clair 4
WEM 11, Medford 7
- Friday, April 22
Blooming Prairie 14, Lyle-Pacelli 4
Austin 3, Blooming Prairie 1
NRHEG 12, Blue Earth 2
St. Clair 11, Medford 1
Owatonna 8, Century 1
- Saturday, April 23
Blooming Prairie 26, Lyle-Pacelli 6
LeSueur-Henderson 2, Owatonna 1
Owatonna 15, Big Lake 5
Owatonna 14, Apple Valley 3

- Monday, April 25
Blooming Prairie at Faribault BA
NRHEG at LCWM
Maple River at Medford
- Tuesday, April 26
Maple River at Blooming Prairie
Owatonna at Red Wing
- Thursday, April 28
NRHEG at Faribault BA
Rochester Mayo at Owatonna
- Friday, April 29
NRHEG at Alden-Conger

GOPHER CONF. STANDINGS

(As of Sunday, April 24 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

NRHEG	3-1	5-1
Faribault BA	3-1	7-2
WEM	3-2	6-4
USC	1-1	2-6
Maple River	1-1	1-4
Blooming Prairie	1-2	3-4
Medford	0-4	4-6

BIG 9 CONF. STANDINGS

(As of Sunday, April 24 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Mankato West	4-0	8-0
Winona	4-1	7-1
Mankato East	3-1	7-2
Rochester JM	3-1	3-2
Owatonna	3-2	5-4
Faribault	2-2	2-2
Northfield	2-3	4-4
Rochester Century	2-3	3-3
Rochester Mayo	2-4	3-4
Albert Lea	1-3	3-4
Red Wing	1-4	2-5
Austin	1-4	2-6

Owatonna, Wanous, power past Albert Lea



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Teammates greet Millie Wanous at home plate after she belted her second home run in Owatonna's 16-2 victory over Albert Lea Tuesday, April 19.

By **JOE TISCHLER**
Sports Editor

Owatonna started their 2016 softball campaign with four tight games that resulted in three losses. Tuesday, April 19 against Albert Lea, the Huskies got to take a little bit of a breather as they crushed the Tigers 16-2 in a Big Nine Conference game at Morehouse Park.

“It feels really good, those were very tough losses,” said Owatonna head coach Brian Pilcher. “We were right there where we needed to be, just too many mistakes and we’re

working on that. This team, with the way we hit the ball, we can put some scare into some teams.”

The Huskies launched three home runs, including two from Millie Wanous, as part of their 17-hit attack. Hitting multiple home runs in one game was something the senior catcher could never imagine.

“It’s crazy,” she said. “I had a goal at the beginning of the season to just hit one home run here; I’ve never hit one here and to hit two in a row is crazy.”

Wanous’ 3-run shot in the first inning was part of a 5-run frame and her 2-run tater in the second

led to an 11-run outburst as the Huskies scored all of their runs in the first two frames.

“Millie is just a great leader,” said Pilcher. “She’s worked hard on her game as far as catching and hitting. You have to put in the extra time and she’s done that. She’s got great power and she’s having fun right now.”

While the Owatonna batters were busy rounding the bases, sophomore pitcher Tiana Blazek was busy sending Albert Lea hitters back to the dugout. She struck out eight Tiger batters over five innings while allowing just one late-inning hit.

“She’s looked good,” said

Wanous. “She’s such a great pitcher for a sophomore and she has a great arm. I’m really happy to be able to catch for her.”

Kenzie Karsten hit Owatonna’s other home run in the second and went 3-for-3 with four RBI. Ellie Rohman also smacked three hits including a triple and a double.

Blazek turned in another great performance Friday as she stuck out seven on four hits in an 8-1 win over Rochester Century at Morehouse Park. Riley Sheehy and Kristin Pumper each tallied three hits and two RBIs apiece.

Saturday, the Huskies competed in the Shakopee

Tournament. After losing 2-1 to LeSueur-Henderson in the opener, Owatonna’s bats found their groove in dominant wins over Big Lake (15-5) and Apple Valley (14-4).

Jenna Von Ruden went a perfect 4-for-4 with two doubles in the win over Big Lake and Jenna Zeman homered and drove in four.

Sheehy, Pumper, and Jamie Davison all collected three hits in the consolation championship win over Apple Valley.

The Huskies have a pair of games on tap for this week including a home game Thursday against Rochester Mayo.

Blossoms win big twice in Austin Tourney

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Writer

In two games against Lyle-Pacelli in two days, the Awesome Blossom softball team scored 40 runs and clobbered 33 hits to defeat the Athletics 14-4 and 26-6 Friday and Saturday. In between those shortened 10-run games Austin edged the locals 3-1 in a well-played game on Friday.

BP scored six runs in the second inning against Lyle-Pacelli Saturday and then added 15 in the third for a 21-3 lead and the ball game. Jasmine Anderson

got the win for BP who had just one error for the second straight game.

Bria Baldwin had four hits, scored three times, and drove in two, while Linnea Sunde also had four hits, including two bunt singles. Emma Christianson, Maya Lembke, and Jerrin Jax all had three hits.

After defeating Lyle-Pacelli 14-4 for their second win of the season, sophomore pitcher Tori Gardner scattered four Blossom hits to eke out a 3-1 win. The game was part of the Austin Packer Invitational tournament at Todd Park on Friday and Saturday.

BP broke a scoreless tie in the third inning on a Jerrin Jax single, a wild pitch, and Emma Christian’s base hit up the middle. The lead was a short one, however, as the Packers took the lead with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Taylor Derby singled and eventually scored on a wild pitch and catcher Shayley Vesel drove in the second run with a base hit following a walk.

An insurance run went to Austin in the fourth on two singles and a groundout. BP had the tying runs on second and third with one out in the top of the seventh on Anika Nowlan’s single and an two base error, but

a fly ball out and a ground ball to the second baseman ended the threat and the ball game.

“This was the best game we have played this year,” commented Coach Ali Mach. “The pitching was good, and the defense kept us with a chance to win.”

Gardner earned the win in the circle for the home team and McKenna Hein took the loss, despite a well-pitched game. She walked four and struck out two in the defeat. Bria Baldwin had two hits for the Blossoms, including a double.

Against Lyle-Pacelli, the Blossoms started fast by scor-

ing four runs in the first inning. Linnea sunde started the rally with a bunt single, McKenna Hein doubled, and both Maya Lembke and Anika Nowlan singled. The locals added runs in every inning, but the third and finished the ten-run rule with three runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Baldwin and Lembke both had two hits in the game, with one of Baldwin’s hits a triple. Hein got the win in the circle in this game, after taking the loss in the Austin defeat. The Blossoms finished the weekend with a 3-4 record for the season.

NRHEG moves into tie for firs

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Writer

After pounding Medford 16-6 in an earlier game last week, the NRHEG softball team defeated St. Clair on the home field, 9-4. The Panthers sprayed 16 hits in the Medford victory and followed with 12 hits in the Cyclone game.

A scoreless two innings ended when NRHEG counted five runs in the bottom of the third and then added two runs the fourth and single runs in the fifth and sixth. Anna Lundberg gave up seven hits, but struck out six to earn the victory.

“It was a well-played game by both teams”, summarized Coach Wendy Schultz. “Neither team had an error in the game and the girls had a great day with some fine defensive gems.”

St. Clair scored their runs with three in the fifth and one more in the seventh. Paige Knudson led the Panther offense with three hits, including a double, and Rachel Collins also went 3-for-4. Grace Johns added two hits, including a double, and she and Knudsen both knocked in three runs.

In the Medford game Monday, Apr. 18, the Panthers had to dig themselves out of a big hole when the Tigers scored six times in the first inning. NRHEG bounced back for three runs in the bottom of the first and then shut down the visitors the rest of the way. Defense kept the Panthers close and then the bats came alive in the fifth and sixth innings. Five runs in the fifth gave the winners an 8-6 lead and they exploded for another eight runs in the bottom of the sixth to ice the game.

Both teams made three errors in the contest, but Lundberg earned the win with eight hits allowed. She struck out six and walked just one. Johns, Kayley Camerer, Lundberg, Knudsonf, and Stenzel all had two hits. Johns had a triple and a double and Camerer and Knudson both doubled.

NRHEG baseball

In the third game of the week, NRHEG picked up win number one in the Gopher Conference with a 9-5 victory over Blooming Prairie at New Richland Thursday. Earlier in the week the Panthers had

dropped a conference tilt to Medford on Apr. 18, and defeated Martin County West 7-2 in a non-conference game.

In the Blooming Prairie contest, both teams scored three times in the second and once in the third, but the Panthers continued to score runs, while the Blossoms were blanked until a single run in their last at bat. Cole Staloch drove in what would be the winning run in the fourth, as he concluded a 3-for-4 day at the plate, with a triple and two RBIs. Winning pitcher Dempsey Tucker helped his own cause mightily with three hits in three times at bat, which also included a triple.

As Coach Drew Paukert remarked. “Tucker pitched good this week and couldn’t get a win. This game he didn’t pitch as well, but he lasted the distance and deserved the victory.”

For BP Ethan Arett, Payton Simon, and Ben Smith all had two hits each in the 11 hits collected, but 4 Blossom errors and six walks contributed to the loss. Tucker got the complete game win, while Riley Olson took the loss for the Blossoms.

BP,NRHEGcompete on the track

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Writer

Both NRHEG and BPHS track teams competed at the six-team Stewartville Invitational meet on Monday, Apr. 18. The two teams changed positions in the final standings, with NRHEG third and the Blossoms fourth for the girls, and BPHS second and NRHEG third for the boys. Stewartville won both the girls’ and boys’ divisions.

The two schools combined for 12 first places. BP boys claimed three firsts and the Panther boys added two firsts. The NRHEG girls won four firsts, and the Blossom girls added three. Anthony Nelson ran the 200 in 23.61, Wyatt Grundmeier took the 400 in 54.41, and Elijah Baker finished first in the 800 at 2:10.NRHEG ran first in both the 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 relays. John Cole, Josh Fleming, Nathan Krause and Tyler Schlaak comprised both teams.

Marnie Wagner ran the 200 in 28.20 for one first, and Hailey Schuller took the 100 hurdles in 17.30 for the Panther girls, as did

Maggie Nolan in the triple jump (32’8”) and Sophia Fisher in the shot put (31’7”). Alison Pryor won the 3200 for the Blossoms in 12:58.06, Sam Wurst took the high jump at 5’0”, and Leah Schiefert vaulted 7’6” to win that event.

For the Blossoms, Nelson ran second in the 100 (11.84), Evan Doerhoefer ran just ahead of NRHEG’s Fleming for second in the 1600 (5:18. 92), and Alec Ille took the runner-up in the 3200 at 10:00.75. The 4 X 800 relay team of Alec Ille, Doerhoefer, Isaac Ille, and Baker placed second at 9:23.14. Emily Eder took second in the shot put for the Panthers. Jacob Schuller and Fleming ran third in the 1600 and 400, as did Brad Agrimson in the 110 hurdles, and Maddie Wagner in the long jump. Two Blossom relays for the boys also finished third- the 4 x 100 team of Matthew Pryor, Quentin Kubista, Brian Jimenez, and Nelson ran the 100 in 48.89, and the 4 x 200 team of Grundmeier, Kubista, Marten Morem and Jimenez timed a 1:41.54.

Sports

Young Huskies showing promise



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Owatonna’s Logan Ringhofer tries to get position on a Northfield defender in Thursday’s game. Northfield edge Owatonna 12-10.

By **JOE TISCHLER**
Sports Editor

Despite losing 12-10 to Northfield Thursday night, a young Owatonna boys’ lacrosse team proved they are a team that won’t back down.

Down 10-5 late in the third quarter, Owatonna scored four unanswered goals to pull within one before Northfield scored twice with a man-advantage to pull away to a Big Nine Conference road win.

“With this being a young team, they showed a lot of heart in making that comeback,” said Owatonna head coach Scott Seykora. “All it takes is one spark. We get that one goal and we rattle off a new more after that and next thing you know, it’s 10-9.”

Owatonna’s first goal in the

comeback attempt came as a gift when Landon Thurnau was credited with a goal after a Northfield defender knocked the ball in his own net. Josh Nelson added a goal a minute later to pull the Huskies within 10-7 with one quarter remaining.

Tyler Wencel’s back-to-back goals less than a minute apart cut Owatonna’s deficit to one at 10-9 with 8:38 left in the contest.

Shortly afterwards, a two-minute un-releasable penalty was assessed to Owatonna that Northfield capitalized from by scoring twice to go increase their lead to 12-9 with 2:37 left.

“That penalty was a killer,” said Seykora. “We pulled within one goal and they rattle off two goals right there and now we’re down 3 with three minutes to go and that’s tough to do.”

Keeping Owatonna in the

game was sophomore goalie Ryan Johnson who stopped 22 Northfield shots.

“He is one the best athletes I’ve seen as far as quickness and movement,” said Seykora. “He’s got a lot of poise in the background for being a 10th-grader. He can see the ball really well and he’s quick to anticipate where it’s going to go. He keeps us in these types of games.”

Nate Smith led Owatonna with three goals. Thurnau, Nelson, and Wencel each added two goals apiece.

Two days later, the Huskies traveled up to Duluth and grabbed a 7-3 win. Owatonna scored all of their tallies in the second half with Walker and Josh Nelson scoring twice each.

The win moves Owatonna to 2-2; last year the Huskies won once all season.

VIKINGS DRAFT

Continued from Page 6B

with his best year coming in 2006 when he caught 37 passes for 455 yards and caught only three touchdown passes in his Minnesota career.

When a team drafts a quarterback with a high pick in the first round, and it doesn’t pan out, it can set a franchise back for years. That was the case in 2011 when Minnesota selected Christian Ponder out of Florida State with the 12th overall selection.

The Vikings needed a quarterback after Brett Favre retired (for what seemed like the 25th time) following the 2010

season. Ponder was projected to be a late-first round selection, but needed a quarterback and picked the Florida State product far higher than he should have gone. He had one okay season in 2012 where he started all 16 games and threw for 2,935 yards and 18 touchdowns. By 2014, he was demoted to third-string then released following the season. He signed with Oakland prior to the 2015 season, but was released prior to the start of the season and was picked up briefly by Denver around Thanksgiving before being cut a couple weeks later.

Teams can make a big splash if they can get a player in a position of need who happens

to be the best player available. Most experts think Minnesota is in need of a wide receiver. Some quality receivers should be available for them when they pick 23rd in the first round Thursday night that fall in that 20-30 best players available range. Pass catchers that could be available with that pick include Mississippi’s Laquon Treadwell and TCU’s Josh Doctson.

By winning the NFC North a season ago, the Vikings proved they are a team to contend with for next season and beyond. Making right draft picks can go a long way to being a consistent contender.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Continued from Page 6B

win over the Athletics featured a record-tying feat by a Blossom player. Making all three outs in one inning may not have set a record, but it surely tied one.

Now, if the baseball team can break through and get a first win, spring sports will be humming along quite nicely. It doesn’t seem possible, but all the teams are at least halfway, if not more than halfway, through the spring schedule, and we will soon be thinking of playoffs. Hopefully, there still are some outstanding performances to come before that happens. Continued good luck to all the spring sports squads. It has been an exciting season so far.

PRINCE IS DEAD

I can’t remember when a celebrity death has had such a profound impact on so many people as was the case when it was announced that Prince had passed away. I don’t think that even here in Minnesota that we realized the tremendous effect he had here, across the country, and even across the sea.

Even the death of Michael Jackson never created this much of a news source. It would be presumptuous of me to think that I could say anything new or fresh about his life and death, as every radio, TV, and print reporter have spewed out anecdotes and stories about him. There is really nothing to say that has not already been said, and I think this is the first time in my memory that every sports channel, every broadcast channel, every radio station and even CNN have eulogized him and his contributions to music for hours.

BP golfers still shooting well

By **LEMAR NELSON**
Staff Writer

For the second time in a week, the Blossom boys’ golf team finished first in a Gopher Conference five-team event. BP took the title at the Oakview Course in Freeborn Monday, Apr. 18, with a 9-hole score of 166. USC came in second eight strokes back at 174, and Maple River trailed USC by just one stroke at 175, Faribault

Academy and NRHEG followed with a 194 and a 198, respectively.

USC’s Ryan Pederson took medalist honors this meet with a 38, and Jon Hatch (BP) and Brandon Sohre (Maple River) tied for runner-up with a 40. Tommy Braaten fired a 41 for fourth place.

“Once again,” commented Coach Cory Hendrickson, “we had a very balanced performance. This is the second

straight regular season conference meet we have won, and that is encouraging, to say the least.”

Ethan Strunk, Lucas Noble, and Brody Carlson shot 42, 43, and 44, respectively, and Jake Ressler came in with 47. Chris Stenzel and Atom Oquist shot 44 and 45 for NRHEG, a best round for them, and Nick Schultz and Ross Lenort followed with 53 and 56.

Medford going through busy stretch

By **JOE TISCHLER**
Sports Editor

It has been a busy stretch for the Medford baseball team. After three games in each of the first two weeks of the season, the Tigers played four in a five-day stretch last week.

The middle two games of the week were rough on the Tigers as they were victims of back-to-back shutouts, 4-0 at Maple River and 10-0 to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown.

The latter was especially tough as W-E-M’s Dalton Grose no-hit Medford in the 5-inning cwnotest while striking out 12.

“He’s one of the top pitchers in the conference,” said head coach Jon Chappuis. “He’s playing ball next season (at NCAA Division II, Minnesota-Crookston) for a reason, because he’s a good pitcher.”

Senior Nicholas Meixner did all he could to match Grose on the mound as he kept Medford

within two runs through four innings while pitching on short rest. He allowed single runs in the first and third innings and held the Buccaneers hitless in both the second and fourth frames.

“He came in tired,” said Chappuis. “We used him on Monday and we were hoping he could give us a good start and he got us into the fifth. He battled through a lot of adversity and gave us a good start.”

It was still a tight game until it all unraveled for Medford in the fifth when W-E-M scored eight times to put the game out of reach.

The two shutout losses were bookended by a pair of victories, Monday, April 18 at NRHEG 5-2 and Friday 11-5 at home against Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial.

Meixner struck out ten in the win over the Panthers allowing just one earned run on five hits.

Medford scored single runs in

each of the first three innings to give Meixner the run support he would need.

In Friday’s win against the Knights, the Tigers raced out to a 7-0 lead after four innings behind the pitching of Nathan Meixner. He struck out five while allowing two unearned runs.

Ian Gillis was the star at the plate for Medford going 3-for-4 with an RBI and three runs scored.

LCWM scored five unanswered runs in the fifth and sixth innings to trim Medford’s lead, but the Tigers scored four in the sixth to extend the cushion.

Medford only has one game on tap for this week, a Thursday home date with United South Central.

SOFTBALL RECAP

It was a tough week for the Medford softball team as they dropped all three of their contests.



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Medford’s Javis VonRuden takes out W-E-M’s Taylor Glende in Thursday’s game in Medford. The Tigers went 2-2 in a busy week.

The Tigers jumped out to an early lead Thursday against Waterville-Elysian-Morristown by scoring three in the top of the first.

That lead held until the fourth when the Buccaneers scored seven times and then three more in the fifth to come away with an 11-7 win.

To wrap the week, Medford fell 11-1 at home to St. Clair.

Ladies Bowling League

Week 14	Won	Lost
Kosters’ Car Korner	33	23
F&M Bank	32	24
J&H Liquor/Dairy Queen	28	28
Pizza Cellar/Cue Comp.	27	29
Epic Contracting	26	30
DOE	20	32
HIGH TEAM (scratch)		
F & M Bank		570
HIGH TEAM (handicap)		
Epic Contracting		599
HIGH TEAM SERIES (scratch)		
F & M Bank		1534
HIGH TEAM SERIES (handicap)		
Epic Contracting		1678
HIGH GAME INDIVIDUAL		
1. Mary Kittelson		166
2. Carol Heimerman		164
HIGH SERIES INDIVIDUAL		
1. Mary Kittelson		440
2. Joann Nielsen		418



**Minnesota
Twins
Schedule**

18 - H	19 - H	20 - A	21 - A	22 - A	23 - A	24 - A
MIL	MIL	MIL	MIL	WAS	WAS	WAS
Win 7-4	Loss 5-6	Loss 5-10	Win 8-1	Loss 4-8	Loss 0-2	Loss 5-6
25 - H	26 - H	27 - H		29 - H	30 - H	1 - H
CLE	CLE	CLE		DET	DET	DET
7:10pm	7:10pm	7:10pm		7:10pm	1:10pm	1:10pm

Legal Notices

Foreclosure

14-095442

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 26, 2007 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$134,400.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Larry D Larson and Kim M Dougherty Larson, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#: 100037506567766788 LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: GMAC Mortgage, LLC dba ditech. com SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed July 19, 2007, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000061882, thereafter reformed by Court Order recorded on March 15, 2016 as document number T000073525 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 12, except the East 90 feet; Lot 13, except the East 90 feet; and the East 62.1 feet of Lot 14, in Block 1, all lying and being in Elm Heights Addition to the City of Owatonna REGISTERED PROPERTY PROPERTY ADDRESS: 239 16th NE, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-164-0114 COT# 16503 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON

THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$179,215.02. 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: June 7, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on December 7, 2016, or the next business day if December 7, 2016 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: April 5, 2016

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

4/12,4/19,4/26
5/3,5/10,517

Foreclosure

13-092746

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 26, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$198,200.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Thomas D. Breuer, and JoAnn D. Breuer, as husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Bank of America, N.A. LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Bank of America, N.A. SERVICER: Seterus, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed September 1, 2010, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000066242 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Federal National Mortgage Association

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 1, Brooktree No. 4 REGISTERED PROPERTY PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1738 Greenhaven Ln NE, Owatonna, MN 55060 PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-350-0103 COT# 18305 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$202,893.87 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 31, 2016, 10:00am PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060 to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2016, or the next business day if November 30, 2016 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: April 8, 2016

Federal National Mortgage
Association (FNMA)
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

4/12,4/19,4/26
5/3,5/10,517

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-764

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

Estate of
Clair A. Peterson
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 31, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, June 6, 1986, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Barry L. Peterson, whose address is 801 Greenhaven Lane, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated
2016.04.14

BY THE COURT

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney of Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: 507-451-3580
FAX: 507-451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

4/26, 5/3

City of Blooming Prairie 2015 Drinking Water Report

The City of Blooming Prairie is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

Source of Water

The City of Blooming Prairie provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 220 to 223 feet deep, that draw water from the Maquoketa-Galena aquifer.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call 507-583-6683 if you have questions about the City of Blooming Prairie drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

Results of Monitoring

The results contained in the following table indicate an exceedance of a federal standard. Some other contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

Key to abbreviations:

MCLG—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

90th Percentile Level—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

pCi/l—PicoCuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

ppm—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

ppb—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2015)	Average /Result*	
Alpha Emitters (pCi/l) (03/12/2013)	0	15.4	N/A	3.9	Erosion of natural deposits.
Benzene (ppb)	0	5	N/A	.5	Discharge from factories; Leaching from gas storage tanks and landfills.
Combined Radium (pCi/l) (03/12/2013)	0	5.4	N/A	1.8	Erosion of natural deposits.
Fecal Coliform and E. coli	0 present	>0 present	N/A	4★	Human and animal fecal waste.
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.81-1.1	1.07	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	N/A	.14	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 present	>1 present	N/A	8★	Naturally present in the environment.

*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

★ We had a violation of the Total Coliform Rule from August 24, 2015 to October 22, 2015 with an indication of the presence of fecal/*E. coli* coliform. Fecal coliforms are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems. In response to this problem, we issued a notice to all residents and disinfected the system.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (06/16/2014)	1.3	1.3	.09	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (06/16/2014)	0	15	1.2	0 out of 10	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Blooming Prairie is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.

Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 21, 2016

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Media Center at 7:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 7:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – The new managing editor for the Steele County Times, was in attendance. The Robotics Team gave a demonstration. The team came in twenty-seventh out of sixty-three teams at competition.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK Pam Hameister, Michelle Vigeland, Jenny Thurnau, Steve Ille, Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools; Members of the BPTA; Associate Principal, Member of the Press; Student Representatives

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jon Sunde, Rodney Krell

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Reports given by Mr. Staloch and Ms. Mach.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Resignation, Employment, Donations Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, resignation, employment, and donations. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)
B. Technology Lease Information is being sought regarding a future technology lease. This item was tabled until the April meeting.
C. Class Size/Sections Motion by Michelle Vigeland and seconded by Steve Ille to approve having three sections for second grade; therefore, opening up an additional position to be advertised for as fifth grade will require three sections for the 2016-17 year. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)
D. Prom DJ Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to approve hiring Kyle Johnson (DJ PEPS) as the DJ for Prom which will be held on April 30th. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Wrestling Pairing Discussion after the 2015-16 season to combine practices and matches with Hayfield Schools. Selection of names, colors, etc. will be addressed on the April agenda. Co-head coaching also to be addressed. Participation in the "Gopher Conference" to be continued.
B. Committee Reports A report update was given by the following committees: Education Foundation, Staff Development, Wellness, and ZED.
C. Enrollment Data Enrollment for the 2015-16 school year as of March 15, 2016, was 409 at the elementary school and 301 at the high school (295 attending BPHS and 6 attending PSEO). The PSEO number consisted of 2 seniors and 4 juniors which will all attend full-time. D. Dates to Note. The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. Entering the final quarter of the school year.
2. Thank you from family of Dan Hagen.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Michelle Vigeland to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried. (5 Aye/0 Nay)
Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Monday, April 18, 2016, at 7:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 7:00 p.m.).
A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

BP School

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
March 17, 2016

A regular school board work session

was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2016, in the Board Room at the High School.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pam Hameister, Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michelle Vigeland, Kelly Braaten

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS: General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the March 21, 2016, regular school board meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Hameister
Clerk of the School Board
Independent School District #756
Blooming Prairie, Minnesota

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-764

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

Estate of
Clair A. Peterson
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on May 31, 2016, at 10:45 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, June 6, 1986, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Barry L. Peterson, whose address is 801 Greenhaven Lane, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Dated
2016.04.14

BY THE COURT

Joseph A. Bueltel
Judge of District Court

Sonia Kocher
Court Administrator

Attorney of Petitioner
David L. Einhaus
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver
& Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue, P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN 55060
Attorney License No: 26190
Telephone: 507-451-3580
FAX: 507-451-3532
Email: einhaus@owatonnalawyers.com

4/26, 5/3

Foreclosure

14-097891

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 25, 2010
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$158,494.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Adam M. Ramseth and Christina M. Ramseth, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100749500730077917
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.
SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed February 11, 2010, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000065519 ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A.; Dated: December 28, 2011 filed: February 21, 2012, recorded as document number T000068278; Thereafter assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association dated June 13, 2013; recorded on November 19, 2013 as document number T000070968.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 11, Block 2, Mathews Addition, Owatonna

REGISTERED PROPERTY
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1805 6th Avenue NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-242-0211 COT# 17436
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$175,140.26
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: June 17, 2016, 10:00 am 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 December 17, 2016, or the next business day if December 17, 2016 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: April 22, 2016

JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association
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

4/26, 5/3, 5/10
5/17, 5/24, 5/31

THREE

BELOVED, I AM THE AUTHOR, and the FINISHER of your FAITH...
and I DO ALL THINGS WELL!
STEP AWAY from the CONTAINMENT, and ENTRAPMENTS, based on your own level of "performance"....
and DIVE INTO the DEPTHS OF MY PRESENCE.
Into the SECRET PLACE, where there is ALWAYS ROOM for you.
Have I not said in My Word, that I have PREPARED PLACE FOR YOU...
a PLACE UNCORRUPTED, and UNTOUCHED by this present darkness?
..high ABOVE the NOISE and CLAMOR, demanding your attention in this life.
Shut the door, on EVERY DISTRACTION...
and TAKE YOUR SEAT in THIS HEAVENLY PLACE...
NEXT TO ME.

I am the ONE who FASHIONED YOU; and INTRICATELY DESIGNED you according to MY PLANS...
I INFUSED YOU WITH PURPOSE and DIVINE DESTINY.
I have ANOINTED YOU, and APPOINTED YOU...
I WILL SURELY HAVE THE LAST WORD, in your life.
2 Corinth9:8 2 Corinth.12:9 Eph.3:19-21

- Robin DeLap

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PAIRING
Continued from 3B

previously approved the agreement.

The pairing allows the wrestling program to field a competitive team along with junior varsity opportunities for younger and more inexperienced wrestlers. Both schools were having to forfeit six to seven matches because there were not ample competitors at each weight class.

The team name will be West-field, the mascot will be the Razorbacks and colors will be black, blue and silver.

Practices will rotate weekly between Blooming Prairie and Hayfield. Blooming Prairie will have the first week in November for odd-numbered years and Hayfield will have the first week in November for even-numbered years.

Activities directors for both schools will reportedly make every effort to schedule two regular season home meets at each school. Hayfield will host its invitational tournament on the third Saturday in January. If one school only hosts one match, the next time that happens, it will switch who hosts one and who hosts two matches.

Section home matches will be rotated with Blooming Prairie hosting the first one and Hayfield hosting the second time.

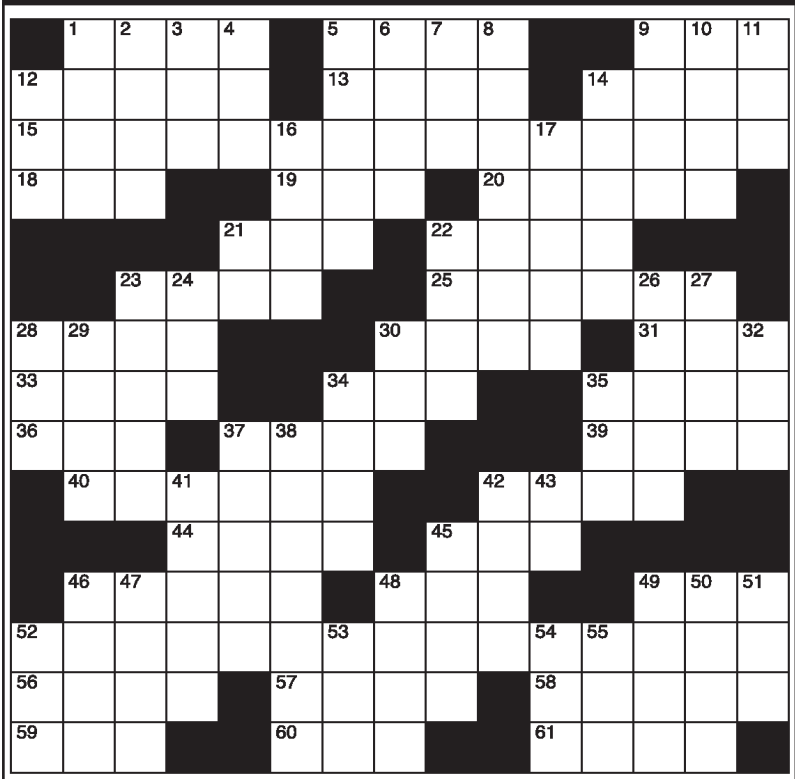
WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Answers on Page A10

CLUES ACROSS

- Hair on the head
- Cirques
- Thai (var.)
- S. China seaport
- Swiss river
- Unstressed-stressed
- Beginner Dr. Suess book
- Begetter
- Singer ___ Lo Green
- Shaded promenades
- Not wet
- Grow weary
- Philippine Island or it's seaport
- Teeter-totter
- Not alive
- Golf scores
- Tap gently
- Ancient ointment
- Constitution Hall org.

- Icelandic poems
- Citrus drink suffix
- Detailed design criteria
- Dignified manner
- New York island
- Clods
- Camera optic
- Add sound into a film
- Ringworm
- Tablet
- Defense Department
- 3rd "Star Wars" film
- Raincoats
- Restaurant
- Head fronts
- Burn residue
- Immature newt
- After ones



CLUES DOWN

- "Dragon Tattoo" actress
- Received an A grade
- No (Scottish)
- Very long period of time
- Crafty & shrewd
- Hourly payment for services
- Married woman
- More disreputable
- F. Lamas' 3rd wife Arlene
- 11-23-14 awards show
- Big Blue
- Million gallons per day (abbr.)

- Runs out of gear
- Beige
- Nostrils
- Unit of loudness
- Czar
- Insert mark
- Doctor of Education
- ___ Adaba
- Walk with your feet in water
- Genetic information carrier
- Great St. Louis bridge builder
- Political action committee

- Cast out
- Cub Scout groups
- Voltage
- Guide
- Self-mortification
- Alder genus
- Awadh
- Blood type
- Meeting arranged
- Green, black and oolong
- It causes scratching
- Slang saying of disbelief

- Art _____, 1920's design
- Lyrics
- Show disrespect to
- Returned material authorization, abbr.
- Clod or lummoX
- Computerized money movement
- Mandible & maxilla

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Concrete/cement workers needed: 1 concrete laborer, \$16-17/hour, and 1 experienced cement finisher, \$20+/hour, KM area, start immediately. Call or text Steve at (507) 272-6292 17-19c

Full time night position available working with Elderly Clients At Wellington Adult care in Dodge Center. The hours are 11PM to 6:30 AM Sunday through Wednesday. Applicant must be 18 yrs. old and have a valid drivers license, and submit to a background check. For more info and an interview contact Jane or Bill @ 507-374-2198 or 507-319-4821 17ffc

Taher is now hiring for a cashier/food prep position at the Kasson-Mantorville High School. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Applications are on-line at komets.k12.mn.us. Go to services, food service, then employment application, or at the K-M Middle School Food Service office. Please call 507-634-4462 with questions. 18-20c

Now accepting applications for the spring season for cashiers and customer service. Please inquire at Houston's Greenhouse, 507-634-7113. 18-20c

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Spring Rent Sale- Great Western Apartments, Hayfield, will reduce your rent by \$100 per month with a one-year lease. Newly renovated with large rooms, hardwood floors, and utilities included. We have the 1, 2, or 3 bedroom apartment you want. Call (507) 796-0152 or (701) 330-9706 for sale details 12ffc

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WANTED

Looking for pasture 2016, please call Paul at 456-5329. 15-18sct

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GARAGE SALE

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1307 4 1/2 Street, NW Kasson, Saturday 8-6 Name brand teen to adult clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, prom dresses, coats, snow pants, snowmobile jackets, computer desk, wine chiller, printer, fans, tool boxes, deck bar fridge storage, electric weed eater, wooden ladder, cell phone cases, helmets, lots of household items, and much more. 19p

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210 4th Ave NE, Kasson, Thursday and Friday 8-5, Clothes adult, girls N-10, boys N-8, boys bike, stroller, toys, books, home decor and much more. 19p

800 Westfield CT, Kasson, Thursday 8-6, Friday 8-5, Come and See! Huge garage sale- Dishes, collectibles, Harley Davidson toys, 3 Big Bang cannon, cast iron items, WWI bayonet, other WWII items and books, old post cards, Western books, 14 tables, no clothes. 19p

121 County Road 12, Mantorville, Friday 12-4 Saturday 9-4, Baby clothes NB-3T boy, NB-2T girl, most clothing is \$1 or less, desk, bench, whirlpool tub, mirrors. 19p

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60826 225th Ave. Mantorville, 1 mile west of the water tower off of Stagecoach Rd., Wednesday 12-7, Thursday and Friday 8-6, Boy clothes (18 months-2T) and girl clothes (size 4-6, ad a few smaller), all name brand Nike, Puma, Under Armour, Carters, Gymboree, Crazy 8, Old Navy, Disney Store, Gap and more, many things with tags still on them. Lots of kids shoes, accessories, and TOYS! Lots of women's clothing and shoes priced CHEAP! Household items and décor too. 19p

1/4 mile north of Sunshine Foods, #705, 4th place on the left, Dodge Center, Friday 4-7, Saturday 8-12, Garage and Yard sale- Kids and adult clothes, lawnmower and much more. 19p

503 12th St NW Kasson Multi-Family Sale - One Day Only! Saturday April 30th 8-2. No early shoppers please. Clothes: womens express/Gap/Miss Me jeans, tops; Girls-Justice/Childrens Place (md/lg); Boys Gap/ Nike 4t-7 yo; Mens- misc. Shoes/Rain Boots/Snow Boots for all. Toys: Dora dollhouse, LPS houses, Disney, Thomas the Train, Action Figures, Hot Wheels, etc. Misc Kitchen: dishes, coffee pot, George Forman, Deep Fryer. Home Decar: Kirklands, Hobby Lobby, Lamp, Accent Chairs, Desks. Purses, bags, Thirty One, Arbonne. Boat Seats, Christmas Tree. You DON'T want to miss this!!!! 19c

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GIFT GUIDE

Tips for dining out on Mother's Day

Mother's Day is right around the corner, and this special holiday serves to honor all those women who devote so much time and effort to their families. While gifts and other trinkets are certainly

part of the celebration, a vast majority of children opt to treat Mom to a night out on the town come Mother's Day. Not only does this give mom a night off from cooking, but also it presents an opportunity

to get dressed up and spend time together as a family. A vast number of families travel to their favorite restaurants for Mother's Day meals. Mother's Day is one of the busiest holidays of the year for restaurants. The National Retail Federation says 54.8 percent

of Americans treat their mothers to a special meal out on Mother's Day. Billions of dollars are generated by people eating out with their mothers. With large crowds to be expected, diners can follow a few tips when treating Mom to a meal.

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