

Steele County Times



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Walsh Garbage Service, Inc. sold to Skjeveland Enterprises



Submitted photo

Last Friday, Chris Skjeveland, left, and Bill Walsh, right, signed the documents to make the sale official. Walsh will work for Skjeveland during the transition period.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"It's your turn to take out the garbage."

That is a refrain heard in many households across the country and nobody knows those words better than Bill Walsh, owner of Walsh Garbage Service, Inc. of Blooming Prairie since 1985.

An era started in 1965 by Bill's father Ed Walsh, is coming to a transitional change. Walsh Garbage has become part of Skjeveland (pronounced chev-land) Enterprises of rural Claremont. Legal papers of an ownership change were signed last Friday by Walsh and new owner Chris Skjeveland.

Skjeveland started in the business in 2007 as a one-man entity. His company has since grown to nine trucks and eight employees.

Walsh's business has been a one-man business but that is a misnomer, too, as Bill's wife Jennifer has been a key component of the business.

'I am wearing out and so is the truck," Walsh chuckles. Walsh is 59 1/2 and his International garbage truck will soon be 30 years old.

Bill will continue in the garbage business during a transitional time. How long that will be, nobody knows at this time. Skjeveland has told Walsh he can continue as long as he wishes.

Let's rewind history on Walsh Garbage Service founded by an enterprising man named Ed Walsh over 50 years ago. Bill was nine at the time and, thus has been familiar with the business since that time. He officially took the reins from his father in 1985, 31 years ago and has been around the business for over 50 years.

The late Ed Walsh was born in Harmony, Minnesota and moved to Blooming Prairie when he was 14. After After returning from the military in 1946, Ed worked different jobs and picked up a job with Lysne Construction. He stayed there until 1970 when he realized that his part-time interest in hauling garbage was becoming more full time.

Ed and wife Yvonne raised a family of 10 children. The Walsh family lived on 2nd St. SW in a house Ed bought in Austin and moved to Blooming Prairie.

Blooming Prairie had no official garbage business in 1965.

WASTE REMOVAL
Story on Page 3A

The opening was grand at Casey's

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Although the new Casey's has been open for a few weeks, the official grand opening celebrations began last Friday and Saturday in Medford with balloons, panache and giant candy bar giveaways.

District Casey's supervisor and overseer of nine stores, Mike Harvey said, "This is one of the bigger stores that we have and are confident that it will do well here in Medford."

Those sentiments were echoed by local store manager and Casey's seven-year veteran LeAnn Brown-Dahlenburg who commented that although they haven't set any sales records yet, things are looking good for the new Medford business. The Casey's in Medford is one of the larger stores (over 4,000 square feet) in Minnesota and boasts fresh made to order pizzas and sub sandwiches.

Beginning May 22, you can walk into this Casey's at any time day or night, but if you are one of the fortunate ones up very early in the morning, you will be able to come in and smell the finely brewed coffee and the home made doughnuts. It may cause you to say, "time to eat the doughnuts."

The project itself was years in the making, and although Casey's corporate was wanting to get the project completed by 2014, it was Mayor Lois Nelson that spared them some construction headaches and possible initial sales slumps as she pointed out that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDot) was going to be doing construction on the roundabouts west of I-35. In addition, Steele County had a bridge reconstruction project also would not be completed until the end of 2014.

"They were chompin' at the

CASEY'S
Story on Page 2A

And the winners are... Allyson and Greg Skillestad

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

". . .And the winners from Blooming Prairie are Allyson and Greg Skillestad."

That's the announcement made Saturday night, April 30 at the Sixth Annual Dancing with Our Steele County Stars event held in the Medford High School Auditorium and witnessed by more than 550 in attendance.

The Steele County Dancing show is patterned after the popular national television series that has aired for 11 years. Edna Ringhofer is the chief organizer of the local event, representing the sponsor, Healthy Seniors of Steele County. Brian and Lynette Dawley were choreographers for the show.

Ringhofer reported fundraising totaled $24,462. That includes sale of tickets and money donated by those participating in public voting by placing money in a vase which also collected audience vote totals.

Four different awards were presented at the conclusion of the dance event. The Skillestads claimed three of the trophies including: 1) Fundraising Award; 2) Audience Choice Award and 3) Final Placements Award.

The overall winners were determined

DANCING
Story on Page 3A



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Sixth on the dance order, Allyson and Greg Skillestad of Blooming Prairie begin their dance routine, a Modern Hustle to "I'm Alive" by Celine Dion.

Habermann is official WCCO-TV weather watcher

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"I guess I'll give it a shot," said longtime Blooming Prairie resident Connie Habermann when seeing a plea from WCCO-TV for Minnesota residents to join the Weather Watcher Network as an official weather watcher for Blooming Prairie.

Connie has been a conduit for weather to WCCO-TV for the past 3 1/2 years and is an official weather watcher for the WCCO-TV Weather Watcher Network.

Only requirements to become a weather watcher were to have a trusty thermometer and a reliable rain gauge. She has both.

Connie does not have an anemometer which is a device used for measuring wind speed. "We have lots of wind in this southern Minnesota community," she reports.

Connie is one of 1700 WCCO-TV weather watchers around the state. She and many of her colleagues recently attended a weather watcher training session at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis.

"We were treated to a breakfast and had the opportunity to tour the weather studio and also had the chance to go on the rooftop and see how the weather is recorded and reported from this vantage point."

Connie worked at Jostens in Owatonna for 23 years and chose retirement four years ago. "I love the outdoors, like to bird watch and also am an avid gardener so that perked my interest in weather watching," she explained.

Connie's nephew, WCCO-TV chief meteorologist Chris Shaffer of WCCO-TV also stimulated her interest.

The Weather Watcher Network is a way for weather enthusiasts to connect with WCCO's meteorologists and its communities by sharing weather observations. This exclusive information gives WCCO's meteorologists a picture of how the weather is changing around the region. This information is shared with viewers on every weather cast.

WCCO weather watchers are your neighbors -- the ones who are talking about last night's storms, tomorrow's chance for snow and the cool cloud formations they saw last week.

Weather reports from members of the Weather Watcher Network are submitted from their homes, their schools and from their cabins. Information comes from their personal weather stations.

Connie and her fellow watchers report how much snow fell, or how temperatures are changing. They also share photos or video of interesting weather-related sights. They can send a direct alert to WCCO meteorologists when they see severe or unusual weather in their community.

Three years ago when 19 inches of snow was recorded on May 2 in Blooming Prairie, Connie's report was used by WCCO-TV and broadcast nationwide.



Submitted Photo

Connie Habermann of Blooming Prairie is pictured with WCCO-TV meteorologists Chris Shaffer and Mike Augustinak during a recent visit she made to the weather studios in Minneapolis. Connie is one of 1700 official weather watchers om around the state who are members of the WCCO-TV Weather Watcher Network.

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Opinion

Our view

PURPLE, PURPLE, PURPLE, PURPLE

Talk about larger than life. This week we witnessed the passing of one of Minnesota's native sons. Prince Rogers Nelson who also went by several nicknames and aliases in his lifetime was 57 years old. Wikipedia describes him as "renowned as an HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innovator" \o "Innovator" innovator and was widely known for his eclectic work, flamboyant stage presence and HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vocal_range" \o "Vocal range" vocal range."

He had several hit songs and put Minneapolis' nightclub, First Avenue front and center while filming his movie "Purple Rain" in 1984.

If you have listened to any radio station in Minnesota in the last week, you would no doubt have heard more songs by Prince than you most likely heard in your entire lifetime. There is a place for honoring the departed, but it seems that this… was a bit much.

From the tearful stories to the personal anecdotes to the favorite songs, you'd think that Prince was a household name and we had lost the President of the United States. Funny how people who hadn't mentioned him in years were now talking about him as if they were best friends.

It's kind of sad, really. From the purple lit bridges in Minneapolis to the dyed purple water and on and on and on. Nobody thought to do these things while he was still alive, and in Prince's case, he had pretty much slipped into oblivion since his 2007 Super Bowl halftime appearance. A few parties at Paisley Park, a few albums released, a few causes championed in the last few years. Nothing that anyone would make a big deal about. Nothing that anyone DID make a big about.

Until his death… and a chance to get a sound bite on the radio. Some of the same people that hardly commented on the halftime show were now 'out of the woodwork' touting it as the "best halftime show ever." Save it. You didn't give him so much as a mention in life, quit trying to become the 'popular best friend' in his death.

He was "formerly known as the artist, Prince," (one of his aliases), he had a few good songs, he was a short man with a big heart. He wasn't the "King of all pop music" or anything close. Let's quit stumbling over ourselves to make him anything other than what he was in life. Let's quit flooding the media with the kudos that we didn't think to give him while he was with us.

We learn it a million times in our own lifetime, but here again the lesson needs to ring out. At a person's passing, there should be a wakeup call. Send them flowers while they are still alive. Put teddy bears and candles at their doorstep while they can still enjoy them. Hey… and here's an idea, post fan letters to an address while they can still read them.

Don't suddenly become the greatest fan of the dead when you didn't make a connection while they were still alive. It's not "Fresh Air" or a new perspective, it's more like a stagnating white noise. On weeks like this, while the whole world seems to stop to binge on the maudlin, and the need to "go forward" with today's media reports is put on hold, and the reports are not in any other living color other than purple, it's good to have a CD player that works and/or Netflix.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minnesota where thousands of people stood in the rain on Sunday morning visiting Prince's complex and the makeshift memorial. For live coverage of the Prince memorial go to: https://www.facebook.com/BusslerPublication/?fref=ts

Continuation on the continuation of a life lived...
after a life changing moment

LITTLE THOUGHTS ON THE PRAIRIE



MARK DELAP

I left you last week with what is generally called, a "cliff hanger." I have been sharing the story of a life changing moment and the path that I took, walking through and onward from that moment.

So. I was in Froedhert Hospital in Milwaukee. I was five miles from the hospital I was born in and was wondering what the chances were that I would both be born and would die within that same proximity. I was paralyzed from the neck down and the only feeling I had was the excruciating nerve pain in my head. I didn't realize how many 'live' nerve endings I had there until they all started screaming and stinging me at one time. If a fan would blow just one strand of hair, it was as if there were thousands of hot needles penetrating my scalp.

Excuse me if you are eating while I am being descriptive. I'll try to tone it down. The doctor kept reminding me of how lucky I was. From my perspective, I didn't feel as fortunate as he was describing. The plan was quick and did not provide much time for reflection.

The surgeon was a good man but had only done nine of these procedures in his lifetime. The plan was to take bone from my hip and graft it into the neck. Along with the graft, there would be titanium wire added for stability. I would be in a circle bed for six weeks followed by a Minerva cast for 8 weeks. It was Monday, June 9, 1975 and I was going under the knife for a 22 hour operation. I was 19 years old and it seemed as if my life was over. The hammer came down on the rock of my future and crushed to powder every dream, every expectation, every plan.

This was certainly not how I expected to begin my summer vacation, although I'd have lots to write about in September when the professor asked for an essay concerning my summer adventures.

I have always been someone who, when you tell me what I can't do, I will go out of my way to show you what I 'can' do. To make a long story very short, it was the longest summer of my life and yes, it altered everything from that point going forward.

I did all the clichés. I puckered when I drank the life-lemonade I made. I quit wasting my time trying to open locked doors and started climbing in and out of windows. I took lots of pictures when I felt speechless. I got all dressed up and actually went somewhere. And finally, I was very careful in making wishes.

I was fortunate enough to have feeling come back into my body. I was given another chance, but with another set of parameters. I was told that my life would contain little or no athletic activity, and yet I played basketball in college three years after my injury and was invited to play and coach in Australia in their national pro leagues. I coached basketball. I played basketball. I ran a 25K – four times. I golf - poorly, but I swing that club proudly and often in the span of 18 holes.

I didn't lie in that bed and tell myself it was over. Instead, I lay in that bed and told myself that it was just beginning. I determined that the moment of crisis wasn't going to define me. I wasn't going to stay focused in that setback. I was going to find out just how beautiful the detour was and was excited as to where it would take me.

The point being, John Lennon's quote happens to us all: "Life is what happens when you are busy making (other) plans." If you can't proceed from ground zero, adapting to alternate routes, you will remain suspended in your paralysis. Let today define you – not what happened to you yesterday. Jack Hayford once told me, "You can't possess your tomorrows until you are willing to unshackle yourself from the shadows of yesterday."

Looking back as I have done in these last two columns is only for perspective. My focus remains not on what happened and how I suffer as a result, but what remains and how I live in spite. And when it's all said and done, I want them to remember me as a man who truly knew how to live.

I have done a billion things since the incident. Things I would have never and could have never done without its happening. I took a detour in 1975 and have learned to love the ride with wonder and awe. Adversity gave me a beauty and an appreciation for life that I could have never have otherwise gained. It made me who I am, and it changed me. If adversity has the power to keep you chained to it, there will be no joy in your journey and learning to live in your past will be hardest walk you'll ever experience. It will blind you so that you can't see the beauty of today and feel that anticipation of tomorrow. I'm just sayin'. Get up. Go forth. There's much to do.



Submitted Photo

This is the photo from the original 1975 X-ray showing the titanium wire that holds and helps control the rotation in my neck.

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Letter to the Editor

A thank you for the awesome coverage in Medford

From the awesome (shot) photograph of the recent added monument to the Veterans Memorial on the cover page, to the column "passing a memory" on page 2A, followed by Mark DeLap's article entitled "Little Thoughts on the Prairie" on page 3A, and continued coverage on page 3B of the Steele County Times in your April 10th edition, there is no doubt that the recently constructed Memorial in Medford is a popular and welcome addition to Medford. Thanks to the reporter and photographer from your newspaper for taking the time and effort to publish the story. Also thank you for your county-wide coverage of events.

Luella Heim
Medford, Minnesota

CASEY'S

Continued from Page 1A

bit to get started," said Mayor Lois Nelson, "but I think in hindsight, the delay was best for everyone involved."

Construction eventually began in November of 2015 and as of last week, the opening was official and it was grand. Mayor Lois Nelson and her posse from the Medford city council came out in full force and greeted and welcomed the new business with open arms and a certificate of business recognition.

The signage from I-35 has been ordered and should be installed within a few weeks by MnDot. "We couldn't actually apply for a sign until we were officially open," said Harvey. "Once the signs go up on the highway, we should see even more of an influx of people."

Some revelers had a few too many doughnuts. Some had one more slice of pizza than they'd normally have, but for sure, all walked away with some great memories on the momentous occasion. Casey's gives travelers just one more good reason to pull off the Interstate and investigate the booming and growing town of Medford.

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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

2016
8 State Awards

2015
4 National Awards
7 State Awards

2014
3 National Awards
3 State Awards

2013
2 National Awards
7 State Awards

2012
2 State Awards

2011
4 National Awards

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

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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Steele, Dodge, Freeborn & Mower $38
Elsewhere in Minnesota $40
Out of state $42

Second Front

DANCING

Continued from Page 1A

by a total of cumulative points earned from three areas: judges score, audience choice ranking and fundraising ranking. The Skillestads reportedly sold 78 tickets to the show. Many Blooming Prairie family members and friends were in attendance to cheer on Allyson and Greg.

Allyson and Greg were the sixth couple to appear on the roster of seven dance couples. They performed a Modern Hustle, "I'm Alive," by Celine Dion.

Allyson wore a black, knee-length, sleeveless dress with criss-cross straps on the bodice and a butterfly attachment. Greg wore white slacks, white patent leather shoes and a shimmering, aqua blue shirt.

Allyson and Greg scored a 29 out of a total 30 points possible. Judges for the show were: Mara Oien, Tim and Andrea Van Gelder and Ross and Michelle Sletten. Emcees were Karen and Dave Legault.

"I think it was his outfit that did it," said a wide-smiling Allyson Skillestad following the presentation of dance awards. All dance teams performed their numbers and then adjourned to the high school commons area for an opportunity to meet their fans. Voting continued for the audience and raffle tickets were also sold to benefit Healthy Seniors of Steele County.

Enjoying intermission time and a chance to catch their breaths, Allyson and Greg agreed that their number went well. "We were both nervous before we went on stage but once we got out there, our butterflies went away," Greg said.

The dance show process actually started in the planning phase last November when couples were selected.

"Allyson and I were able to spend more time together and we will now miss our dancing friends we made," Greg smiled. "It wasn't bad," Allyson confided about the pressure of the performance.

"I'm a wreck," said a nervous Gwen Kubista, Allyson's mother, following the Skillestads' performance. Following the awards presentation, she said her nervousness "wasn't as bad."

The Skillestads reside in Blooming Prairie, Greg the Blooming Prairie Police Chief and magician and Allyson a licensed practical nurse working at the Owatonna Clinic.

Greg and Allyson have three children: Samuel, 12; Elijah, 9 and Levi, 5. They will be married 16 years in July. The Skillestads teach Sunday School together at First Lutheran Church of Blooming Prairie. Allyson also plays piano for the First Lutheran Worship Team.

Prior to the dance competition, eight dance couples, former Dancing with Our Steele County Stars competitors, performed a disco hustle number, "You Should be Dancing" by the Bee Gees. Dancers were: Brian and Lynette Dawley, Bessie Peterson and Chad Reckard, Tom Boeker and Kelly Kittleson, Craig Doring and Amber Konz, Lon and Brooke Thiele, Ross and Michelle Sletten, Brent and Beth Svenby and Steve and Joan Caron. The group did another number, "Mariana Mambo" by Chayanne prior to the awards presentations.

Joann and Steve Caron also did a country Two Step to "Heave in my Woman's Eyes" by Tracy Byrd.

Dancers, their order of performance, and the dance routine score were:

Thea and Eric Farrington of Owatonna performed an East Coast Swing number, "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift. The Farringtons own and operate The Perfect Day Cakes and Bakery in downtown Owatonna and made 600 cupcakes for the show. Their score was: 8-8-8=24.

Jennifer and Clint Seykora, Owatonna, performed a Foxtrot, "I Haven't Met You Yet" by Michael Buble. Their score was 9-9-9=27.

Third on the dance docket were Annette Frank and Bryan Duncan, Medford. performing a Rumba, "Photograph" by Ed Sheeran. They scored 9-10-9=28.

Jamie and Jeff Morness, Owatonna, did a Quickstep, "Dancin' Fool" by Barry Manilow. Their scores were 10-10-10=30. Their routine met with loud audience applause and eventually earned them the Judges' Award as the top performance of the evening.

Kerri and Tyler Lynch, Owatonna, performed a Waltz, "Dark Waltz" by Haley Westentra and scored 10-10-10=30.

Then came Allyson and Greg Skillestad of Blooming Prairie doing a Modern Hustle, "I'm Alive" by Celine Dion. Their scores were recorded at 10-9-10=29.

Last on the dance line were Melissa and Michael Peterson of Owatonna. They performed a Samba, "Switch" by Will Smith. Judges scored them 10-10-9=29. The Petersons, who have been married 12 years, said the experience allowed them to spend more time together. "We learned how to real dance," Michael said. The anxiety was in the preparation, not in the performance," he explained.

All dancers offered kudos to their choreographers, Brian and Lynette Dawley. The Dawleys actually met on the dance floor 20-plus years ago. They have been doing the choreography for the Steele County's six shows.

"The participants far exceeded our expectations," said Dawley. "The actual dance performance gives dancers a special kind of energy, Lynette said. The Dawleys gave each couple 10 one-hour dance lessons. Each couple also practiced at least two-three hours a week or more since February.

The Dawleys met and greeted the dancers, gave them a CD with a dance number and tried to pattern a dance fitting their personalities and abilities, Brian explained.

Brian and Lynette plan on returning as choreographers next year. "I would bet Edna already has a weaiting list," Brian said.

Ringhofer thanked the dancers, audience and volunteers of Healthy Seniors of Steele County for making this event a success. "It takes the wonderful people of our communities working together to make this fundraising effort possible," she said.

Objective of Healthy Seniors of Steele County is to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible, Ringhofer informed.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Greg and Allyson Skillestad of Blooming Prairie proudly display their First Place trophy won in the Dancing with Our Steele County Stars competition at the Medford High School on Saturday night, April 30.

WASTE REMOVAL

Continued from Page 1A

Ed and most other Blooming Prairie residents hauled their household garbage to the city dump south of town. Ed hauled his family garbage in a green, 1949 Studebaker pickup truck.

The elder Walsh was asked by Mrs. Guy Ille if he minded taking her garbage to the dump. He agreed and it was soon that others asked him to do the same. He made some extra money making a regular trip to the dump each Saturday.

By 1967, Ed was picking up a considerable amount of household and commercial garbage. He started working in the evening after his regular job to take care of the garbage business.

By the fall of 1970, Ed decided to go into the garbage business full time. The business was born when Ed's wife Yvonne painted Walsh Garbage Service on their Pak Rat truck.

As the business grew, Ed's sons Mike, Tom and Bill rode along and would help Ed on Saturdays and during the summers. His daughters even helped. Daughter Sally and her friend Candy Cashman helped to earn money for Girl Scout projects. Bill remembers going with his dad to Mike's Place and getting treated to a PowerHouse candy bar and a Mountain Dew. "That was living," he recalls.

Bill graduated from Blooming Prairie High School in 1974. He did some survey work for 2 1/2 years and then decided to work full time for his father in the garbage business. In the early 1980s, Walsh Garbage had a 17-yard Leech garbage truck and a 10-yard, 1973 Ford truck for backup.

Ed's business grew larger and he began to think about retirement in the early 1980s. Bill said he remembers over hearing two town business leaders Frank Ressler and Frank Betlach saying no one had the guts to start a business in town. "I thought to myself, I do," Bill relates. Bill bought his father's business in July of 1985 and Ed retired. Ed died one year later.

Bill continued to grow the business by advertising and word of mouth. His high level of customer service has always been the foundation of the Walsh garbage business, says Jennifer. "We also have tried to do our business locally and contribute to the community," she added.

Garbage pickup has included all of Blooming Prairie and a five mile circle around town, Bill says. His day usually starts at 3:30 a.m. and his runs continue until about 12 noon.

Bill says it is a "sad day" but he believes now is the time to make this decision. "It's my truck or me," he laughs. "I didn't want to buy a new truck, they cost $300,000."

Walsh Garbage claimed 500 residential and commercial customers prior to the sale of the business to Skjeveland.

"We really appreciate the loyalty shown by Blooming Prairie residents and businesses," Jennifer said. Now, the loyalty shifts to the new owner. "He is a good, honest garbage man; we're really happy Chris came around," she continued. Skjeveland acknowledged that he asked Bill to give him first chance if the business went up for sale.

Son Adam, 13, has been a mainstay of the business, helping his dad often. "All my nephews have helped, too, and Bryan Hernandez has given me backup and time to go on vacation to Mexico," Bill says.

Prices will not change, Bill emphasizes, and he also says the pink garbage bags (available at B to Z Hardware) will still be used. Bill has had black, blue, green and pink bags through the years. He went to pink to help support the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, a portion of the price of the bags going to the Cancer Group.

"It's hard work but recycling has helped lighten the loads," Bill commented.

The Walsh family intends on staying in Blooming Prairie. Jennifer will continue her role as a licensed realtor for Keller-Williams Premier Realty. "We won't stop supporting the community," she said. Bill served 17 years as a volunteer firefighter.

With Skjeveland's resources, roll-off containers and roll-off dumpsters will be available to customers. Contact Skjeveland at 507-528-9900, or online (www.skjevelandenterprises@msn.com) and on Facebook.

The Skjeveland territory now includes Blooming Prairie, Dodge Center, West Concord, Claremont, Hope, Bixby, Owatonna plus outlying areas in Mower and Freeborn counties.

"We're excited and looking forward to working in the Blooming Prairie community," Skjeveland said.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

Hard work pays dividends for All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"I've always considered myself a hard-working son of a gun and it has paid dividends for my business," says All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance owner Terry Plath of 19284 U.S. Highway 218 in Austin.

Plath is in his 34th year of doing outdoor maintenance work and has extended the business with the help of his sons Terrance and Alex and his wife Norma, who is a licensed practical nurse and works with the handicapped and disabled in the Austin area.

The Plaths recently joined the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce and hope to continue expanding their services to the community.

The elder Plath purchased the outdoor maintenance business in 1982. "It was mainly lawn mowing and snow removal at that time," he says. Plath soon changed the name for promotional reasons from Plath Enterprises to All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance. "I wanted to be toward the front of the telephone directory," he explained.

The name All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance has served the Plaths well. Basic services include mowing, snow removal, aerating, pruning, spring and fall cleanup, vacation care, landscape maintenance, mulching, putting in rock, grading, sanding, pressure washing and sale of romantic firewood.

Before he entered the outdoor maintenance business, Plath worked construction, cooked and also worked for the park and recreation department in Rochester. As a kid, Terry Plath said he sold Spud Nut doughnuts and Life magazines to help him buy school clothes. "I have never been afraid of making a living," he said.

"We have been overwhelmingly busy already this spring," Plath says. "I love the joy of making things look nice for people. People like a trimmed, manicured lawn."

All Seasons has a wide variety of lawn mowing and snow removal equipment and also provides customers with specialty services to improve the looks of their properties. The Plaths have the latest in utility tractors, skid loaders and plow trucks.

Terry says All Seasons prides itself in having long-time customers. "There are some customers who I have never seen but we still provide services to meet their needs," Terry added.

All Seasons has 12 employees including the Plaths.

In need of outdoor maintenance, contact All Seasons at 507-433-2950 in Austin and at 507-



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

All Seasons Outdoor Maintenance of Austin maintains the grounds of Minimizer in Blooming Prairie. Here, Jose Macias and Terrance Plath take care of lawn work at Minimizer.



RECIPE CORNER

Orange-Cranberry Salad

- 1 pkg. raspberry jello
- 2 c. hot water
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/2 orange, unpeeled
- 2 c. cranberries
- 1 can crushed pineapple

By Mrs.Ruben Carlson

Dissolve Jello in hot water, stir in sugar. Cool. Put orange, including peeling, and cranberries through a food chopper. Add the fruit, including all the juices. Put in a mold and let set.

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Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8:55 p.m.

Claremont man faces charges of attacking jail workers

Jorge Rocha, 49. of Claremont is being held in the Steele County Detention Center in Owatonna on first degree attempted murder and on April 21 was charged in two cases over separate encounters of attacking corrections workers.

Rocha was charged in January with first degree attempted murder and was being held in jail awaiting trial. Rocha was charged in January with first-degree attempted murder, second-degree assault and making terroristic threats after he allegedly stabbed a woman in the abdomen in Dodge Center, which authorities said was an act of domestic violence.

In each case involving detention officers, Rocha is charged with fourth-degree assault of a corrections employee and faces two years imprisonment for each incident.


Rocha

Complaints allege that the first assault at the detention Center took place Feb. 11, 2016 when corrections officers let Rocha out of his cell to receive medications. He reportedly went to another inmate's cell and started yelling for an officer to open it and then punched another inmate in the head.

A corrections officer used a Taser stun-gun on Rocha. It was ineffective, the complaint said. Rocha attacked the officer, punching him repeated times in the head and attempting to take the Taser away from the officer. Other officers then restrained Rocha.

A second incident occurred Feb. 13, 2016 when a corrections officer attempted to escort Rocha to disciplinary segregation due to the Feb. 11 assault.

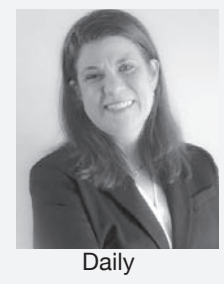
The complaint says that a detention sergeant was reading Rocha his rights when Rocha stood up and came forward to the officer and began throwing punches. Some punches did strike the officer. The officer used his Taser and later officers restrained Rocha.

The detention sergeant suffered injuries to his nose and mouth.

Rocha is due to appear in court on May 11 in the underlying attempted murder case. His bail remains set at $250,000 with conditions or $500,000 without conditions.

Court records show Rocha has a lengthy history with local law enforcement in Dodge, Steele and Rice counties including convictions for second-degree, third-degree and fourth-degree assault. He also has been convicted on numerous domestic abuse cases, DWI and for violating conditions of the predatory offender registry.

District three Judge Daily appointed


Daily

Christa Daily appointed by Gov. Dayton to fill Third Judicial District vacancy

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton last week appointed Christa M. Daily to fill a vacancy in the Third District which consists of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona counties.

By order of the Minesota Supreme Court, a vacant referee position in the Second Judicial District was transferred to the Third Judicial District and converted into a district court judgeship.

Daily replaces Referee JoAnne Yanish and will be chambered at Austin in Mower County.

"I am pleased to appoint Christa M. Daily to serve as District Court Judge in Minnesota's Third Judicial District," said Gov. Dayton. "Throughout her career as a public defender, Assistant County Attorney, and in private practice, Daily has consistently demonstrated her commitment to justice and public service; she will be an excellent judge." Dayton continued.

Daily is an Assistant Third District Public Defender, where she primarily handles felonies and gross misdemeanors. Previously, she was an Assistant Mower County Attorney, an associate at Adams, Rizzi & Sween, P.A., and an Assistant Stearns County Attorney. Daily earned her B.A. from St. Olaf College and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law.

Daily volunteers at Mower County Seniors, Inc., Mower County Habitat for Humanity, and previously volunteered as a Minnesota State High School mock trial coach. She is also the past president of the Mower County Law Library and a member of Women Attorneys of Rochester.

Sex offender captured after wild chase in Hayfield

A Stewartville man faces three felony counts after a wild incident in Hayfield last week in which shots were fired by police, but no one was hit.

Larry Robert Wenthold, 37, has been charged in Dodge County District Court with first-degree assault, fleeing police in a motor vehicle and fugitive from justice in another state. The judge ordered him held in jail on $500,000 unconditional bail.


Wenthold

In addition to the local charges, Wenthold also has an active full-extradition warrant from Meade County South Dakota for felony failure to register as a sex offender.

Law enforcement attempted to arrest Wenthold April 27 in the parking lot of Citizen's State Bank in Hayfield. He attempted to flee the arresting officers in his vehicle, and several shots were fired towards the vehicle, according to Sheriff Scott Rose. The shots did not strike Wenthold.

During the mayhem, the Wenthold's vehicle allegedly rammed a couple squad cars and eventually slammed into an apartment building at 109 Center Avenue North. The vehicle went half way through the building before coming to a stop. He took off running before authorities captured him at gun point.

The arrest was a joint operation of sheriff's offices in Dodge and Olmsted counties, U.S. Marshal Service and the North Star Fugitive Task Force.

Police blotter
Steele County

Blooming Prairie Police
April 28

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the city at 1:41 p.m.

Crash. At 5:45 p.m., police assisted the State Patrol with a crash that occurred in the city.

Owatonna Police
April 22

Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 1000 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 5:15 a.m.

Death. Officers began a death investigation in the 2200 block of 30th St. NW at 6:59 a.m.

Restraining Order. At 11:26 a.m., police responded to a restraining order violation in the 400 block of Flowervale St. NW.

Threats. A threats incident occurred in the 500 block of Adams Ave. NW at 12:40 p.m.

Harassment. A citizen reported being the victim of harassment in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 1:49 p.m.

Theft. Police took a report of identity theft in the 2000 block of Mineral Springs Parkway at 4:19 p.m.

April 23

Shoplifting. Officer issued a citation for shoplifting in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 9:37 a.m.

Animal. Police responded to animal calls at 16th St. NE and St. Paul Place NE at 12:27 p.m. and in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. S. at 6:13 p.m.

Arrest. At 2:39 p.m., police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Grove Ave. N. and Rose St. E.

Drunken Driving. Officer made a DWI arrest in the 2200 block of 26th St. NW at 6:48 p.m.

April 24

DWI. Police arrested a motorist for drunken driving on Hwy. 14 E. at 12:34 a.m.

Arrests. Officers made traffic stop arrests at Adams Ave. NW and Radel Place NW at 1:44 a.m. and at Elm Ave. S. and Prospect St. E. at 4:58 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 500 block of West Hills Cricle NW at 8:33 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Broadway St. W. at 12:34 p.m.

Domestic. At 10:47 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW.

April 25

Weapons. Shots were heard fired in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW at 12:14 a.m.

Warrant. At 12:34 p.m., officer arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 500 block of Florence Ave. NW.

Criminal Sex. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 1000 block of Elm Ave. S. at 8:55 p.m.

Drugs. Drug activity was reported in the 400 block of Vine St. E. at 10:35 p.m.

April 26

Disturbance. Police responded to a noise complaint in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 12:36 a.m.

Warrants. Officers made warrant arrests in the 200 block of 21st St. NW at 9:26 a.m. and in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 11:20 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 400 block of North St. W. at 10:30 a.m.

Child Protection. At 12:32 p.m., police received a child protection report from the 400 block of St. Paul Place NE.

Fraud. A citizen reported being the victim of a fraud incident in the 100 block of 22nd St. NW at 6:24 p.m.

Suspicion. Police responded to a suspicious activity report in the 400 block of North St. W. at 6:57 p.m.

April 27

Warrant. Officer took a subject into custody from the 2200 block of Condor Place NE for an outstanding warrant at 11:47 a.m.

Threats. Police responded to a threats incident in the 200 block of Fremont St. E. at 1:09 p.m.

Theft. At 3:37 p.m., officer took a theft report in the 2200 block of Cedar Ave. N.

April 28

Arrest. Police assisted another agency with an arrest in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 9:47 a.m.

Drugs. Officer issued a citation for drug activity in the 1200 block of 21st Ave. NW at 10:06 a.m.

Shoplifting. At 1:54 p.m., police arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1400 block of 21st Ave. NW.

Death. Police began a death investigation in the 200 block of Holly St. SW at 12:28 p.m.

Fraud. Officer took a report of a fraud in the 300 block of Mineral Springs Rd. NE at 11:35 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
April 22

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault in the 100 block of Main St. N. at 5:42 a.m.

Suspicion. At 7:23 a.m., deputies responded to suspicious activity in the 6300 block of 42nd Ave. SW.

April 23

Warrant. Deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center at 9:50 a.m.

Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 2:30 p.m.

Restraining Order. At 3 p.m., deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW.

April 24

Domestic. Deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on Interstate 35 southbound at mile marker 29 at 9:29 p.m. They took a subject into custody.

April 25

Warrant. At 8:18 a.m., deputy arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant at the detention center.

Arrest. Deputies assisted another agency with an arrest on Interstate 35 northbound at 11:54 a.m.

DWI. Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 72nd Ave. SW and Hwy. 30 W. at 10:10 p.m.

April 26

Drunken Driving. At 1:25 a.m., deputy made a DWI arrest at 44th Ave. NE and Dane Rd.

Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 3900 block of Hwy. 30 W. at 8:11 a.m.

Suspicion. Deputies responded to a suspicious activity report in the 700 block of 2nd Ave. NE at 12 p.m.

April 27

DWI. Deputy arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at 6th St. and Hwy. 30 W. at 8:52 p.m.

April 28

Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a crash with injuries on Hwy. 30 E. at 3:11 a.m.

Theft. Thefts were reported in the 13000 block of 29th Ave. SE at 10:21 a.m. and in the 2200 block of Austin Rd. at 1 p.m.

Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 4300 block of County Rd. 45 N. at 1:27 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported at 28th St. SE and Austin Rd at 5:06 p.m.

Steele Arrests

Owatonna Police
April 23

Matthew James Huskey, 23, arrested at 3:14 p.m. for fifth-degree possession, held for court.

Jon Albert Berg, 64, arrested at 7:15 p.m. for second-degree DWI , held for court.

April 24

Robert Charles Lyons, 53, arrested at 12:55 a.m. for third-degree DWI, held for court.

April 26

Michael Edward Payne, 24, arrested at 10:09 a.m. for probation violation, held for court.

Shatina Deloris Walls, 23, arrested at 11:38 a.m. for outstanding warrant, posted $500 bail.

April 27

Korissa Lea Pratt, 21, arrested at 5:01 p.m. for probation warrant, held for court.

April 28

Jason Alan Dalbec, 38, arrested at 10:22 a.m. for fifth-degree drug possession and outstanding warrant, held for court.

Edward James Climer, 35, arrested at 1:58 p.m. for fifth-degree drug possession and theft, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff
April 22

Nicholas Ross Richards, 27, arrested at 9:16 a.m. for probation violation, held for court.

April 23

James Alfred Biers, 80, arrested at 3:48 p.m. for harassment restraining order violation, held for court.

Tesa Ann Reno, 24, arrested at 10 p.m. on an outstanding warrant, held for court.

April 25

Keenan Davante Harris, 24, arrested at 6:36 p.m. for an outstanding warrant on a probation violation, held for court.

Jason Charles Meixner, 38, arrested for body only arrest warrant, held for court.

Jerome Alan Berge, 53, arrested for fourth-degree DWI and third-degree test refusal, held for court.

MN State Patrol
April 25

Jamie Lee Larose, 31, arrested at 12:20 p.m. for fleeing police in a motor vehicle, held for court.

Court News
Steele County

The following case was heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 18 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Christopher A. Mills, 31, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony controlled substance. Mills was sentenced to $81, no alcohol or controlled substance use, obtain permission to leave the state, no possession of firearms, do not enter liquor establishments, 40 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of April 18 – 22:

Blooming Prairie Police Department

Habtamu T. Tamru, 43, Austin, speeding, $221.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Yusuf O. Ali, 20, Owatonna, seat belt; Katherine L. Cochran, 58, Clear Lake, IA, speeding, $131; Arturo Cortez, 30, Palmview, TX, no license, $181; Thomas K. Crawford, 33, Albert Lea, no insurance, $281; Maria E. Diaz, 41, Hayfield, speeding, $281; Hannah L. Forsberg, 28, Owatonna, speeding, $141; Paul J. Goodin, 49, Wahkon, revoked license, $281; Juan F. Guerrero, 44, Kenyon, speeding, $131;

Bradley G. Johnson, 33, Owatonna, speeding, $281; Karlie M. Keller, 20, Nerstrand, possession of Paraphernalia, $131; Peggy A. Marquette, 49, Dodge Center, speeding, $141; Ross W. Nervig, 31, Minneapolis, speeding, $131; Timothy R. Newell, 33, North Mankato, speeding, $100; Patrick G. O'Connor, 28, Apple Valley, speeding and no insurance, $341; Fabrizio Parodi, 40, Alton, TX, possession of Paraphernalia, $131; Joseph P. Rock, 49, Woodridge, IL, speeding, $121; Francis D. Togba, 38, St. Paul, speeding, $141; Christine M. Windsor, 42, Winona, speeding, $121.

Owatonna Police Department

Yusuf O. Ali, 20, Owatonna, minor consumption and open bottle; Luis R. Barajas, 28, Owatonna, no MN license, $181; Shalayna D. Belden, 25, Albert Lea, assault, $81, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, anger management and 1 year of supervised probation; Shayla N. Braunshausen, 37, Owatonna, improper turn, $131;

Carrie M. Butler, 33, Owatonna, school bus stop sign, $381; Jacob C. Carlson, 23, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Maria L. Goodpaster, 32, Owatonna, domestic assault, $81, 25 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Kent W. Harris, 32, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Derick T. Helgeson, 24, Owatonna, possession of Marijuana and Paraphernalia, $181; Jeffrey S. Martens, 59, Duluth, revoked license, $281; Mohamed O. Mohamud, 26, Owatonna, suspended license and possession of Marijuana, $331; Michael P. Nordby, 51, Zumbrota, speeding, $131;

Belinda J. Ortega, 27, Rochester, revoked license, $281; Teriann Powell, 33, Owatonna, financial transaction card fraud, $381 and 1 year of supervised probation; Esteven Rios, 27, Faribault, shoplifting, $281; Duane D. Schlomann, 87, Denver, IA, passing parked emergency vehicle, $131; Dillin R. Schultz, 23, Owatonna, expired tabs, $111; Suzanne N. Seefurth, 22, Austin, assault, $381, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Jaimie L. Sorvaag, 27, Owatonna, suspended license, $381; Sallie M. Wilson, 33, Owatonna, revoked license and no insurance, $481.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

James R. Bissell, 33, Ellendale, animal ordinance violation, $181; Troy W. Burgess, 48, Morristown, speeding, $121; Chance A. Christenson, 18, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Lucas J. Ellering, 20, Roseville, speeding, $121; Michael F. Ferch, 50, Medford, speeding, $121; Esteban G. Gonzalez, 30, Albert Lea, speeding, $221; Heather L. Grambart, 36, Faribault, expired tabs and no insurance, $311;

Benjamin L. Grebe, 29, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Amy D. Hewett, 36, Waseca, speeding, $121; David M. Johnson, 37, Hartland, cancelled license, $281; Todd M. Johnson, 42, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Devonte M. Jones, 23, Tallahassee, FL, speeding, $221; Edwin A. Juarez Estrada, 37, Waseca, cancelled license and speeding, $331; Andrew C. Keck, 25, St. Cloud, speeding, $121;

Kendra S. Kellis, 23, Faribault, speeding, $121; Olivia G. Kranz, 23, Good Thunder, speeding, $141; Herman Lafuente, 40, Owatonna, revoked license and headlights violation, $321; Roland L. Leak, 83, Ellendale, expired tabs, $111; Jose H. Leal Ramos, 40, Rock Is-

COURT NEWS
Continued on Page 4D

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

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

Valente Gomez, Jr.- DWI- No bail
Omar Gomez- Theft- $500 bail
Christopher Gonzalez- Theft- $500 bail
Hiran Gonzalez- Dishonored Checks- No bail
Luis Gonzalez- DWI & Driving Offense- No bail
Jose Granados Jr.- 4th Degree Assault- No bail
Felicia Green- Theft- $500 bail
Douglas Greier- Worthless Check- $1,000 bail
Alma Guajardo- No Insurance- $1,000 bail
Juan Guerrero- 3rd Degree Drugs- No bail
Steven Gustafson- Contribute to Minor- $2,000 bail
Edgar Gutierrez- Assault & Theft- $2,000 bail
Cardenas Gutierrez- Driving Offense- $500 bail
Lawrence Hager- DWI- No bail
Roger Halbach- DWI- $3,000 bail
Michael Hale- Theft- $3,000 bail
Brandon Haley- Theft- No bail
Dean Hall- Motor Vehicle Theft- No bail
Brian Hambly- Theft-Shoplifting- $500 bail
Andrea Hammer- No Insurance- $1,000 bail
Cassidy Hammer- Open Bottle- $300 bail

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Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you tell me how to go about replacing important lost documents? My wife and I recently downsized to a retirement community, and somewhere in the move we lost our Social Security and Medicare cards, birth certificates, marriage license and passports.

Worried Ron

Dear Ron,

Replacing important documents that are lost, stolen or damaged is pretty easy if you know where to turn. Here are the replacement resources for each document you mentioned, along with some tips to protect you from identity theft, which can happen if your documents end up in the wrong hands.

Birth certificate: If you were born in the United States, contact the vital records office in the state where you were born (see cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm for contact information). This office will give you specifi instructions on what you need to do to order a certified copy and what it will cost you. Birth certificate fees range between $9 and $30.

Social Security card: You can replace a lost or stolen Social Security card for free, and if you live in the District of Columbia, Michigan, Nebraska, Washington or Wisconsin, you can do it online at ssa.gov/ssnumber.

If, however, you live outside these areas, you'll need to fil out Form SS-5 (see ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf to print a copy) and take it in or mail it to your nearby Social Security office along with your U.S. driver's license, or a state-issued non-driver ID card or a U.S. passport (photocopies are not accepted). Any documents you mail in will be returned to you. To find the Social Security office that serves your area, call 800-772-1213 or see ssa.gov/locator.

You also need to be aware that losing your Social Security card puts you at risk for identity theft. If you find that someone uses your Social Security number to obtain credit, loans, telephone accounts, or other goods and services, report it immediately to the Federal Trade Commission at IdentityTheft.gov (or 877-438-4338). This site will also give you specific steps you'll need to take to handle this problem.

Medicare card: To replace your Medicare card for free, just call Social Security

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Dan Evans, Publisher

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank building celebrated its 25th birthday, having been built throughout 1980 and fi - ishing up in April of 1981. To celebrate, an Open House was held, which featured the new "modern" financial institution

Numerous Blooming Prairie FFA members attended the Minnesota State FFA Convention, and Jason Manges came home with a third place award for his supervised agricultural experience, or SAE, in forage production. Justin Krell was selected to play in the FFA Band during the convention.

Stan Stanton of Owatonna won $200,000 from a scratch off ticket bought from Eastside Gas & Groceries in Owatonna. The overall odds of winning a prize playing Hot Streak!, the lottery game that Stanton won from, was 1 in 3.68.

20 Years Ago
Tuesday, May 7, 1996
Elsie Slinger, Editor

The Blooming Prairie School board made an investment in a new drug and alcohol awareness program called Target, which gets students who choose to be chemically free to promote drug awareness in the school as role models by working with peers who may need help. The goal of the program is to identify, train, support, and recognize chemically free student leaders. The high school program has grown 30-members strong during their first year at B .

With the help of other staff members and principal Sandra Grenell, 40 Blooming Prairie elementary students, who were picked by their peers, were trained in resolving problems between classmates during playground time. The managers only resolved problems with two people; any larger problems were referred to Susan Arends, the school counselor. Positive changes had been seen on the elementary playground because of the managers' work.

50 Years Ago
Thursday, May 5, 1966
Victor, Vernon & Vyrle Krejci, Editors

The electrical interconnection between Glooming Prairie's Municipal Light Plant and the Freeborn-Mower Electric Cooperative was completed recently and power is now being purchased from this alternate source and distributed to patrons of the town-owned system. The interconnection means that the municipal system now has an alternate source of power that can be used at any time, saving the purchase of generators to manufacture power.

The Blooming Prairie High School band and mixed chorus were awarded "A" ratings at the State Area Music Contest. Thirteen high school bands and ten choruses performed at the State Area contest, held for the firs time in Blooming Prairie

The traditional Junior-Senior Prom themed "Polynesian Paradise," is scheduled for on Friday of this week. The high school gym will be decorated with a volcano, tropical fish grass huts, palm tress, and other effects in accordance with the theme. Music for dancing will be provided by "The Rogues," a band from Owatonna.

75 Years Ago
Thursday, May 8, 1941
Frank Krejci, Publisher

Oiled streets for Blooming Prairie seemed a step nearer this week, following the decision of the village council to seek bids on contracts to resurface and oil all side streets in the village.

Patrick Meehan, 85, prominent retried businessman and one of this community's oldest citizens died on May 5, following a heart attack that he suffered from two days prior. At the age of 20, Meehan came to Iowa, where he became interested in caring for horses and obtained employment in that line of work.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants

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Community

Obituaries

Norbert Leo Schrom, 78, Owatonna



Norbert Leo Schrom, 78, of Owatonna, passed away peacefully on April 29, 2016 surrounded by his loving family at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Norbert was born June 10, 1937, as the son of Edward and Roselyn (Spindler) Schrom in Owatonna. After attending country school, Norbert continued to work on the family farm. He enlisted in the Navy in 1955 and proudly served his country until 1958.

On June 18, 1958, Norbert married the love of his life, Maxine Wagner, "the bride", at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Together they raised six children on their family farm by Bixby.

Throughout the years he worked for Hydro- Ax in Owatonna and Greenway Co-Op in Claremont. Norbert enjoyed his early retirement spending time with family, friends and especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fishing, playing cards and Tuesday morning coffee with the ROMEO'S. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus in Owatonna.

Norbert is survived by his bride of 58 years, Maxine; his children, Ione (Rick) Hagen, Hudson, Wisconsin, Kurt (Lisa) Schrom, Newnan, Georgia, Dean (Jody) Schrom, Owatonna, Gale (Danielle) Schrom, Pine Island, Troy (Paula) Schrom, Janesville, and Todd (Connie) Schrom, Minocqua, Wisconsin; 19 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren; one brother and three sisters.

Norbert was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, one grandson-in-law and one great grandson.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Owatonna with the Rev. Michael Cronin presiding. Interment will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Military honors will be provided by the Steele County funeral unit. Friends may greet the family on Tuesday, May 3 from 4-7 p.m. at the Brick-Meger Funeral Home.

The Knights of Columbus will recite the rosary at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue one hour before the funeral liturgy at Sacred Heart.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorials to Homestead Hospice House Patient Care Fund, 2350 Northwest 26th Street, Owatonna, MN 55060. For more information or to leave an online condolence message go to www.brick-meger-funeralhome.com.

Thomas Paulson, 51,Owatonna,



Thomas Paulson, 51, of Owatonna, died April 24, 2016, at Methodist Hospital in Rochester following a courageous fight against a rare type of liver cancer.

He was born February 17, 1965 in Owatonna, the son of James "Jim" and Shirley (Nelson) Paulson. He grew up in Owatonna where he attended school. He graduated from Owatonna High School, Class of 1983. Tom continued his education at Vo-Tech College in Austin where he received a degree in Ag Mechanics. Following his schooling, he worked at Beske Implement in Minnesota Lake.

Tom was united in marriage to Catherine "Cathy" Pederson on May 17, 1986 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. The couple made their home outside of Owatonna on 34th Avenue. They later purchased the family farm from his parents where they currently reside.

Tom has worked as an Ag Mechanic for Nelson Equipment, now known as Ag Power in Owatonna for twenty eight and a half years. He enjoyed farming, restoring tractors, playing softball (in Owatonna and Faribault as well as a co-ed league with his daughter, Allyssa), gardening, building his shop and spending time with his family and friends. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandson, Jaxon and was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his granddaughter, Sophi. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, the Historical Society and coached the 4-H softball team.

Survived by his wife, Cathy of Owatonna; daughter, Allyssa (Duane) Levy of Owatonna; son, Michael (Katie Fisher) Paulson of Owatonna; grandson, Jaxon James Paulson of Owatonna; parents, Jim & Shirley Paulson of Owatonna; step-children, Amy Smith of Las Vegas and Shane Johnson of Cold Spring; brothers, Richard (Lorna) Paulson of Owatonna and Dennis (Wanda) Paulson of Owatonna; his dog and close friend, Buggaboo and many other friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Arthur and Dorothy Paulson and Clifford & Evelyn Nelson and other relatives.

In keeping with Tom's wishes, there will not be a formal funeral service. A private burial will be at a later date.

Arrangements are with Michaelson Funeral Home of Owatonna.

Michael Robert Muhlbauer Jr., 45, Windom



Michael Robert Muhlbauer Jr., 45 of Windom was granted his angel wings on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at the Windom Hospital in Windom. He is now flying with the angels, free from all worldly limitations.

Michael Robert Muhlbauer Jr. was born November 19, 1970 in New Ulm to Michael Sr. and Dee Ann (Beede) Muhlbauer. He attended and graduated from Windom High School. Michael took residence at the Home for Creative Living in Windom. It is at this home that he met some of the most wonderful people in his life.

They allowed him the opportunity to fully enjoy life. Mike had a variety of things that brought him joy including attending all types of music concerts, going on vacations, watching butterflies, and playing games (especially those with loud noises). He was also very proud of his participation in the Special Olympics. What he enjoyed the most was spending time with his friends at the home and at his work at the DAC in Windom.

Michael will forever be remembered for his contagious smile and laugh. When Michael laughed, everyone laughed. He will truly be missed by all of those who knew and loved him.

Michael is survived by his mother, Dee Ann Rasmussen of Blooming Prairie; sisters, Naomi (Dayne) Stewart of New Ulm, Jennifer (Jeremy) Roiger of Springfield; brothers, Christopher (Dawn) Muhlbauer of New Ulm, Samuel (Juliene) Muhlbauer of Little Falls, Andreas (Lynne) Braulick of New Ulm; stepmother, Sally Kassuelke; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Michael Muhlbauer Sr.; his niece, Jessica Stewart; grandparents, Jean Lindboe, and Joseph and Alma Muhlbauer.

Michael leaves behind many wonderful caregivers that provided years of love and support that truly enhanced his quality of life. He had a special place in his heart for Heather, Jamie, and Tiffany as well as the rest of the staff in Apartment 3 at the Home of Creative Living, and the DAC in Windom. All of these special people, too numerous to mention, provided Michael with love and dignity.

Funeral service where held at on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at the Minnesota Valley Funeral Home-SOUTH CHAPEL in New Ulm. Michael's brother, Pastor Sam Muhlbauer will officiate the service, and burial will be held at a later date at the St. Columbanus Catholic cemetery in Blooming Prairie.

To leave an online condolence for his family, or to sign the guestbook, go to www.mvfh.org

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 3
Kelsey Voeltz
Aubryana Alwes
Haley Tollefson
May 4
Rodney Krell
Robert Ingvalson
May 5
McKenzie Jensen
Dennis Sauke
Brian Anderson
Becky Noble
Maverick Miner
May 6
Nathan Piller
Adam Bishop
Sara Hoveland
Irene Sheppard
Laura Peterson
Allison Bruggeman
Ella Farr
May 7
Lyndon Johnson
Erik Vigeland
Charlie Heimerman
Logan Underwood
Meghan Butler
Gemini Johnson
Danielle Hein
May 8
Scott Swenson
Vi Iversen
Gary Dallman
Norma Amundson
Mandy Doocy
May 9
Levi Skillestad
Jeff Erickson
Rebecca Ingvalson
Vivian Ulrich
May 10
Lisa Kubista
Rosalie Shaw Kerrigan
Deanne Harshbarger
Jason Manges
May 11
Natasha Smith
Joann Borchert

Anniversaries
May 6
Brian & Sara Hoveland
May 7
Mr & Mrs Roger Manges
May 9
Alan & Judy Schaefer
May 10
Sean & Kristian Robbins
Eddie & Nelda Haberman
May 11
Thomas and Shirley Schneiderit

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SEMCAC senior menu

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

May 5: Meatloaf, Red Potatoes, Succotash, Carrot Raisin Salad, Grapes

May 6: Chicken Pasta Salad, Cucumber Salad, Peach Halves, Dinner Roll, Baked Coconut Custard

May 9: Chicken Broccoli Bake, Buttered Beets, P/A Orange Fruit Cup, Chocolate Cherry Pie

May 10: Beef Tips over Mashed Potatoes, Oriental Blend Veg, Mixed Greens Salad, Fruit Cup

May 11: Chicken ala King over biscuit, Peas, Cranberry Bog Salad, Fresh Fruit

SALUTING OUR FUTURE FARMERS

Katelynn Grunklee

Years in FFA: 6

FFA participation: Farm Safety day, Plot day, Fruit sales, State Convention, National Convention, Toy show, and CDE's

Favorite FFA activity: National convention and Dairy foods. Learned a lot about the organization at both events.

Favorite FFA memory: My favorite memory is riding around for the National convention my 10th grade year. It was my first year going, it was very eye opening and I got to go with my sister.

Future plans: Attending University of Wisconsin River Falls. Majoring in Animal Science.

Rinks Thoughts: Kate is a six year BP FFA member and two years office . Last yar she was the historian and this year she is the reporter. Kate always has a smile on her face and always has a funny story to share!



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Weekly crossword on Page 7D

PUZZLE SOLUTION

F	O	P				C	P	S		S	C	A	B
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Church Spotlight



Aurora and Trinity Lutheran Ministries

Pastor's corner

This year's Lenten journey



In February, I wrote for the Pastor's corner as Lent began and now, nearly 40 days later, we have come to the end of our journey.

For those of the Christian faith, we are in the midst of Holy Week. This week we have celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, will be gathering at the table to remember Christ humbling himself as a servant and then journeying to the cross.

In the midst of the hubbub of Easter eggs, candy and baskets, or the several worship services this week, I invite you to take time to reflect on the last 40 days. Were you able to eliminate some of the distractions that take us away from God? If you added a prayer practice, time with family or a new habit this season, how has it impacted your relationship with God? How have you weathered this year's Lenten journey?

I imagine there are a variety of experiences both positive and challenging. There may even be a good number of us who had the best of intentions, but fell short of expectations. Yet, there is still time!

Holy Week is a time of observance and remembering. You can still fast or add a new spiritual practice between Maundy Thursday and Easter as you attempt to turn your heart to God. Lean into the rollercoaster of emotions from joy, betrayal and sorrow. Carefully listen for God's voice calling you to be a servant to others on Thursday and dwell in the cries of Christ on Friday.

This week, use the time you are waiting to pick up kids, driving to work or drinking coffee to reflect on Christ journey in service to God's people.

Stephanie Wood, Pastor
Aurora Lutheran Church, Owatonna,
and Trinity Lutheran Church,
Blooming Prairie

Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
10:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
588 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Worshp 9:00 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie
Charles Leonard, Senior Pastor
Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
(507) 583-6621
firstlutheranbp.com
Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN—ELCA
30450 570th Ave., Waltham
Minister Dwight DoBell
(507) 567-2474
Service: 8:30 a.m. Sunday Sunday
School: 9:45 a.m.

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
www.peaceclaremont.otshost.org
Weekly Church Service
Saturday Evening (Starts September 19th) 6 p.m. Sunday Morning Services held at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Offered each Saturday Evening Service and 2nd & 4th Sunday Service of each month. Sunday School - starts September 20th at 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
28959 630th Ave., Sargeant
The Rev. Ronald Prigge
Service: 10:15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
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 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 Cirksena
(507) 684-2731
www.ellendaleumc.org
Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Free home style meal on the first Sunday of the month through Dec. 2016. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. followed by the free meal at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
815 E. University, Owatonna
Loren Olson, Pastor
Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4734
www.owatonnaumc.org
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
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Prom Festivities at NRHEG include promenades, paddle wheels and panache

The NRHEG Prom festivities will begin on May 7 at 2 p.m. at the Richland Care Center where Promsters will provide and unofficial promenade for the residents and where they can pick up their Prom tickets.

Check-in at the NRHEG High School Media Center begins at 2:15 p.m. Pictures with Brant Hemmingway Photography will be in the high school commons at the same time. Order forms are available at the New Richland High School office.

The Grand March will be held in the high school gym at 3:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The Junior Class Prom Committee and their advisor, Terry Jensen selected this year's theme and decorations with the help of Dan Nelson of Ellendale.

Attendee and spectators alike can expect to be wowed by the efforts of this talented group.

At 5 p.m. the participants and chaperones will depart on coach busses from New Richland to Stillwater. Prom will be held on the St. Croix River, aboard the paddle wheel riverboat, Avalon.

The boat cruise will take place from 7-11 p.m. and will include a buffet dinner and DJ hosted dance party.

Next on the agenda, the Prom-goers will be bussed to Grand Slam in Burnsville where the After-Prom Party is held from midnight to 3 a.m. Prom attendees can enjoy unlimited laser tag, trampoline, mini-golf, bumper cars, and batting cages and will receive some tokens for arcade games. Late night snacks will also be provided.

The night will end with a bus trip back to NRHEG High School for a light breakfast and prizes before all are dismissed.

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Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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Bp Cancer Group spring luncheon on May 14

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is once again organizing some fundraisers to benefit those battling cancer.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- Saturday, May 14, spring luncheon at First Lutheran Church in connection with city-wide garage sale
- Saturday, May 21, 50/50 Raffle at the Deer Creek Speedway
- Saturday, June 25, Cruise for Cancer, starting and ending at J & H Liquors
- Late August, Field of Flags (150 are sold and displayed at 218 and Main Street)
- Friday, Sept. 9 and Saturday, Sept. 10, BP Cancer Group Auctions

If you plan on doing some garage sale exploring at Blooming Prairie's city-wide garage sale, on Saturday, May 14, make sure to visit the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's annual spring luncheon at First Lutheran Church.

Organizer Jennifer Milton says sloppy joes and chicken salad croissants will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church. Also served will be potato salad, chips. bars, lemonade and coffee. Much of the food is donated by local vendors including Geneva Meats, Mrs. Gerry's and The Bakery.

All funds from the spring luncheon will go to the BP Cancer Group to help people in the community who may need assistance, Milton said. For example, gas cards are distributed to needy people.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group is excited about another fundraising opportunity on Saturday, May 21 when it participates in the 50/50 Raffle at the Deer Creek Speedway, located 15 miles south of Rochester on U.S. Highway 63.

Winner of the raffle wins half of the total money collected in raffle sales.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will host a Spring Luncheon at First Lutheran Church in connection with the city-wide garage sale on Saturday, May 14. Here, organizer Jennifer Milton serves a sandwich to Doug Hillson at the 2015 event.

Cheri Krejci, BP Cancer Group board member, says the BP Cancer Group has been on the waiting list for five years to sell the raffle tickets. Speedway owner Ryan Queensland said that the Speedway provides the venue for the fundraising opportunity and is happy to do so.

Six BP Cancer Group volunteers will be in the stands on May 21, selling 50/50 Raffle tickets. The opportunity is there to earn several hundred or even up to a thousand dollars on this licensed raffle, Queensland said.

"We are happy that we can help a very caring community group," "said Queensland. The Speedway also supports the BP Cancer Group in the fall by donating tickets for the auctions.

For more information on the BP Cancer Group, call Cheri Krejci at 583-2046 or Jennifer Milton at 456-6846.

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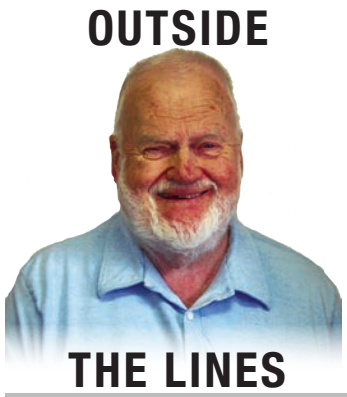
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Hometown Sports

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, May 3, 2016

OUTSIDE



THE LINES

LeMar Nelson

A mixed bag

Weather disrupted the spring sports scene again, but some contests still took place. The track teams had an entertaining respite from the recent competitions to participate in the annual Lions sponsored coed meet on the local track. I think everyone enjoyed the opportunity to have genders cooperate with each other in a non-serious way, and it turned into an enjoyable event, despite some less than ideal weather.

The NRHEG diamond teams both had good weeks, and the softball team improved its record to 6-2 for the year. BP's softball team dropped a pair of games, and the baseball team continued to struggle, mainly because none of the pitchers have been able to control their arms. That results in way too many bases on balls. The young pitchers will hopefully develop a little better control with more experience.

A bright spot on the Blossom horizon continues to be the boys' golf team. Finishing second at a 14-team meet in Rochester and following that with a third place team finish at the 10-team Triton meet earns them kudos for the week. Now we can hope that the weather straightens out a little as the next two weeks are packed full of sports contests of all types.

LOCAL SUCCESSES

A big tip of the hat to local entrants Greg and Allyson Skillstead, our local "Dancing with the Steele County Stars" couple. They did an excellent job at the competition in Medford Saturday and the community is justly proud of their efforts. A job well done to both dancers.

Another tip of the hat this week goes to Tyler Mundy at Heavy Metals for the featured article in the Small Business Development Center newsletter for March. He was featured because of the success of the business that he started in 2012 and which has grown significantly. Although he admitted in the article, a lot of the credit should go to his wife, Heather, for inspiring him along the way. A great article and continued success, Tyler.

Still more success comes from the FFA. Kalyn Naatz placed third in Dairy Handling at the State FFA Convention, and the General Livestock team finished fifth in that difficult category. Colton Ivers, Ethan Arett, Sally Peterson, and Tim Wolf make up that team. Another tip of the hat goes to Naatz and the livestock judging team for their fine effort at the state convention.

I think that I can list two more successes, this time in reference to retirements. Tips of the hats go to the Holman insurance business of long-time residents Keith and Carol Holman, Both of these individuals have been so active in all community that we can all hope they will continue to be involved. Besides the regular insurance business, Carol has also been the Blue Cross-Blue Shield agent, and she has been invaluable in giving me medical insurance advice. That I will miss a lot. Thanks for the many years of service to the community, Holmans.

The other retirement this past weekend was that of Darrel

LOCAL SUCCESSES
Continued on Page 4B

Corky's softball tourney set to start Thursday



Photos courtesy of Corky's Early Bird Men's Softball Classic facebook page.

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

The 37th edition of the Corky's Early Bird Softball Tournament will be its biggest yet when it kicks off Thursday and lasts through Sunday.

Sixteen teams competed in the first tournament and has continued to rise throughout the years. By the 30th edition, there were 100 teams; last year the number hit 148; and this year, a record, 176 teams from eight states will embark to play on 11 fields in Owatonna and six more in Faribault as part of five different divisions. Teams battle for a chance to participate in the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) National Championship later in the year.

The event is one of the largest softball tournaments in the country and has reached a point where there is a waiting list for teams who want to participate in future years.

"Thirty percent of the teams come from outside of Minnesota, including from as far away as California," said tournament director Loren Dietz. "A lot of the players represent Team Canada and Team USA in international competitions and some are competitors in the ASA Long-Haul Bomber Tour."

The tournament is expected to bring in over 4,000 visitors and provide a big economic impact to the community. All hotels in Owatonna, Faribault, and the surrounding area are full. The local Chamber of Commerce conservatively estimates over $222,000 in local economic impact, not including lodging.

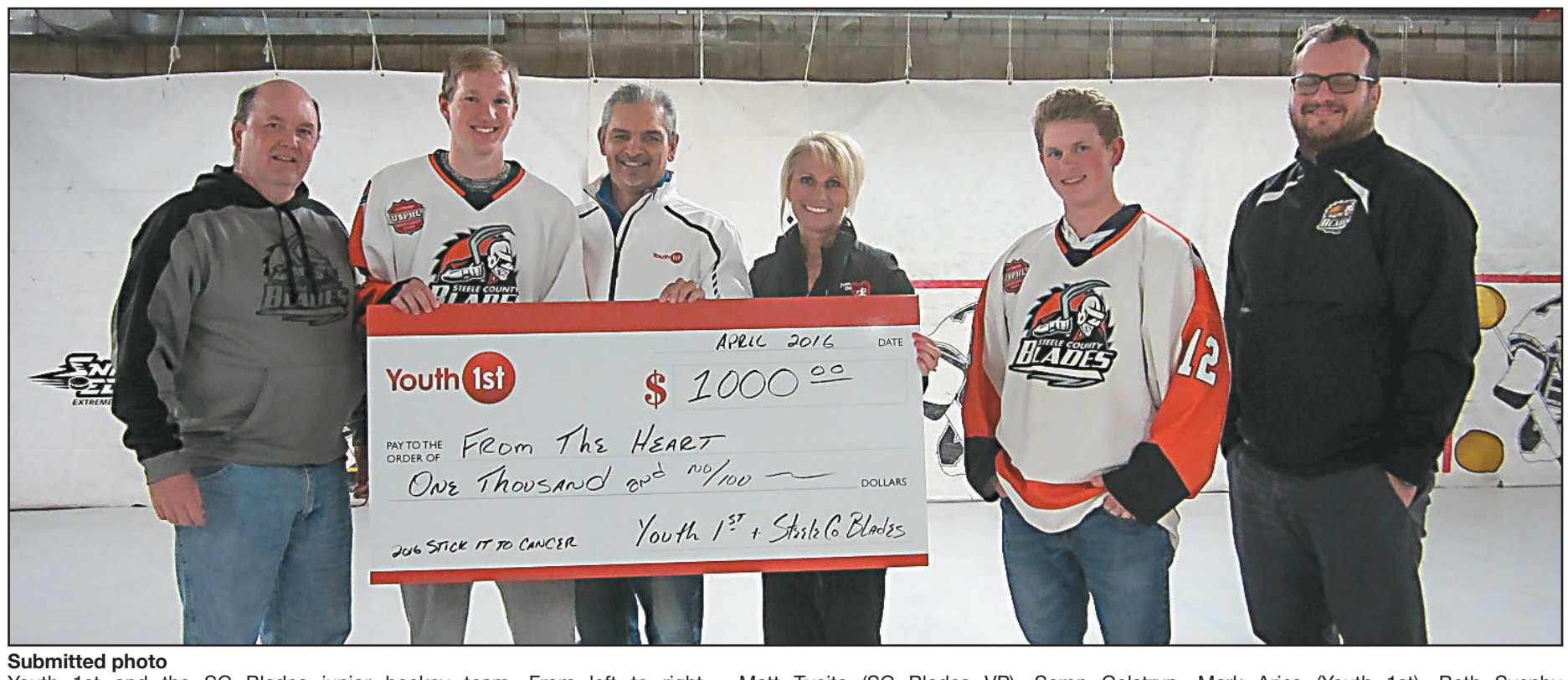
Proceeds from the tournament go to the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund and helps 400 underprivileged kids a year. Additionally, the money has been used for field improvements, including the Steele County Fairgrounds Softball Complex.

New to the tournament his year is the "Hometown" division pitting teams from Owatonna and Faribault Thursday night at the county fairgrounds.

Other features include the Legends of Softball Reunion Friday from 4 p.m.-12 a.m., D.J. music all weekend, full cash bar, fresh grilled pork patties, and a karaoke contest. A tournament staple is the world famous Corkburger with cheese including its special secret sauce.

For complete and updated tournament information go to facebook: "Corky's Early Bird Men's Softball Classic."

Local companies showing their generosity



Submitted photo
Youth 1st and the SC Blades junior hockey team. From left to right - Matt Tveite (SC Blades VP), Soren Colstrup, Mark Arjes (Youth 1st), Beth Svenby (From the Heart), Jacob Dub, and Nick Adamek (SC Blades head coach).

Youth 1st and the Steele County Blades hosted their annual "Stick It To Cancer" fundraiser earlier this year. Stick It To Cancer 2016 raised $4000 to benefit local families battling cancer through donation buckets, a silent auction, and a special Chuck-A-Puck promotion. Youth 1st and the Steele County Blades presented a check to From The Heart for $1000 as a donation from this year's event. From The Heart will hold its annual Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction at Owatonna Junior High School on Friday. The eighth annual FTH Run/Walk is Saturday. For more information, visit www.fromtheheartrun.com.

DONATIONS
Continued on Page 4B

Sports

Prep Report

BASEBALL

- Monday, April 25
Faribault BA 12, Blooming Prairie 2
- Tuesday, April 26
Owatonna 6, Red Wing 3
- Thursday, April 28
NRHEG at Faribault BA (ppd. to 5/17)
USC at Medford (ppd. to 5/21)
Owatonna at Rochester Mayo (ppd.)
- Friday, April 29
Mkto. Loyola 11, Blooming Prairie 1
NRHEG 2, USC 1
- Saturday, April 30
Lyle-Pacelli at Blooming Prairie (susp.)

- Monday, May 2
NRHEG at USC
Faribault BA at Medford
- Tuesday, May 3
Blooming Prairie at Triton
NRHEG at Zumbrota-Mazeppa
Northfield at Owatonna
- Thursday, May 5
Medford at Blooming Prairie
WEM at NRHEG
Owatonna at Faribault
- Friday, May 6
Hayfield at Blooming Prairie

- GOPHER CONF. STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, May 1 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

WEM	5-1	6-3
Faribault BA	4-1	5-4
Maple River	4-2	6-2
USC	4-2	5-3
Medford	2-4	4-6
NRHEG	2-4	3-6
Blooming Prairie	0-7	0-10

- BIG 9 CONF. STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, May 1 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Mankato West	5-0	7-0
Owatonna	5-1	6-2
Red Wing	5-2	7-3
Northfield	4-2	6-3
Rochester Mayo	4-2	5-4
Winona	3-3	4-5
Austin	3-4	5-4
Rochester JM	3-4	4-5
Rochester Century	3-5	4-5
Mankato East	2-4	4-5
Albert Lea	2-4	3-6
Faribault	0-8	0-11

SOFTBALL

- Monday, April 25
Faribault BA 3, Blooming Prairie 1
LCWM 13, NRHEG 7
Maple River 13, Medford 3
- Tuesday, April 26
Maple River 4, Blooming Prairie 0
Owatonna 18, Red Wing 1
- Thursday, April 28
NRHEG at Faribault BA (ppd. to 5/17)
Roch. Mayo at Owatonna (ppd. to 5/9)
- Friday, April 29
NRHEG 13, Alden-Conger 0

- Monday, May 2
Alden-Conger at Blooming Prairie
USC at NRHEG
Medford at Faribault BA
- Tuesday, May 3
Pine Island at Blooming Prairie
NRHEG at Glenville-Emmons
Owatonna at Northfield
- Thursday, May 5
Ken.-Wanamingo at Blooming Prairie
WEM at NRHEG
Lyle-Pacelli at Medford
Faribault at Owatonna

- GOPHER CONF. STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, May 1 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Faribault BA	4-1	9-2
NRHEG	3-1	6-2
Maple River	3-1	3-6
WEM	4-2	8-4
USC	1-2	3-8
Blooming Prairie	1-4	3-6
Medford	0-5	4-7

- BIG 9 CONF. STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, May 1 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Mankato West	5-0	9-0
Winona	4-1	9-1
Mankato East	4-1	8-2
Owatonna	4-2	6-4
Rochester Century	3-2	5-4
Northfield	4-3	6-4
Faribault	3-3	3-3
Rochester JM	3-3	5-5
Rochester Mayo	2-5	6-5
Austin	2-5	3-7
Red Wing	2-6	3-7
Albert Lea	1-6	3-7

LACROSSE

- BIG 9 CONF. BOYS STANDINGS
(As of Sunday, May 1 according to Minnesota-scores.net)

Northfield	4-0	5-1
Roch. JM/Lourdes	4-1	5-1
Rochester Century	3-2	3-3
Owatonna	2-3	3-4
Rochester Mayo	1-4	1-5
Mankato	0-4	0-5

- BIG 9 CONF. GIRLS STANDINGS

Owatonna	4-0	6-0
Rochester Mayo	3-0	3-1
Northfield	2-2	2-3
Roch. JM/Lourdes	1-2	1-3
Rochester Century	1-3	1-3
Mankato	0-4	0-4

BP, Medford track and field roundu



Staff photo by Michael Anderson

Blooming Prairie's Gabe Hagen competes in the shot put at Tuesday's BP Lions Coed Invitational.

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

One meet that all the athletes look forward to is the annual BP Lions Coed Invitational. The meet gives everyone the chance to forget the stress of regular competition and just compete in events for the fun of it. This year Grand Meadow/LeRoy Ostrander Southland and Mankato Loyola finished in a tie Tuesday, Apr. 26, on the BP track, with 132 points each.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton placed third with 82 points, the host Blossoms had 68 points, and Lyle–Pacelli and Triton trailed at 57 and 50 points, respectively. The meet defied a strong wind and chilly temps, but the competition heated up in the various events. The Blossoms earned two firsts and five seconds in the invitational.

Quentin Kubista led three pole vaulters to a first with a leap of 10"0". Jesse Schewe, Leah Schiefert, and Abby Braaten also competed. The 4 X 400 relay team earned the other first in a time of 4:05.36. Lauren Larkoski, Wyatt Grundmeier, Sam Wurst, and Elijah Baker ran the legs of that relay. Anthony Nelson ran the 100m dash in 12.36 for a second with Erik Nillson, Abby Braaten, and Anna Kittelson the other runners.

Nelson also took second in the 200 in 24.80. Matthew Pryor, Schiefert,, and Marissa Larson also ran. Nelson picked up his third second in the mixed long jump with a jump of 18'6", with Brian Jimenez and Larson also leaping in the event.

Alec Ille took second in the 1600 at 4:47.34 and led Evan Doerhoefer, Alison Pryor, and Olivia Johnson in that event. The sprint medley team of Laura Grant, Kubista, Larson, and Marten Morem got the other second in 1:59. 35. The triple jump team placed third, led by Kubista, as did the 4 x 800 relay of Schewe, Wurst, Doerhoefer, and Larkoski (10:32.89). Gabe Hagen finished fifth in the shot put at 32' 8.50", with Leah Inwards and Jack Matson also throwing. As several of the athletes exclaimed, "This was a fun meet, even if it was kind of cold and windy".



By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

Medford's Rachael Luebbe and Preston Hanson have proven to be consistent top performers all season and that continued last Tuesday, April 26 when the duo were two-time winners at the 6-team Tiger Invite in Medford.

The freshman Luebbe claimed the high jump title with a height of 4-feet, 10-inches and teamed with Payton Powers, Bailey Purrier, and Brooke Purrier to claim the 4x200 meter relay in a time of 1:58.67. She also placed fourth in the 200-meter dash (28.85) and fifth in the 100-meter dash (14.24).

She is amongst the best high jumpers in all of Class A. At the Tri-City United Invitational April 23, her jump of 5-feet, 3-inches is the highest jump recorded on raceberryjam.com in the state in Class A.

That mark qualified her to compete in the Hamline Elite Meet which took place Friday in St. Paul. The meet is a chance for many of the best track and field athletes in the state to square off at the site of the Minnesota State High School League state meet in June. Competing against 11 of the best high jumpers in both Class A and AA, Luebbe finished in a tie for eighth place at 5-feet.

Sophomore Jenna McCarthy gave Medford points in two events at the Tiger Invite as she grabbed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles (20.83) and fifth in the pole vault (7-feet, 6-inches). Junior Ashley Gilbertson took second in the discus (106-feet, 3-inches) and third in the shot put (33-feet, 4-inches).

Medford came in fourth in the final team standings with 58.83 points. Byron claimed the team title with 243.33 points.

On the boys' side, Hanson outdistanced the field in both the shot put and discus. He bested the competition by nearly eight and a half feet in the shot with a heave of 49-feet, 4-inches and claimed the discus with a toss of 123-feet.

Giving Medford second-place points was Alex Goetze in the 3200-meter run in a time of 11:20.24. Marcus DeLeon and Josh Schauer put in fourth place efforts in the 100-meter dash (12.43) and 800-meter run (2:27.19), respectively.

Byron won the boys' team title as well scoring 228 points. Medford totaled 53.33 points.



Staff photos by Joe Tischler

Top - Brett Johnson receives the baton from Jose Reyes in the 4x800 meter relay at the Tiger Invite. Bottom - Jenna McCarthy storms down the runway for her attempt in the pole vault.

TISCH DISH



JOE TISCHLER

Minnesota coaching history

When you think of longest-tenured Minnesota head coaches or managers among the four major professional teams, the two that instantly come to mind are Bud Grant and Tom Kelly.

You can't start a conversation of the history of the Vikings without mentioning Grant. In 18 seasons as head coach (1967-83, 85), he guided the Vikings through 12 playoff appearances, 11 NFL/NFC Central Division championships, and the franchise's only four Super Bowl appearances. His teams compiled a 158-96-5 record and he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1994.

Tom Kelly (T.K.) managed the Twins from 1986-2001 and led them to their only two World Series championships (1987 and 1991) since the franchise moved to Minnesota from Washington, D.C. in 1961.

Other Minnesota head coaches/managers with lengthy tenures include Ron Gardenhire with the Twins (2002-14), John Kundla with the Minneapolis Lakers (1948-59), Dennis Green with the Vikings (1992-2001), Flip Saunders with the Timberwolves (1996-2005, 2014-15), and Jacques Lemaire with the Wild (2000-09).

The easiest way for coaches to remain with one club or a long time is to win consistently. Gardenhire, Kundla, Green, Saunders, and Lemaire all led their respective teams to multiple playoff appearances and to the brink of competing in their respective championship games/series at least once before losing became more prevalent towards the end of their careers. Kundla won five BAA/NBA championships with the Lakers prior to the franchise's move to Los Angeles.

When you consider the current tenures from the four major Minnesota pro sports teams, losing has been around this state for some time. The Vikings hired Mike Zimmer to replace Leslie Frazier following a disappointing 2013 season. In his second season in 2015, Zimmer led the Vikings to an 11-5 record and the NFC North Division championship. Currently he is the longest-tenured coach in Minnesota.

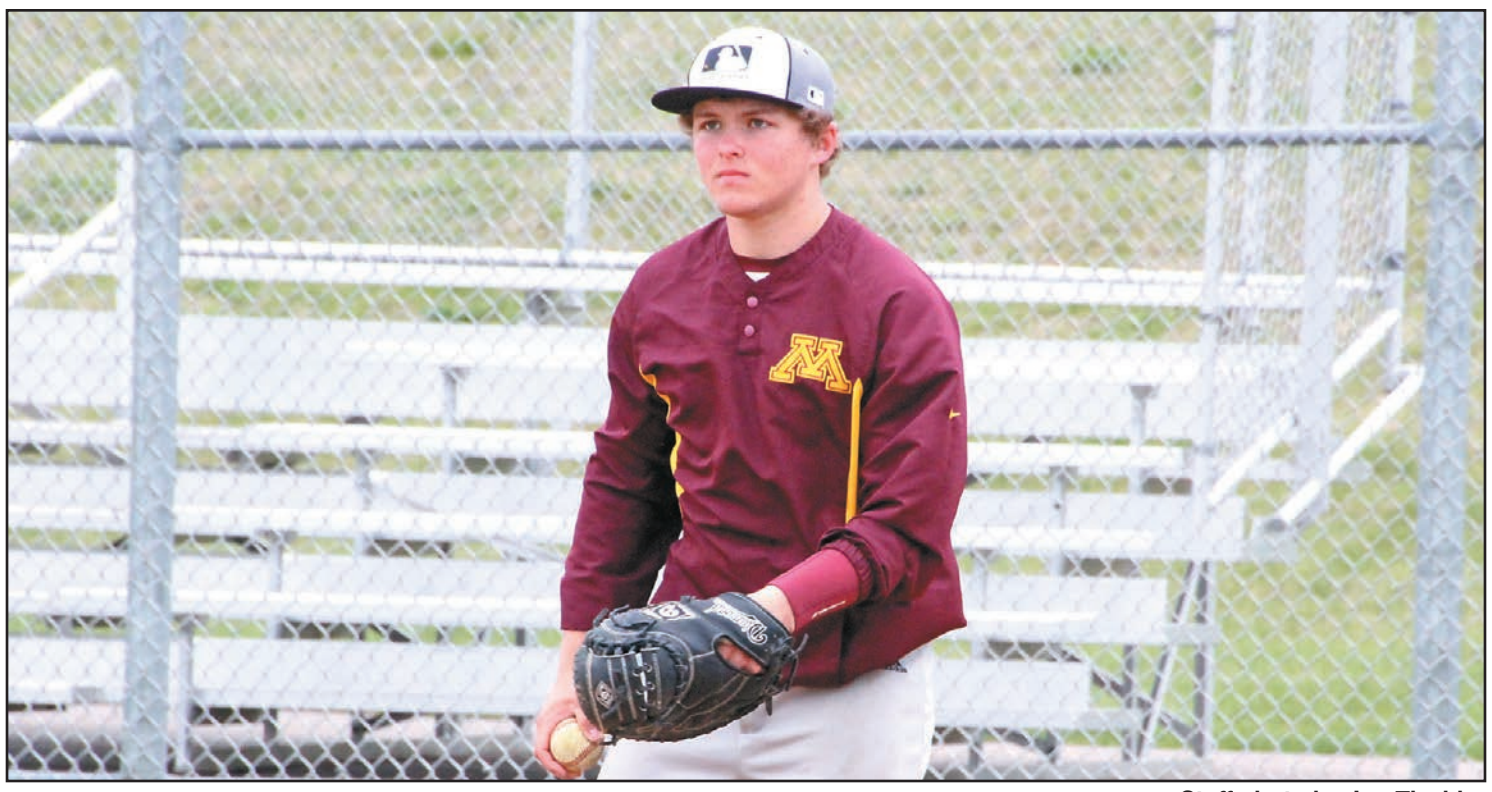
Paul Molitor is in his second season with the Twins after replacing Gardenhire; Tom Thibodeau was recently hired by the Timberwolves to replace Sam Mitchell, who was the interim coach this season following the passing of Saunders; and the Wild are currently searching for their next head coach after firing Mike Yeo during the season. John Torchetti, who filled in for Yeo for the remainder of the season, is said to be in consideration for the full-time job.

When the combined years of the four current head coaches/managers is less than five years with their respective teams, success in the sporting climate of Minnesota has been scarce. The current coaches though appear to have their teams on the rise. Zimmer has turned the Vikings into a contender. Despite a slow start this season, Molitor led the Twins to a surprising winning record in his first season in 2015. Thibodeau was the hot coaching candidate on the market after he coached the Chicago Bulls to playoff appearances in his five seasons there.

Whomever the Wild decide to be their next head coach, he will be expected to add to this new atmosphere of winning in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

Sports

On-field success despite off-field batt



Staff photo by Joe Tischler

Medford's Javis VonRuden, who was an all-conference performer last season, suffers from type 1 diabetes.

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

Despite being only a sophomore, Medford's Javis VonRuden is not afraid to let his voice be heard as he is considered one of the vocal leaders of the Tigers' baseball squad.

"It started last year when his brother (Nicholas) had his appendix removed," said head coach Jon Chappuis. "Javis stepped up in that role of becoming a vocal leader.

"The senior class is a great class; they're all leaders in their own way, but Javis is the guy that can keep us loose, yet he can be the guy that can get you going too."

VonRuden, who is off to a bit of a slow start in 2016, did a fine job of getting his team going last season as he hit over .400 and earned all-conference honors as a freshman. He displays discipline and maturity by getting on base rather than trying to hit the ball out of the park every time, by doing the little things like moving the runner over to third on a grounder to the right side, or by knowing how to calm his pitcher down from his catcher's position.

"He always jokes around with me," said senior pitcher Nicholas Meixner. "He knows how to loosen things up and keep everything going."

With the leadership and success he possesses, not only on the baseball diamond, but also on the football field and the wrestling mat, it is hard to imagine that he is going through a personal battle on a daily basis. VonRuden suffers from type 1 diabetes.

"I'm really impressed that he can manage himself physically and still be able to do just as good and better than a lot of people in football and baseball," said Meixner.

According to mayoclinic.org, type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin, a hormone needed to allow sugar (glucose) to enter cells to produce energy. This has no cure, but it can be managed with proper treatment.

The goal is to keep your blood sugar level as close to normal as possible by getting insulin into your system either with a pump or with injections. VonRuden chooses the latter.

"They have a pump you can use, but I didn't like that, so I take the shots," he said. "You just have to count your cards and stay on top of it."

VonRuden and the team takes proper precautions on game days in case he doesn't seem like himself.

"You can definitely tell if I'm high or low or something," said VonRuden. "I just don't feel like myself out there like I'm quieter, get more cramps, or feel tight. In the dugout there are caplets, fruit snacks, juice boxes, Gatorade and an emergency kit in case I pass out or whatever."

When Chappuis first was aware of VonRuden's condition, he was worried about how to manage. Now he doesn't really have to worry about it because VonRuden manages it so well and he will let people know if something doesn't feel right.

"I think it's got to be tough to manage during the baseball season," said Chappuis. "You start in the cool weather, but then it gets hotter towards the end of the season and you probably need a little bit more in your system and he manages it well. He didn't miss an inning last year, never missed a practice."

Despite his young age, VonRuden is proving to be a role model to younger students in the school who also have type 1 diabetes. He has a message to those who are worried about trying to obtain what they want to achieve.

"You're a kid just like everyone else. Just stay on top of it and you can be just as good as anyone."

Blooming, NRHEG diamond recap

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

Although the Blossom baseball team suffered its ninth straight loss against Bethlehem Academy on Monday, Apr. 25, freshman Seth Peterson hurled the first complete game for the locals in the contest. B.A. scored seven times in the last three innings to defeat BP 12-2.

Peterson fanned nine batters, but five errors behind him did the team in. He allowed 12 hits and walked four. Trailing 6-0 in the fifth, the Blossoms counted both runs in the bottom of the inning. Riley Olson stroked his second double of the game, Brad Staska drove Olson in with a base hit and would eventually score on a Ben Smith fielder's choice. That was all the Blossom scoring for the game.

Friday, the Blossoms gave up eight first inning runs in an 11-1 home loss to Mankato Loyola.

PANTHERS SOFTBALL

NRHEG Coach Wendy Schultz seemed satisfied after her Panther girls defeated Alden-Conger 13-0 in five innings Friday, Apr. 29. Baseball Coach Drew Paukert had to be the same when Jack Schultz unloaded a base hit in the bottom of the seventh inning to give his team a 2-1 win over USC.

The victory for the girls raised the overall season record to 6-2 and improved the conference mark to 2-1. NRHEG boys upped the season record to 3-6 and gave them their second conference win against five conference losses.

The Panther girls erased all doubts as to the winner of the non-conference tilt against the Knights when they struck for eight runs in the top of the first inning. They added a run in the second and closed out the game with two runs in each of the last two innings.

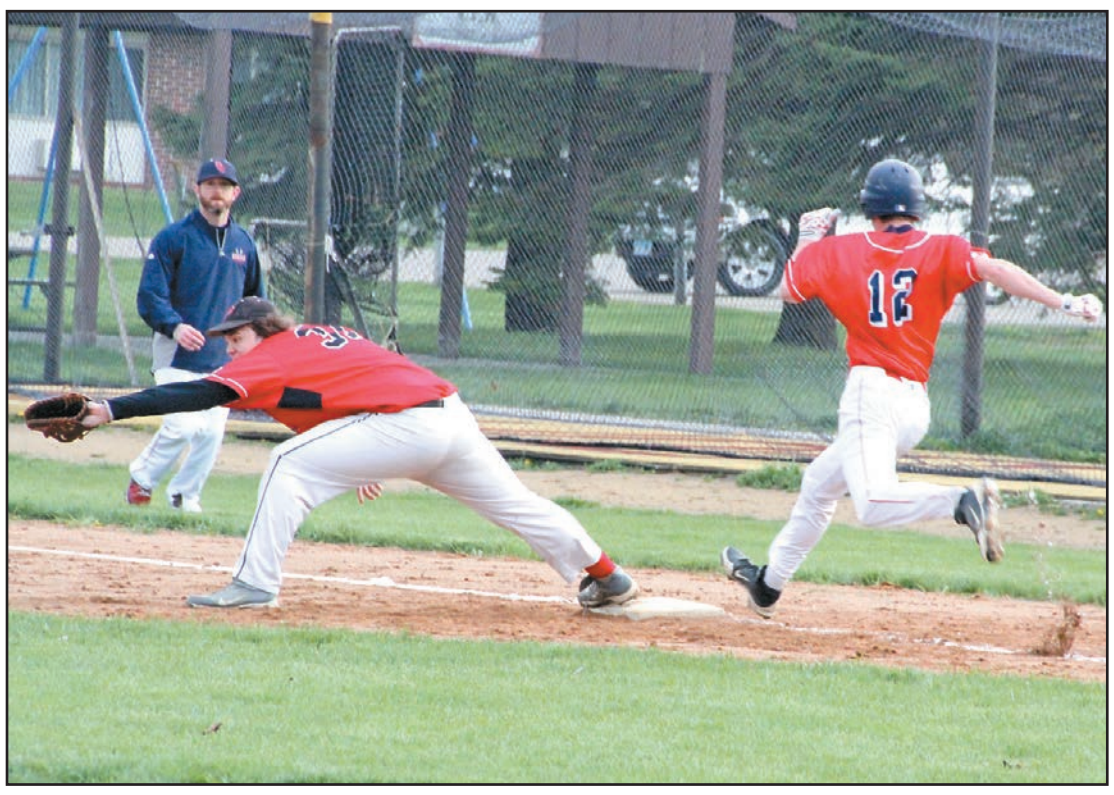
Anna Lundberg hurled a one-hitter to get the win, striking out five and walking just two batters. Gabby Muri had a 3-for-3 day, including a double and a triple, Paige Knudson and Kayley Camerer both had two RBI's. Knudson had two hits, including a double, and Rachel Collins also had two hits in the game. NRHEG had 13 runs, 14 hits, 0 errors; AC had 0 runs, 1 hit, and 10 errors.

BOYS EDGE REBELS

Just before the big hit from Schultz, Dempsey Tucker had stroked a double to score Palmer Peterson from first. Tucker also picked up the win on the mound, giving up the lone run in the top of the seventh to put the Panthers in a temporary hole.

The big hits in the bottom of the inning salvaged the victory for the locals. Tucker gave up the one run on two hits and two hits, and he walked just two batters, while striking out six.



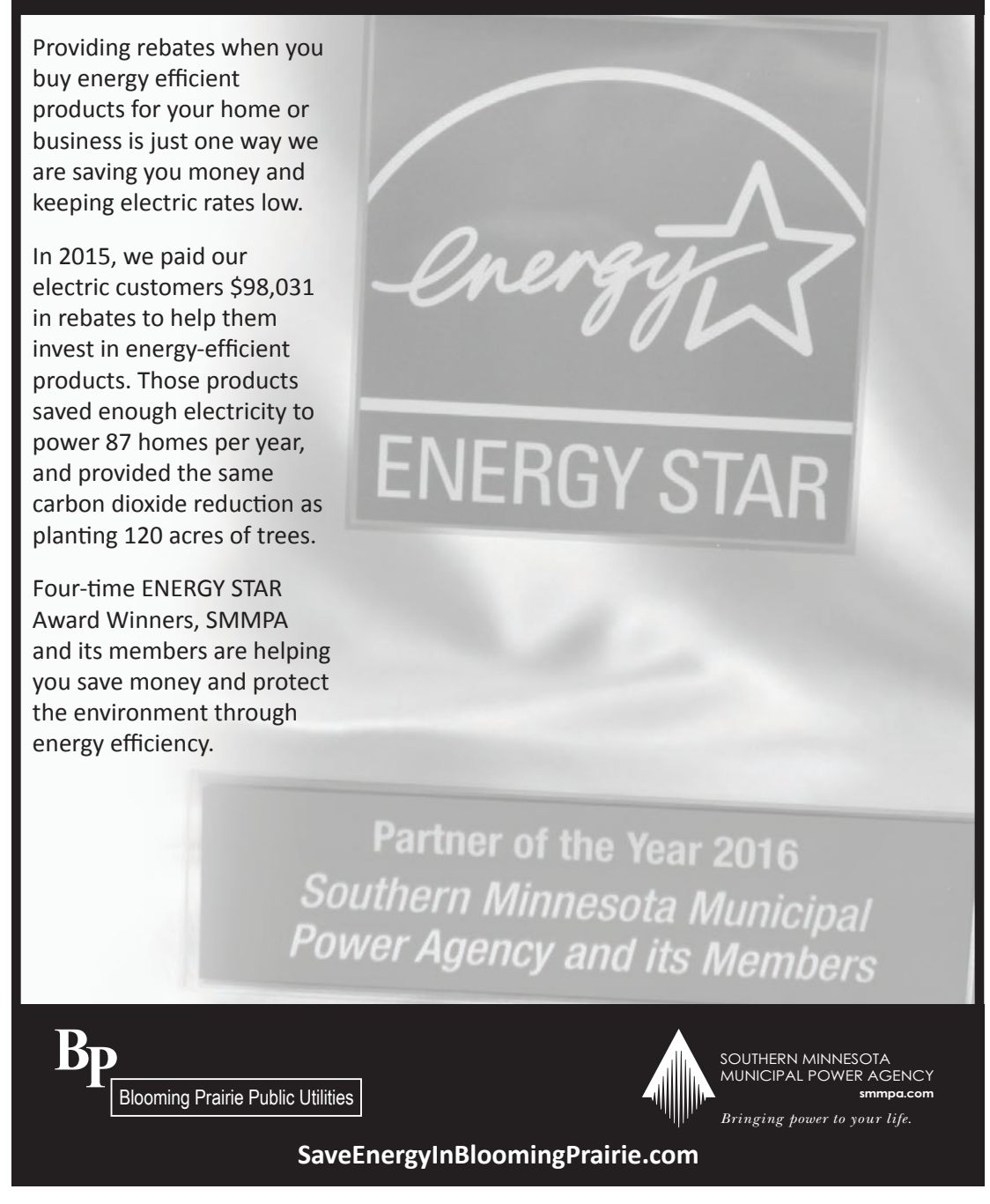


Staff photos by Joe Tischler

Left - NRHEG's Eli Lutjens gets USC's Jordan Kirkiede out by a foot in Friday's game in New Richland.

Right - BP's Brad Staska and Riley Olson discuss strategy in Friday's game against Mankato Loyola.





Sports

Prep Spotlight



Tommy Braaten
Jr., Boys Golf
Blooming Prairie

Braaten has been a vital member to the great start of the Blooming Prairie golf team this season. He has placed in the top five in all seven competitions so far.

"Tommy is a coaches dream! He absolutely loves golf and is extremely motivated and dedicated. Any success he has is well-deserved!" - Blooming Prairie head coach Cory Hendrickson



Kori Dodge
Jr., Softball
Medford

As the only upperclassmen on an extremely young team, Dodge is proving her leadership by leading the team in hitting and by directing plays from her catcher's position.

"Kori is a great leader to this young Medford team, both on the field and in the batter's box. Kori leads the team in hitting and RBI's with a .611 batting average. She is a vital component to this team." - Medford head coach Alyssa Strunk



Kayley Camerer
Jr., Softball
NRHEG

Camerer has been tearing it up at the plate for a team near the top of the Gopher Conference standings. She is batting .571 with three home runs, including one grand slam, and 23 RBIs.

"Kayley is a huge asset to our softball team. Good things usually happen when she steps up to the plate." - NRHEG head coach Wendy Schultz



Clay Leidall
Sr., Baseball
Owatonna

Photo courtesy of Oldenburg Photography

Leidall is off to as good of a start as you can have to a season on the mound. Through 16 innings, the senior has yet to yield an earned run, has struck out 17 batters, and given up only 11 hits while walking just two.

"Clay's contribution on the mound has helped us off to a great start. He is such a positive person on our team and a great leader. He is a smart ballplayer who has taken the tools that were given to him and used them better than most young men his age." - Owatonna assistant coach Brian Price

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

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3rd place - Pizza Cellar/Cue Company

4th place - Epic Contracting

5th place - J & H Liquor/Dairy Queen

6th place - DOE

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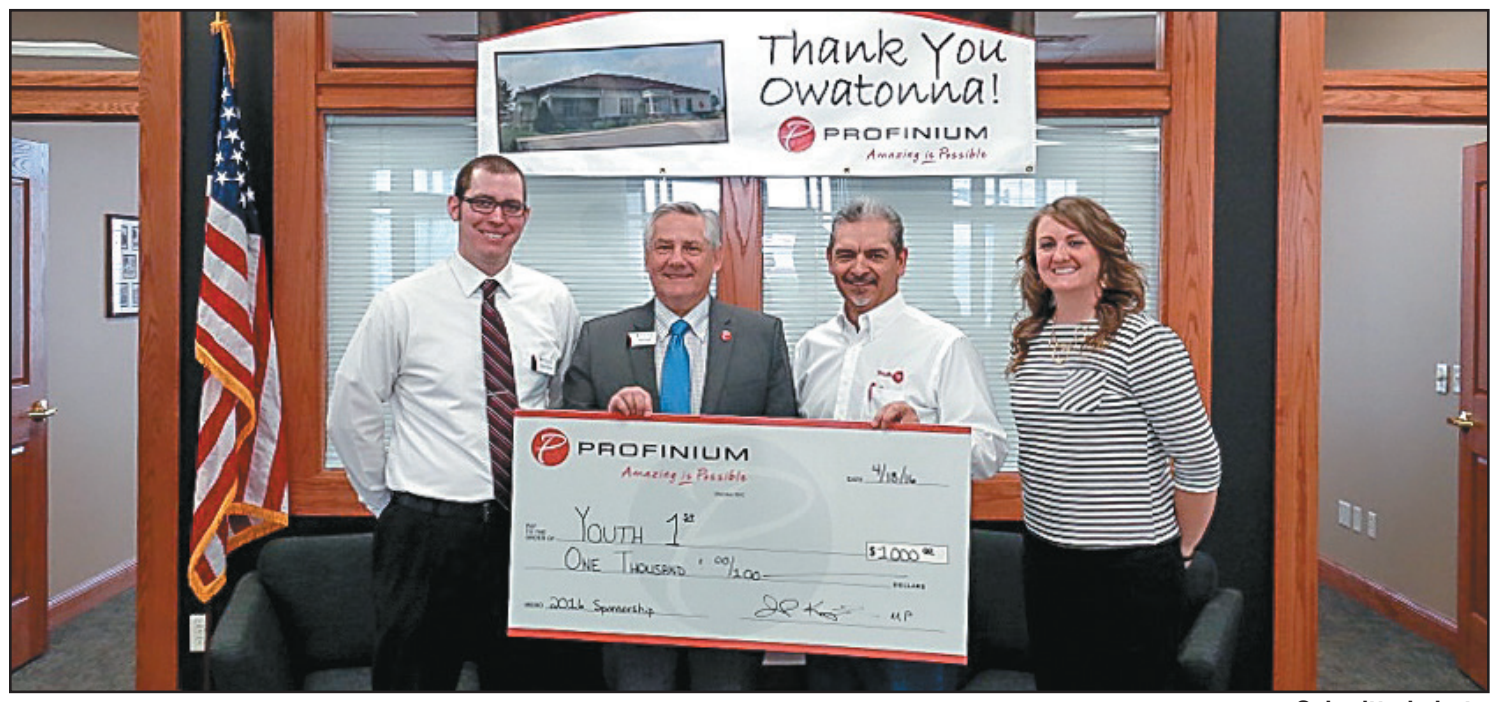
Continued from Page 1B



Submitted photo

Walser donates to Owatonna Baseball. From left to right - Ron McCann (Bullpen Club), John Peterson (Walser Chevrolet Buick Cadillac), and Mark Arjes (Youth 1st).

Walser Chevrolet Buick Cadillac in Owatonna recently donated youth baseball equipment in addition to $500 in funding to the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club. The equipment and funding is part of the national Chevy Youth Baseball program. This is the third consecutive year that Walser has partnered with Youth 1st and the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club to support youth baseball in Owatonna.



Submitted photo

Profinium, Inc. donates to Youth 1st. From left to right - Taylor Herman, Jerry Kopel, Mark Arjes, and Carrie Saxton.

Profinium, Inc., Owatonna office, is delighted to support our youth and positive values in our community with a $1,000 sponsorship donation to Youth 1st.

LOCAL SUCCESSES

Continued from Page 1B

Hansen, who has been the face of Frontier Communications for many years. He has been a tireless worker for his company and a willing advisor for anyone needing it. Who cares if one has to listen to his bad jokes, while getting his expertise on any subject?

It is probably a little unusual to acknowledge retirements, but both the Holmans and Hansen have contributed so much to our community that I thought it very appropriate to mention them enjoy the time off, but don't forget your adopted community. Best of luck to all.

Former BP football star John Rumpza completed his red-shirt season at Winona State University and recently participated in the spring football scrimmage. An interesting article in the Owatonna Press last week reported on his success in that game and related some of his experiences and feelings about his first year.

He will be competing next fall for the No.1 backup position on the team, behind senior Jack Nelson, the former Byron High School star and a three-year starter for Warriors. Best of luck to Rumpza next fall.

Finally, another high school prom is in the memory books and indications are that it went well for everyone involved. I remember when I was a member of the school administration that prom weekend proved one of the most stressful of the year, and I was always relieved to come to school on Monday morning and hear of no incidents harmful to students or property. All indications this year point to a successful celebration by well-behaved participants. Thanks much for that.

Let's close this week with a couple of wise sayings: 1. One wise saying common to Sioux Indians- The first thing people say after death is, "Why was I so serious?" 2. The word deadly is a good adjective to use with serious. I have never heard the phrase "deadly humorous". We'll talk again



Sports

Blossoms softball loses twice

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

Maple River handed the Blooming Prairie softball team its second straight defeat in a 4-0 victory on the Blossom field Tuesday, Apr. 26. That followed a 3-1 loss by Bethlehem Academy the day before at Faribault. The team record fell to 3-6 with just one conference victory.

Junior pitcher Elly Strunk did not allow an earned run yet took the loss in the circle. She gave up six hits and the Eagles scored single runs in four separate innings to get the victory. Maple River counted the first run in the first inning in a single, stolen base and an error in left field by BP; the second in the fourth on a single, passed ball and an infield error; the third in the fifth on a single, a stolen base, and another error; and the last run in the sixth when Strunk hit a batter, a single and a walk followed, and the run scored on a short fly ball.

Eagle pitcher Payton Berkner scattered six Blossom hits, three by Linnea Sunde and two from Emma Christianson. Maple River had 4 runs, 6 hits, 0 errors. BP had 0 runs, 6 hits, 4 errors, 2 walks, and 7 strikeouts.

Bethlehem Academy had only three hits in the game, but they parlayed those hits into three runs and a 3-1 conference victory over the Blossoms at Faribault Monday, Apr. 25. BP also had only three hits.

Both teams counted a run in the first inning. BP got a one out single from Emma Christianson o a double from McKenna Hein, and Bria Baldwin's sacrifice fly for the run. However that proved to be the only run for the Blossoms, as Hein got the other lone hit for BP in the top of the seventh.

"We didn't play too badly in this game" commented Coach Ali Mach. "We just couldn't get a hit when we needed it."

B.A. scored their one run in the first on a single, a walk, and two sacrifices. The winning runs came in the bottom of the fifth on two singles and the only two Blossom errors in the contest. That was enough to preserve the victory. Shelby Meyer pitched the win for the Cardinals, giving up just three hits, striking out 7 and walking none. Elly Strunk took the loss for BP, with just three hits allowed. She walked three and struck out four Cardinal batters.

BP, NRHEG golf in Triton

After finishing second at a 14-team invitational in Rochester, the BP boys tied for third at a Triton Invitational, which included ten teams, on Tuesday, Apr. 26. Cannon Falls and host school Triton tied for the team title at 340, with BP and Shattuck St. Mary's both shooting 344.

Matt Moska fired a scintillating 72 to claim medalist honors for Cannon Falls. BP'S Tommy Braaten and Jon Hatch claimed fifth and sixth with 81 and 82. For the Blossoms Ethan Strunk shot 88, Jake Ressler, 93, and Lucas Noble a 94.Brody Carlson finished the local scoring with a 99.

NRHEG finished with a team score of 435. Rob Jewett led NRHEG with a 99 and Nick Schultz shot 100. Atom Oquist had a 110, Ross Lenort a 117, and Meniah Van Sykel a132 for the other Panther scores.

Minnesota Twins Schedule

25 - H CLE Win 4-3	26 - H CLE Win 6-5	27 - H CLE Loss 5-6		29 - H DET Loss 2-9	30 - H DET Loss 1-4	1 - H DET Loss 5-6
2 - A HOU 7:10pm	3 - A HOU 7:10pm	4 - A HOU 7:10pm		6 - A CHW 7:10pm	7 - A CHW 6:10pm	8 - A CHW 1:10pm

Minnesota Vikings 2016 Draft Recap

Laquon Treadwell, WR, Mississippi
First round, 23rd overall
Leading receiver in Mississippi history with 202 receptions for 2,393 yards and 21 touchdowns in just three seasons.

Mackensie Alexander, CB, Clemson
Second round, 54th overall
First-team All-ACC and third-team All-America. 57 tackles and 12 pass break-ups. Didn't allow touchdown pass last season.

Willie Beavers, OT, Western Michigan
Fourth round, 121st overall
All-MAC player is a tenacious blocker in both pass protection and on the run. Started 40 straight games at left tackle.

Kentrell Brothers, LB, Missouri
Fifth round, 160th overall
The 2015 All-America pick led the nation in tackles per game (12.7) and added 12 tackles for loss, and two interceptions.

Moritz Boehringer, WR, Germany
Sixth round, 180th overall
First player ever drafted without having played college football. Played in German Football League. 1,232 yards and 13 TDs.

David Morgan, TE, Texas-San Antonio
Sixth round, 188th overall
As a senior, finished with 45 catches for 566 yards and five TDs. Is able to catch in traffic and has great blocking ability.

Stepehn Weatherly, DE, Vanderbilt
Seventh round, 227th overall
An effective blitzer who had 11.5 sacks in 36 college games. Able to play from a standing position and with hand down.

Jayron Kearse, S, Clemson
Seventh round, 244th overall
Nephew of former NFL star, Javon Kearse. Seven interceptions in three seasons. Totaled 87 tackles last season.

Owatonna week in review

By JOE TISCHLER
Sports Editor

It was an abbreviated schedule for the Owatonna spring teams, but every squad was able to at least get one event in.

Baseball

The baseball team rallied to get by Red Wing 6-3 Tuesday, April 26 in Owatonna. Blake Westphal and Noah Budach each grabbed a pair of hits with Westphal crossing the plate three times. Alec Holcomb got the win on the bump allowing three runs over six innings while striking out five.

Softball

The softball Huskies tallied 13 first-inning runs and cruised to an 18-1 road win at Red Wing last Tuesday. Tiana Blazek was the beneficiary of all the run support as she struck out seven over five innings to get the win. Run-producing doubles from Millie Wanous and Riley Sheehy, run scoring singles from Kayla Johnson and Ellie Rohman and a 2-run blast from Braelyn Johnson did most of the damage in the opening frame.

Lacrosse

The girls' lacrosse continued their dominant play with a pair of easy wins, 11-2 over Rochester Century and 13-3 over Rochester JM/Lourdes. Throughout their perfect 6-0 start, the Huskies have outscored their opponents by an astounding margin of 81-11.

The boys were 1-2 in their contests with their win coming at Mankato 13-5 last Tuesday. Saturday, they lost a tight home contest with Rochester JM/Lourdes 12-11. Landon Thurnau and Walker Nelson led with four and three goals, respectively.

Golf

The girls' golf team finished ninth in the 11-team Chaska Invitational Monday, April 25 with Shannon VanReeth carding the best Huskies score on the day with a 102. Thursday they hosted a triangular with Northfield and Winona. Maddie Zulk tied for the fourth-best round with a 96.

For the boys, Andrew Wall was runner-up in a Winona triangular with a 77. The day before, the Huskies came in ninth place in the 16-team Byron Invitational at Somerby. Wall topped his performance Tuesday by taking medalist honors by carding a 75.

Track and fiel

Owatonna had a hurdler and a relay compete at the Hamline Elite Meet Friday in St. Paul. Senior Jacob Johnson placed fifth in the 110-meter hurdles in a time of 15.27. The girls' 4x200 meter relay team of Steph Kretlow, Sydney Schultz, Karissa Gregory, and Margo Achterkirch clocked a time of 1:45.38, good for fourth place.

Bloomingjuniorhighroundup

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

In the last two weeks, the junior high softball team has played twelve games, coming away with a 9-3 record. The junior high 7th grade baseball team went 2-1, while the 8th grade is 1-2 after the run of games.

In the latest outing for the junior high girls, the team split a pair of games, losing on a one-hitter in the first game 12-4, but then rebounding for a 5-0 no-hit shutout in game two. The only hit in game one was a home run by Lila Carlson, but Riauna Bishop turned the tables in game two by facing the minimum 12 batters. Carlson and Halle Strunk each had 2 hits, as the Blossoms scored all five runs in the third inning.

Against Austin on Thursday, Apr. 21, the locals swept Austin 15-3 and 9-1. Eight hits and 15 walks earned the first game win, and Mackenzie Madsen had 3 hits in the game. Allison Krohnberg struck out11 batters. Julia Worke pitched the second game win, and Carlson led the 10-hit offense with three singles.

The team lost for just the second and third times on Apr. 21, when WEM defeated them twice 11-5 and 4-3 in extra innings. The first game loss was against the Bucs' JV team. Bishop pitched well, but the girls just couldn't quite make enough plays early in the game. Maren Forystek had 2 hits for the Blossoms. In the extra inning game. BP took a 3-2 lead in the final inning, but WEM tied the score and then won it in the extra frame. The well-played game had Krohnberg leading the local offense with two hits and two runs.

In a doubleheader at Austin 0n Thursday, Apr. 21, the 7th grade lost its game8-2. Alex Miller pitched well n his first start, but the defense let him down with numerous errors and a lot of trouble hitting a good curve ball from the Austin pitcher. The 8th grade, however, won its first game 2-1The defe4nseb made big plays, and the team played well overall.

The next day on Friday, the 7th grade had Chris Naatz pitch well in a 5-3 victory over USC. The 8th grade game was a good one, although BP lost 8-4. Tied at4 in the bottom of the fourth inning a couple of base-running mistakes cost the locals a run, and us cut the game away in the next inning.



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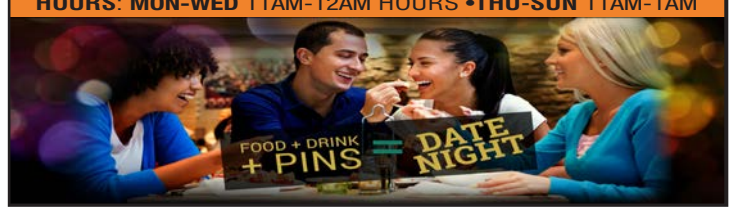
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There's trouble in the Legislature

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer



Democratic Minnesota Senator Vicki Jensen was in Blooming Prairie on Friday to do an exclusive interview with Howard Ledstrud of the Steele County Times.

Staff photo by Mark DeLap

There's trouble in the Minnesota Legislature in St. Paul and it appears to be spinning a web around transportation funding.

Will there be a transportation bill approved by the 2016 Legislature? That is a serious question, says District 24 Sen. Vicki Jensen, DFL-Owatonna.

In continuing her media tour around her district, Sen. Jensen told The Times that she is fearful that the Legislature could walk away from this short session without reaching an agreement on transportation or tax reform.

This legislative session adjourns on May 23, about three weeks away. The 2016 session is a short session, starting last March 8.

"I knew it would be really fast and the deadlines coming quickly," remarked Sen. Jensen, who is completing her fourth year of her first term. She is seeking reelection to a four-year term and is being challenged by Faribault Mayor John Jasinski, running as a Republican.

The transportation hangup spins around how the plan will be tuned. Both the DFL and Republicans are in agreement that $600 million has to be spent on roads and bridges but they disagree as to how it should be funded.

The DFL, in majority in the Senate and with a DFL governor, is fighting for a gas tax increase. The Republicans recognize a surplus and wish to fund transportation with general funds.

On the day Sen. Jensen visited The Times office, she was optimistic about legislative negotiations and jubilant that the $489 million finance bill was heard the day previous in conference committee.

Sen. Jensen said she supports a wholesale gas tax increase. She is also concerned that transportation spending may not be included in the bonding bill and this may force some legislators on the DFL side to pull their support for the bonding bill. These legislators support Southwest Light Rail Transit in the metropolitan area.

Many Minnesota counties have also passed taxes to fund transportation needs. Olmsted and Steele counties have passed taxing authority to sales tax and Waseca and Dodge counties have not. That means if someone in Dodge County is not paying a retail tax in Dodge County, they will pay it if they shop in Olmsted County.

Jensen said the Senate bonding bill was to be announced on Monday. She said the House has yet to list its projects. The Senate bonding bill is expected to be close to $1 billion. Gov. Mark Dayton's proposed bonding bill is at $1.4 billion. The governor's bill speaks mainly to preservation and maintenance, Sen. Jensen said.

"My worst fear is we will end up with nothing for transportation," Sen. Jensen said.

In regard to bonding, Sen. Jensen has been pushing for funding of the Greater Minnnesota infrastructure program the last two years. She pushed for $6 million last year and is asking for $20 million this year.

She is also requesting $3 million for the Medford Fire Hall and maintenance shop. Her further requests include $65,000 for a veterans memorial in Faribault. Sen. Jensen said she has heard considerable support for including water quality legislation in the bonding bill. "But we might not get a bonding bill," she said.

Sen. Jensen was very pleased that a group of sixth grade students from Owatonna lobbied for a plaque to be placed at the Capitol to honor Capitol construction workers. Their request was honored at $10,000 in the Senate finance bill.

Sen. Jensen also helped push a request for $200,000 for agriculture education class payments to teachers over the summer. "This is a time for hands-on work," she said.

In other legislative work, Sen. Jensen has worked hard to obtain tax credits for teachers who have student loan debts and credit for licensure in shortage areas. She has also pushed for grant money for para professionals to obtain teaching licenses.

Speaking about taxes, Sen. Jensen said there is a "big divide" between the DFL Senate and Republican House. The Senate majority is seeking $400 million in tax cuts and the Republicans in the House are looking for $2 billion in tax relief.

Sen. Jensen said it is also possible there may be no tax bill coming out of this legislative session.

Gridlock definitely exists, says Sen. Jensen. She said separate messages are being sent. "I think we are setting ourselves up for difficulty if we use general fund monies for transportation," Sen. Jensen said. If that were to happen, education, human services, agriculture and economic development would all suffer, Jensen said.

"There will be some long days coming," Sen. Jensen said. She pointed out that she supports the process of negotiating and says that is happening at the Legislature. "We don't always agree on the outcomes, however," she said.

Looking at her most satisfying accomplishments this session, Sen. Jensen said her legislation advocating railroad safety was passed in the finance bill. This means more railroad inspectors will be added. The legislation would also require more information to be provided to emergency city planners.

Sen. Jensen also carried legislation seeking more fraud investigation by the Department of Commerce. Some other legislation of Sen. Jensen included changing reserves for life insurance, upgrading Small Business Bureau IT (Information Technology) and $91 million for Adult Basic Education including $3.2 million for navigators.

Sen. Jensen said she carefully studies how various legislation affects rural areas. "I'm always looking out for rural areas," she said.

Asked about any chance for more construction to be approved on Highway 14, Sen. Jensen said it is possible if Corridors of Commerce monies are OK'd. The Highway 14 project has been removed from the 20-year transportation plan.

"I am very animated about my provisions in the finance bill. I was willing to wait until next year for that funding and voted for an amendment offered by the Republicans, to replace the $463 million in appropriations in the finance bill, with one-time transportation funding for cities with populations less than 5,000, the Corridors of Commerce program and local roads and bridges.

Peering into the upcoming campaign in her district, Sen. Jensen said she will emphasize three areas: 1) public safety; 2) putting people over politics and 3) strengthening our local communities with affordable housing and work force development

"I love what I'm doing and believe I work hard. I want to listen to my constituents and connect people. Some times, things can be changed without passing a law."

Karen Kasper is Midwest Region Farm Mom of the Year

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"I was just a city girl," says dairy farmer Karen Kasper of rural Owatonna.

She now has been honored as Midwest Farm Mom of the Year and is in the running for the national honor. She is one of five regional finalists who recently met in St. Louis, MO to meet up with other regional finalists for Farm Mom of the Year honors.

The program, America's Farmers Mom of the Year, is sponsored by the Monsanto Company of St. Louis.

Kasper's daughter Stephanie nominated her for the honor. Various criteria must be met in order to be a nominee. Karen scored well on all counts.

Karen was a disbeliever that she was a national candidate. She now is hoping that her surrounding farm community will support her in the national vote. The public can read about each finalist online and cast their vote.

Voting for Farm Mom of the Year continues through Wednesday, May 4. The regional finalist who has the most votes will be declared the winner.

You may cast your vote for Karen Kasper by visiting http://www.americasfarmers.com/community-outreach/farm-mom-nominees-2016/.

Karen has Facebook and Twitter accounts and has been monitored by her family and friends. "Our kids are encouraging people to vote every day," Karen said.

America's Farmers Mom of the Year honors farm moms who balance their life at home and on the farm, and moms who are also involved in their community and agriculture.

Her duties on the farm include caring for calves and heifers, managing the medications and supplies for the cattle, doing the book work and payroll for the farm and doing errands for parts or supplies when they are needed.

Karen and her husband, Pete, and their son, Tony, milk 400 cows on their farm located just south of Owatonna and west of the Monterey Ballroom.

The Kaspers' daughter Stephanie, and Tony's wife Betsy, and their son, Milo, 3 months, give a helping hand to the farming operation. The Kaspers also have a daughter, Caitlin Keck.

In a piece printed in the Dairy Star by Missy Mussman, Kasper said "It is a huge honor." Kasper continued: "There are some impressive farm moms out there. Every farm mom is important because they're like an arm and leg of the family and the farm."

Karen (Schultz) grew up in the city of Medford and met her husband over 36 years ago. The Kaspers will celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary this October.

Karen left a full-time job in 2003 to become a dairy farmer with her husband. She worked at Federated Insurance for 25 years, departing as a supervisor.

Karen's involvement in agriculture goes beyond the farm.

Go to Mussman's piece: "Kasper volunteers to help with activities for the Steele County American Dairy Association board. She is a district secretary for Associated Milk Producers Inc., serves on the board of directors for Midwest Dairy Association (MDA), is a member of the Dairy Farm Mom Network with MDA, hosts farm tours for school age kids and is a presenter for the Speak For Yourself program through Farm Bureau."

Karen has also been active in area 4-H and FFA programs.

An author in her own right, Karen has penned a children's book, "A Suitcase of Seven," about a litter of Jack Russell Terrier puppies born on the farm and their learning experiences and eventual adoptions.

Karen hopes to author more books with a series to be called the "Cow Boss Series," written on the different aspects of farm life.

Karen received $5,000 for being a regional winner and if she is fortunate to be the national winner, she will receive another $5,000 prize.



Submitted photo

Karen Kasper of rural Owatonna was recently named Midwest Farm Mom of the Year and a finalist for national Farm Mom of the Year, sponsored by America's Farmers, a subdivision of multi-national agribusiness Monsanto.



JEROME F. ZETAH

Twin thoughts on Giving and Receiving

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.

Blooming Prairie Living

Ellendale city council comes to decisions on street repairs

braces for upcoming highway 30 project

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

The April 28th Ellendale City Council meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Steele County building inspector made and appearance and solidified the fact that the council would greatly benefit by having all building plans checked by a professional building expert before allowing any new building projects. The issues came as a result of the council allowing the building of a garage that may have not been according to ordinance.

MnDot representatives Kjersti Anderson and Heather Lukes then took center stage as they began to reveal the project that would begin in December of 2019 and run through the end of 2020. Anderson said that the cost of the project would be $2.1 million.

Mike Dougherty, MnDot public affairs coordinator for District 6 sent additional information on the Monday after the Ellendale council meeting. He said, "The meeting where our design engineers Kjersti Anderson and Heather Lukes were at was part of the early process that MnDOT uses to get input from communities where the work will eventually occur. It helps the community leaders understand it and also gives them time to discuss anything they might like to propose including in the project. Sometimes a community will include additional work, if it's compatible with the schedule and scope of a highway project in a community.

"The project is a mill and overlay on Highway 30, which is what the public often might call a repaving project. Here is a link that shows that process: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/information/roads/mill-overlay.html

"It would begin in the summer of 2020 and run on Highway 30 ¼ mile west of Ellendale to 1 mile east of Steele County Road 45. The contract would be let in December 2019.

"Along with the mill and overlay, the project will also involve repair work on the bridge over I-35, including replacing the approach panels, bridge railings and deck overlay. Work in Ellendale will include some sidewalk replacement, storm sewer repair and replacement, and minor realignment of the intersection at East 8th Avenue.

"There will likely be more meetings and information sessions prior to this project occurring, but it's something for the public to know it's on the horizon, but still four years out."

This work on Highway 30 will involve the city of Ellendale replacing some of the water mains under the roadway and that brought a conundrum from the council as the price tag for the project could be quite high.

Ellendale Mayor, Mark Skroch said, "We still owe two mil on water treatment plant – $600k for replacing water main on highway 30 would be very difficult to justify and we already have higher water bills."

Local water bills would be higher. The council sat a bit stunned as MnDot was unveiling their project plans and informing the council that they would be billed for their portion of the construction.

Eric Haefner shared a letter from Shannon Sweeney voicing some concerns on the present loans. It was mentioned that it would cost the city $86K per year to pay off a 30 year bond at 20%. This promising news was that in 2021, a $1 million bond millage would drop off that the city is paying $22K per year on. Since the project is ending in 2020 for MnDot, the timing may be advantageous. The fact that this project will not start until 2019 gives the council some additional time to put some things together.

The council discussed the pressing need for repairs on 4th Avenue from 2nd to 5th streets. After Mayor Skroch's observation of city expenditures already around $500K per year, he voiced concern with the city not being able to pay for another bond payment on top of the annual expenses already in place.

Haefner mentioned that the city will have close to $50K in a fund left over from the last bond project. The city is investigating whether they may use that money to fix the problem road areas that are needing immediate attention.

The consensus of the board was to do the needed repairs on all three blocks. A motion was made, seconded and the motion was carried. 4th Avenue from 2nd street to 5th street will undergo repairs this coming summer.

The council also noted that they would need to gather all figures for the highway 30 project so the council could begin to adjust water rates.

Another item brought to the council was the request of the Methodist Church to purchase some of the city millings to add to their overflow parking lot. The church was going to want at least a 6" base of millings, or approximately 100 tons. The council was going to find out the cost and what they would set as a price for this in the event that the city had extra millings to sell.

Next up, Senex has city water but no city sewer and they are wanting to know if city needs to approve county guidelines for a 3000 gallon septic tank. County will mandate the guidelines. The council stated that as long as Senex is now within city limits, they most likely will have to hook up to city sewer.

Other lesser items discussed: There is a $4800 lease on the backhoe and the city is paying the first payment. The council then entertained a motion to be participants in the Highway 14 corridor EDA. The council agreed to join that effort. The meeting was then closed to conduct business on a personnel issue.

BOOK NOOK



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

Join the Friends of the Library

Would you like to be part of a group whose purpose is to help and support the Blooming Prairie Branch Library? Then consider joining the Friends of the Library group. Although you are welcome to join at any time during the year, May is membership month when the group tries harder to spread the word.

The Friends of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library is a non-profit 501c(3) organization formed to encourage the use of the library facilities and services, promote community awareness of library needs, and stimulate volunteerism at the library. As a member you get a chance to be involved with events such as introductions to local authors, and educational and entertaining programs. The group also helps raise funds for library needs including special programs, furniture, and learning readiness for children. The annual dues are very reasonable - $5 for adults, $3.50 for seniors age 65 or older, and $2.50 for a student.

If you would like to more about the Friends organization, you can contact the library at 507-583-7750 or by email at bpbl@selco.info. The public is always welcome to attend our monthly (September through May) meetings held on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Our May meeting will be on May 16th.

Thanks to all of you who support the library in so many ways. See you at the library

No generating gaps here

One of the most rare and otherwise proudest moments that can happen to any family is being a part of five generations. That accomplishment is not afforded to many families, but recently the Sally Anderson clan posed for a photo, as they celebrated the outstanding feat. Every member of the close-knit family will cherish the occasion.

Sally Anderson, the family matriarch, will turn 88 in October, while Kinsley Kartes, great granddaughter, was born last November and is the darling of the family. Sally is now a resident of Good Samaritan home in Albert Lea, but was a farm wife all of her married life. Sally's husband worked many years for a plant and gardening company.

Sally's daughter, Nelda Haberman, on the other hand has had a varied work career since her graduation from high school. Nelda worked at various jobs, but then worked for Mike White at his pharmacy for 8 years, and 7 years at Nick's Café, before now clerking at Vandals Supervalu store for the last two years.

When asked if she had any plans to retire, she replied. "I will work as long as I can or as long as they let me."

That is a typical response for this hardworking lady. When I asked her what the five-generation family accomplishment meant for her, she commented, "I guess it makes me proud, and I am honored to be fortunate enough for this to happen."

Grandma Kathy Kates, as the family calls her, also follows the mold of a hardworking individual. After her graduation from high school in 1989, Kathy went to work at the local Supervalu store in 1991 and began her career wrapping meat for the butcher. She is self- taught in meat cutting skills. She now works at the Smoke Shed in Geneva, continuing her work as a meat cutter.

When I asked what she remembered about Grandma Anderson, she recalled the many times they stayed overnight with Grandma.

"We played a lot of Yahtzee and ate a lot of popcorn and ice cream," she answered. Kathy's husband, Tony, sells seed corn and is in the ag business field. The couple's son, Anthony, works for SunOpta in Blooming Prairie.

As mentioned earlier, the last and latest member of the family, Kinsley, came into the world last November and is a healthy and already inquisitive little individual for Anthony and his wife, Lyndsey, and keeps them on their toes. Although a five-generation family is not unheard of, it doesn't make this Anderson family any less proud, and they feel fortunate that they could all be a part of such an event.



Submitted photo

The proud five generations in Southeaste n Minnesota.

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Owatonnna Living

Drug Court graduate: 'I didn't know how to be happy'

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

OWATONNA, MN -- With a Steele County courtroom as a stage, two graduates of the Steele Waseca Drug Court stood proudly as graduates.

Nicole (Nikki) Erdman, 31, of Owatonna, and Dylan Hondl, 22, of Owatonna, on Wednesday, April 27 became the first Steele County graduates of the Drug Court. Ashly Sylvester, 29, of Owatonna, was the first Waseca County graduate a week earlier.

"I didn't know how to be happy," said Erdman, fighting back tears, and being cuddled by her seven-year-old son Ryder. Erdman was speaking to an overflowing courtroom that contained other participants of the program.

The setting in a courtroom open to the public displayed lots of emotions including District Court Judge Joseph Bueltel's mini sermons to participants. The participants gave reports on their progress in the program and finally, the culmination of success with the graduation of Erdman and Hondl.

Both graduates wore school-like graduation robes. "I was hoping you were not going to be the judge today," one of the participants teased Erdman.

"We've seen you grow as a person, as a parent and as an employee," Judge Bueltel said in addressing Erdman. "Looking at you, I see a smile, a symbol of fitness and someone who has done the heavy lifting on his own," Judge Boelter said to Hondl.

"Oh my goodness, I never expected this much gratitude; here I am standing against my addiction," remarked Hondl. "Now I have goals and dreams that I never thought would be able to be realized," he continued.

The Waseca Steele Drug Court was initiated in July of 2014 and has been offered to high-risk, high-needs adults who live in Steele or Waseca counties and have committed a felony or misdemeanor offense related to chemical dependency with optimal results.

The program serves Steele and Waseca counties and is funded by an annual State of Minnesota grant of $70,000 and by a three-year Federal Bureau of Justice grant of $360,000 or $120,000 a year.

Drug courts are problem-solving courts that operate under a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help non-violent offenders find restoration in recovery and become productive citizens.

The first drug court in the United States took shape in Miami-Dade County, Florida in 1989 as a response to the growing crack cocaine problem plaguing the city. The court was designed for non-violent offenders to receive treatment.

Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator for the Steele Waseca Drug Court, said planning for the court began in 2013. Candidates cannot have a disqualifying crime of violence and they must reside in Steele or Waseca counties. Their addiction must be a contributor to their criminal behavior, said Grams.

Grams provided some very revealing statistics about the program.

SWDC has served a total of 64 participants, Grams said, with 18 who either withdrew and said sitting their time was easier, or were terminated, based on new criminal behavior or a rejection of services.

The program currently has 45 participants in the program and it is anticipated that 11 more graduations will be seen throughout the summer months.

"The program is rigorous and has four phases," Grams announced. The program is a minimum of 18 months. The Steele Waseca Drug Court requires court attendance ranging from weekly to monthly meetings, contingent on the respective phase.

Recovery hours include treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of cognitive skills programs that help to change thinking, which changes behaviors and recovery events ranging from nine hours weekly to three hours weekly, Grams explained.

Grams further explained that participants submit to minimum of twice weekly random testing.

All participants must complete treatment, make meaningful connections in the recovery community, must obtain a valid driver's license, GED/Diploma, employment, compliance with child support and make payment with fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

"These two are a testament that Drug Courts work, reduce crime, restore citizenship and save lives," said Grams.

Grams continued with reciting statistics saying that Waseca graduate Sylvester left the program with 584 days of sobriety. Combined total of sobriety for the Steele County group was 14,201 days or 38.93 years, Grams said.

Erdman started the program on Aug. 15, 2014 and completed 622 days. She had a mandatory commitment of 21 months on one file and 15 on another. She gained benefit of the drug court and was able to stay in the community with her son. She was able to celebrate her son's fifth, sixth and seventh birthdays. The court listed her assets as being driven, dedicated, having passion for outreach and being a responsible mother.

Admitting she was nervous before the graduation ceremony, Erdman said the court helped her connect with the sober community by going to countless meetings. "I love meetings," she volunteered.

"Nikki has struggled for so long with addiction and faced a lot of time in jail," said her mother Linda Erdman of Owatonna. "She made the choice and went to treatment to hold herself accountable; she wants to be a drug counselor or probation officer" Linda Erdman said.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

W Disrict Court Judge Joseph Bueltel proudly poses with the first two Steele County graduates of the Steele lWaseca Drug Court, Dylan Hondl and Nicole (Nikki) Erdman.

Hondl started the program on Aug. 20, 2014 and was in it for 617 days. Hondl had 42 months in prison suspended after he was charged with felony DWI and a gross misdemeanor DWI. He has logged 653 sobriety days.

Hondl's assets were identified as returning to his true interests, becoming a valuable employee, becoming a college student and focusing on fitness. His personal challenge is to speak with new groups, mentor and continue to give back to the recovery community, Grams said.

Judge Bueltel showed compassion for the participants who came before him before the graduation. He also became stark and told one participant that he could end up in "The Crowbar Hotel." He told others who advanced to another phase: "Keep up the good work."

Judge Bueltel presented graduates Erdman and Hondl with plaques and a special coin before allowing them to speak on their successes.

Chuck Eckman, representing U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, presented each graduate with a special letter of congratulations from Sen. Klobuchar.

The letter, addressed individually to both, said:

"As a graduate of this Drug Court, you are the beneficiary of a community that has been willing to wrap its arms around you to help you succeed. You have had the support of the judges, attorneys, law enforcement, treatment staff, court staff, probation officers and of course your family and friends.

"Above all, however, today's graduation is about what you have accomplished on a personal level. It is a great thing, truly worth celebrating, when people succeed in altering their future by defeating their addictions and reclaiming their lives. . ."

Many agency representatives were in attendance at the graduation in addition to county commissioners and law enforcement personnel.

County Attorney Dan McIntosh offered congratulations to Erdman and to Hondl, saying they both have taken different paths but both have shown drive and motivation. "This is very rewarding for us to see how well you have done," he said.

Sons of The American Legion host annual Spring Fling

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

A good community cause will be assisted when the Sons of The American Legion hosts its third annual Spring Fling on Saturday, May 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. This fundraiser for the group will offer roast pork sandwiches, coleslaw, beans, a beverage, and dessert. The great thing about this event is that it is a 'donation-only' affair.

The Sons of The American Legion are committed to giving back to the community and they work on projects supporting the veterans, and two additional projects that came up for discussion and action at the last meeting. The group has set a goal to raise $10,000 which will be used in the renovation of their kitchen facilities.

The attendees thought it essential that the Servicemen's club have a top notch kitchen facility to enable the staff to best serve the Community for special events such as weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, fund raisers, and many other occasions as the needs arise.

The organization will do this through a dedicated effort to set aside a portion of funds made at fundraisers, like the annual Spring Fling and the Oyster Stew-Chili Feed. The group is also planning additional fundraisers dedicated exclusively to the kitchen fund.

The other project currently underway is raising funds to complete the Blooming Prairie Veterans Memorial.

Solid progress is being made on that project, with contributions to date totaling over $28,000, which is 11.2 percent of their goal. 67 wall pavers have been purchased so far, and the commitment continues to grow. The two projects together will make significant contributions to the local club and to its veterans.



GRIEF RELIEF



Sometimes children don't seem to care. It's not uncommon for some children, especially those under age 5 to show little feeling when told of the death of a relative. And while it may seem a child should feel sad, the child may have little understanding of the meaning of death. The child may not have been particularly close to the deceased or realized that death is permanent. Allow and accept the child's honest expression and don't make the child feel guilty or pressured.

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Greetings from Owatonna Parks and Recreation!

Every summer, opportunities abound at your local parks! The Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department is especially proud of the high quality parks, trails, facilities, programs, and special events we have in our community. Whether you're looking to bring a child to a playground, participate in one of our many programs, attend a special event, have a picnic, take a walk, watch and/or play in one of our sport offerings, or just relax, we have the place for you!

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Corky Ebeling

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

Steele County DID YOU KNOW PARKS & RECREATION Enriching Life. Inspiring Community.

….You can tell the temperature by listening to a cricket chirping. Count the number of chirps in 14 seconds and add 40. Join us on July 15 for our Camp out in the Park as we enjoy a peaceful night listening to the crickets chirp.

RENTALS

PAVILIONS

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

Reservations are made at the Parks & Recreation office, and may be made up to a year in advance! Call for your 2016 rental today! Rates vary depending on pavilion size and length of rental. Both the fee and refundable damage deposit must be paid at the time of reservation.

SENIORPLACE:

Great for weddings, birthdays, retirements, meetings, showers, or family get-togethers! Rooms available: Multi-purpose room with kitchen (160 ppl), Board Room (50 ppl), East Meeting Room (35 ppl), West Meeting Room with Kitchen (50 ppl), South Meeting Room (12 ppl), 3rd Floor North Meeting room, and 2nd Floor North Meeting room. Call SeniorPlace for rates and availability at 507-444-4280.

PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

Park and Rec -507-444-4321
Tennis & Fitness Center 507-444-4290
River Springs Water Park 507-774-7370
Masters Bar and Grille 507-774-7130
Brooktree Clubhouse 507-444-2467
SeniorPlace 507-444-4280
Park and Rec Cancellations: 507-444-4321 ext.2
Facebook: Owatonna Parks and Recreation
Email Address
parkrec@ci.owatonna.mn.us
Fax 507-444-4299

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Registration opens May 3



SUMMER SWIMMING LESSONS
Check our website for all
class times, dates, and locations!

LITTLE ADVENTURERS - TADPOLES
For youth ages 3-5 who have not attended Kindergarten. Also, Big Adventures for those ages 6-8. Enjoy an adventurous week of games, songs, crafts and outdoor fun! Meet at the Large Pavilion at the entrance of the park. Tadpoles are those ready to have adventures away from Mom and Dad. An email will be sent out two weeks prior to your camp with more information on events and locations. Class size is limited to 12.
Cost: $42.00
Location: Mineral Springs Park
Program Dates & Times:

Session 1:	June 13-16 (rain date June 17)	Ages 3-5 9 a.m.-12 .pm.
Session 2:	June 27-30 (rain date July 1)	Ages 3-5 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session 3:	July 11-14 (rain date July 15)	Ages 3-5 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Session 4:	August 1-4 (rain date August 5)	Ages 3-5 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Session 5:	July 18-21 (rain date July 22)	Ages 6-8 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Session 6:	August 8-11 (rain date August 12)	Ages 6-8 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

LITTLE TYKES SPORTS CAMPS
Little Tykes provide a healthy and safe camp environment and centers around building a love for sports, age-appropriate skill instruction, teamwork and sportsmanship. Experienced staff provides just the right mix of instruction and encouragement. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. Tennis shoes and socks must be worn to class and snacks will be served. Children must be toilet trained to attend. Little Tykes Sports Camps are geared to ages 3-5 who have not attended Kindergarten.

LITTLE TYKES SPORTS - T-ball, Soccer, Kickball, Track events and other sports. Adult participation with their child is welcomed during evening sessions! Staff ratio is 1:4, class size limited to 12.
Cost: $20
Location: Mineral Springs Park- meet at the Pavilion
Program Dates, Times & Days:

Session 1	5:30-6:20 p.m.	Mon./Wed	ages 3 & 4	June * 6, 8, 13, 15 (* Dartt's Park Small Field)
Session 2	5:30-6:20 p.m.	Tues/Thurs	ages 3 & 4	June 7, 9, 14, 16
Session 3	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Mon/Wed	ages 4 & 5	June *6, 8, 13, 15 (* Dartt's Park Small Field)
Session 4	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Tues/Thurs	ages 4 & 5	June 7, 9, 14, 16
Session 5	5:30-6:20 p.m.	Mon/Wed	ages 3 & 4	June 20, 22, 27, 29
Session 6	5:30-6:20 p.m.	Tues/Thurs	ages 3 & 4	June 21, 23, 28, 30
Session 7	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Mon/Wed	ages 4 & 5	June 20, 22, 27, 29
Session 8	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Tues/Thurs	ages 3 & 4	June 21, 23, 28, 30
Session 9	5:30-6:20 p.m.	Mon-Thurs	ages 3 & 4	July 25, 26, 27, 28
Session 10	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Mon-Thurs	ages 4 & 5	July 25, 26, 27, 28

OLYMPIC SPORT CAMP – Come join us for the 2016 park and Recreation Olympic Camp!! We welcome all youth ages 3-5 who have not entered Kindergarten and are looking for more depth in-depth introduction to Olympic sports, games, crafts and activities. New this year session 2 are those ages 6-8. We will meet our Olympians each day at the large pavilion "Olympic Stadium." Tennis shoes and socks must be worn daily. Make-up days will be Fridays of the same week. Class size is limited to 12. An email will be sent out 2 weeks prior to camp with more detailed information.
Cost: $42.
Location: Mineral Springs Park – meet at the Pavilion
Program Dates, Times & Days:

Session 1:	June 20-23	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session 2:	July 11-14	9 a.m.-12 p.m. (ages 6-8)
Session 3:	July 18-21	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session 4:	July 25-28	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session 5:	August 1-4	9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Session 6;	August 8-11	1 p.m.-.4 p.m.

Track and Field
A program for boys and girls who have completed 2nd – 8th grade. Track promotes physical fitness, develops self-esteem and provides low-key, fun competitive meets. All participants will receive a t-shirt
Cost: $35
Location: OHS Track
Dates: June 13, 14, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23 (rain dates June 27, 28)
Time: 1-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Junior Golf Program
A program designed for golfers ages 10-18. The Junior Golf Program will be held at Havana Hills.
Cost: $35
Location: Havana Hills
Date: July 11, 18, 25, and August 1 and/or July 12, 19, 26, and August 2
Times: 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Mondays and/or Tuesdays

BROOKTREE GOLF

BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE

June, July and August Hours: 6:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

2016 Season Passes: All rates INCLUDE tax, surcharge and BGA fees where applicable
Adult Single: $553.97 full season, age 26-54 as of 3/15/16
Senior Single: $513.05 full season, age 55 or older as of 3/15/16
Senior Couple: $707.59 full season, two seniors residing in the same household, both ages 55 or older as of 3/15/16
Family Combo: $739.66 full season, immediate family members living in the same household. Maximum of 2 adults. Children under age 18 as of 3/15/16
Young Adult: $377.02 full season, age 18-25 as of 3/15/16
Junior: $211.12 full season, ages 10-17 as of 3/15/16

2016 Special Events:
Wine, Women & Golf- Tuesday, June 7 (National Women's Golf Day!)
Register for either 3 or 4 p.m. For the Very beginner or non-golfer. Golf three holes with no pressure and no scores, just a little introduction to rules & etiquette. A threesome of beginners will be paired with a female golfer. No lessons, just fun! Then, enjoy a glass of wine after your round. $10 fee includes golf, a glass of wine, and lots of fun!

Daddy and Me or Mommy and Me- Wednesday, July 13-4:30-5:30 p.m. or 5-6 p.m.
For the VERY beginner, ages 3-6 and a parent. When hitting around the yard is getting boring and your child wants to play "real" golf. We'll golf three holes, bring your own plastic or junior sized clubs. Slight intro to etiquette, no scores, and no pressure. $10 fee includes golf and 2 hot dogs and chips when you're done!
Junior Scramble- Sunday, July 17 -9 a.m. Shotgun Start-2 person scramble
Register with a partner, we'll play a variety of best shot-type holes. $25 per person entry fee includes 9-holes of golf, hot dog, chip & bottle of pop, and prizes. Brooktree junior member rate is $15 per person. Age groups: 10-12 or 13-15. Register with a partner.
Deadline: July 8.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

PARTY IN THE PARK: Saturday, May 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m./Manthey Park
May 21 is National Kids to Park Day and we're celebrating with a PARTY in the PARK! Enjoy FREE activities in Manthey Park=take your turn in the bounce house and do a craft in the pavilion. While you're there fill up for lunch with the Godfather's Pizza truck and Kona Ice!

RIVER SPRINGS DUCKY DASH: Sunday, June 26
Join us at River Springs Water Park for our 2nd Annual River Springs Ducky Dash! This race is being held for the benefit of the Owatonna Parks & Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund.
The rubber ducks will be launched down the water slide at River Springs Water Park. Prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of the race and awarded to the top finishers!
Packages: 30 ducks for $100, 13 ducks for $50, 6 ducks for $25, or 1 duck for $5



OWATONNA'S 6TH ANNUAL WEEKEND OUT – July 15, 16, & 17
Fridays Activities: (July 15)
Friday Night Camp Out & Movie in the Park
Join us at Brown Park for an exciting family event and a night under the stars as we kick off our 6th Annual Owatonna Weekend Out! We are hosting our first overnight Camp Out in the Park along with a movie. Camping set-up will begin at 5 p.m. followed by a variety of activities for the whole family. Bonfire's, s'mores, yard games, bounce house and crafts just to name a few! Anyone interested in camping, must pre-register through the Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department (camping is FREE). Each person/family registered will receive a designated camp spot (pop-up tents and small grills only). Papa Murphy's will have pizza by the slice available to purchase Friday night. Breakfast will be served in the pavilion on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m., all campers must be out of the park by 9 a.m.
For those of you just interested in the movie, don't forget to bring your blankets and lawn chairs as we enjoy the movie. Movie will begin at sunset (between 8:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.). Movie is free and concessions are available purchase from Kona Ice and Papa Murphy's! Rain date for the movie is July 16. (Check our website for all movie titles).



Saturday's activities include: (July 16)
Kaplan Woods Mountain Bike Trail Riding: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Try something new as we partner with Straight River Sports for a Fat Tire Bike Demo on the Kaplan Woods Mountain Bike Trail. Straight River Sports will have a few Fat Tire bikes on hand, but you are welcome to bring your own mountain bike and try out the trail. FREE activity!
Morehouse Bike/Skate Park Event: 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
Join us for a special afternoon down at the Morehouse bike/skate park. We are hoping to have a surprise appearance from some MN amateurs. Please watch for more information to come! Free
Family Concert at Central Park: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
Stop on down to Central Park as we enjoy some great music. Band: TBD FREE

Sunday's Events: (July 17)
Brooktree Golf Course
Junior Scramble – 9 a.m. Shotgun Start – 2-person scramble. Register with a partner, we'll play a variety of best shot-type holes. $25 per person entry fee includes 9-holes of golf, hot dog, chips & bottle of pop, and prizes. Brooktree junior member rate is $15 per person. Age groups: 10-12 or 13-15. Register with a partner – deadline is July 8.

Brooktree Golf Course
Caddyshack Tournament – 1 p.m. Shotgun Start – 3-person scramble. We'll play three different team holes. $30 per person. Brooktree member rate is $20 per person. This tournament is TOTALLY for FUN! It's recommended participants be age 21+. Let's celebrate one of the funniest movies in golf…we'll have costume contests, find the gopher, a mandatory "rain delay" and more! So get out your best Carl Spackler, Danny Noonan or Al Czervik…and let's have some fun! Entry fee includes 9-holes of golf, rain delay, golf & costume prizes, and h'ors devours following the tournament. Cart fee is $5 per person. Deadline to register is July 8.



MOVIES IN THE PARK
June 17 (rain date June 18): at Central Park Check our website for all movie titles
July 15 (rain date July 16): at Brown Park
August 12 (rain date August 13): at Central Park

STEELE COUNTY SAFETY CAMP: June 9-10/Lake Kohlmier and Fairgrounds
Kids entering 4th grade learn about fishing safety, boat and canoe safety, camping and hiking, bike safety, firearms safety, first aid, electrical safety, fire safety, outdoor equipment safety and much more. Fee includes lunches, snacks, beverages, and safety items to take home!
Cost: $20
Time: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. each day

WOOFSTOCK: Friday, August 26 /National Dog Day
Peace, Paws, and Music! Join us at the dog park for music, drinks, and fun! More information to come!
Location: Lake Chase Dog Park



WEST HILLS

TENNIS AND FITNESS CENTER
Day Pass:
Monday-Friday: $4
Saturday & Sunday: $5
Ages 2 & Under: FREE (with paid adult)

Personal Trainer
If you are in need of a Personal Trainer the Tennis & Fitness Center has just the person for you! Our facility trainer, Aaron Halla, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education, Non-Teaching (Exercise Science), as ACE Trainer Certification and over 5 years' experience as a fitness trainer. Aaron is an Owatonna native and an OHS alumni. He has trained various levels of fitness from athletes, to beginners, to those with special needs. He has a flexible schedule, affordable training packages and will work with you to meet all of your fitness and health needs.
May Special: Water Aerobic Drawing-Purchase a Water Aerobics session and get entered into a drawing for a FREE future month session of equal or lesser value
Water Aerobics (fee includes tax)
May Classes
Monday, Wednesday, Friday $30 per month
Choose one: 7:30-8:25 a.m. or 8:30-9:25 a.m. or 9:30-10:25 a.m.
Tuesday, Thursday $20 per month
Choose one: 6:15-7:10 a.m. or 8-8:55 a.m. or 4-4:55 p.m.

Tuesday	10:15-11:15 a.m.	$10 per month
Thursday	10:15-11:15 a.m.	$10 per month
Monday, Wednesday	4-4:55 p.m.	$20 per month
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	5-5:55 p.m.	$30 per month
Saturday	8-8:55 a.m.	$10 per month

RIVER SPRINGS WATER PARK:

OPENING JUNE 8!
Daily Admission: June 8-August 14
*$7/person
*$5 under 48" tall
*Kids under two, free with paid adult
*$4.50 Twilight Fee (5 p.m.-close)
*$2.50 Last Hour Special (7 p.m.-close)
Individual Season Pass: (ALL fees include tax)
If purchased prior to June 1st-
*48" and taller: $123.48
*Under 48" tall: $91.27

Weekly Specials:
Monday: Grandparent Day-Grandparents get into River Springs for free with paid grandchild (at normal rate)
Tuesday: Twilight Day-$4.50 twilight admission rate
Wednesday: Family Night- $4.50 per individual or $13.50 per family up to 6 people ($2.25 charge for each additional person over 6)
June 8-August 10 5 p.m. -close
August 17: 4 p.m. -Close
Thursday: Facebook Special- "Like" River Springs on Facebook. There will be a posting with a special each Thursday
School's Out Special: Thursday, June 9- Admission into the Waterpark is $4 all day for everyone!

Birthday Party and Group Reservation packages are available



Steele County DID YOU KNOW PARKS & RECREATION Enriching Life. Inspiring Community.

…Drowning ranks 5th among the leading causes of unintentional deaths in the United States! The Owatonna Parks and Recreation Department offers summer swimming lessons at three different locations! Registration begins May 3 for all summer activities!



WAYS TO REGISTER

- **On-Line: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/parksrecreation/online-registration**
- **Walk-In Registration: at the Park and Recreation office at 540 West Hills Circle. Office hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Friday**
- **Phone: 507-444-4321**

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Medford Living

Mayor Lois presents: Junior Achievement

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

wwTo 24 eager fourth-grade students, a visit from the town mayor is big deal. For Medford Mayer Lois Nelson, having the chance to teach those students is just as big an ordeal.

When asked by one fourth-grader what her favorite part of being mayor was, Nelson replied, "Having the chance to speak to fourth graders."

Mayor Nelson was asked to speak by fourth-grade elementary teacher, Becky Peterson. The topic would be "junior achievement." It was to be a once a week, five week training session where the students could be up close and personal with a successful business woman and politician in their own community.

The teaching included business, economics, strategies, planning and how it all relates to Medford and to each student personally. Most of those things are subjects that older students describe as a "yawn fest," but Mayor Nelson has an easy teaching style that brings the practical into focus for each student.

Terms that were being thrown out to the kids, to name a few, included risk, reward, human resources, capital expenditures. As she asked for definitions, hands went up all over that room and I felt as if I were in the presence of something very magical.

Mayor Nelson wasn't just giving a presentation, she was getting through to these kids. She busted things down to a level they understood and it was a secure feeling knowing that this class of 2024 wasn't just taking up space, but putting forth their minds to cultivation.

There was a PowerPoint presentation explaining Medford's growth and pretty much the state of things that surrounded them. There were pictures of Medford sites and all the kids recognized those places – including what looked like a pile of brush along a highway. As they all shouted out, "It's the place where the new Casey's is," I was again, very impressed.

Mayor Nelson commented about the day, "I was asked lots of 'mayor' questions today by Becky Peterson's 4th grade class at Medford Elementary. This was the last day with them.

"We have been meeting for five weeks with Junior Achievement curriculum around the topic of entrepreneurs and business in Medford and our region. Some astute 4th grader recognized my name within minutes of our first class and had to ask if I was the same Lois that was her mayor. Worded like that, what could I say?

"That distraction had them all raising their hands and we got way off topic of a lemonade stand to bigger businesses in our area. We made a deal that we would work at the Junior Achievement subject and then, if they did well on their standards testing, I would come back for another hour as mayor. Today was the day."

The hour-long session ended with a Q & A with the mayor. Some of the questions were humorous, some very intuitive and some that completely stumped the adults in the room. I believe it was one little girl named "Lili" who asked, "What is the biggest business in the United States."

Another little girl asked, "Have you ever thought of quitting?" to which Mayor Nelson paused and perhaps a lesser mayor would have said, "Many times," but she replied, "Sometimes the job keeps me up at night and I pace around the kitchen table a few times, but, no, I have never considered quitting.

"There were questions about "Where is my office?"; "How much do I make?"; "Do I have time for my family?'...all thought provoking. These 4th graders and all other little people are why many of us do what we do everyday. I'm just glad to have had a special hour with them."

I think my favorite question of the day came from a young man in the back of the room who asked, "Were you complexed when you became mayor?" Were you complexed? I don't think I even learned that word until… this afternoon when I had to look it up.

If you ever get a chance to sit as a visitor in a classroom, you really need to put it on your bucket list. It will give you a fresh outlook on the generation that we are passing the torch to.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Lily George and Omar Guerrero watch with amazement as Mayor Lois Nelson shares a copy of her column which appears monthly in the Steele County Times.



Staff photo by Ahren Backman

The graduation commencement served as a celebration for the completion of the training.

Plans for new county calendar revealed during leadership event

By AHREN BACKMAN
Staff Writer

"It is going to be able to help people plan their special events," said Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele of the recently announced community calendar. The calendar will be constantly updated with events and will be available later this year.

The county calendar was just one of several plans for community improvement Thiele and around 20 other area leaders worked on while participating in the Blanden Leadership Training.

The training was put on by the Blanden Foundation, based in Grand Rapids, and consisted of workshops across the state. Graduates put in a estimated 75 hours of work to complete the training.

The local leaders that the took part in the training were from all across Steele County including: Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, and Medford.

Graduate Vic Klimoski said the training was all about, "Identifying the knowledge, skills and abilities local community leaders need to develop and sustain healthy communities."

Klimoski went on to say, the training has been around for about 30 years and has served 4,500 participants from over 400 communities.

The commencement took place at the recently remodeled Steele County Historical Center on April 26th, around 4:30, and lasted about an hour. Graduates and their families were treated to a large spread of food and drinks.

For those interested community involvement, Thiele said contacting local officials is a great starting place. Thiele also said, "Volunteering is great for any community."

Student of the Week



CARALEE KOOPAL is this week's NRHEG Student of the Week. She is in Mrs. Mangskau's 1st grade class and is the daughter of Jason and Lacy Koopal.

She lives in Hartland. Caralee loves art, playing outside, and riding her bike. Caralee is a hard worker who loves to keep things neat and tidy in the classroom.

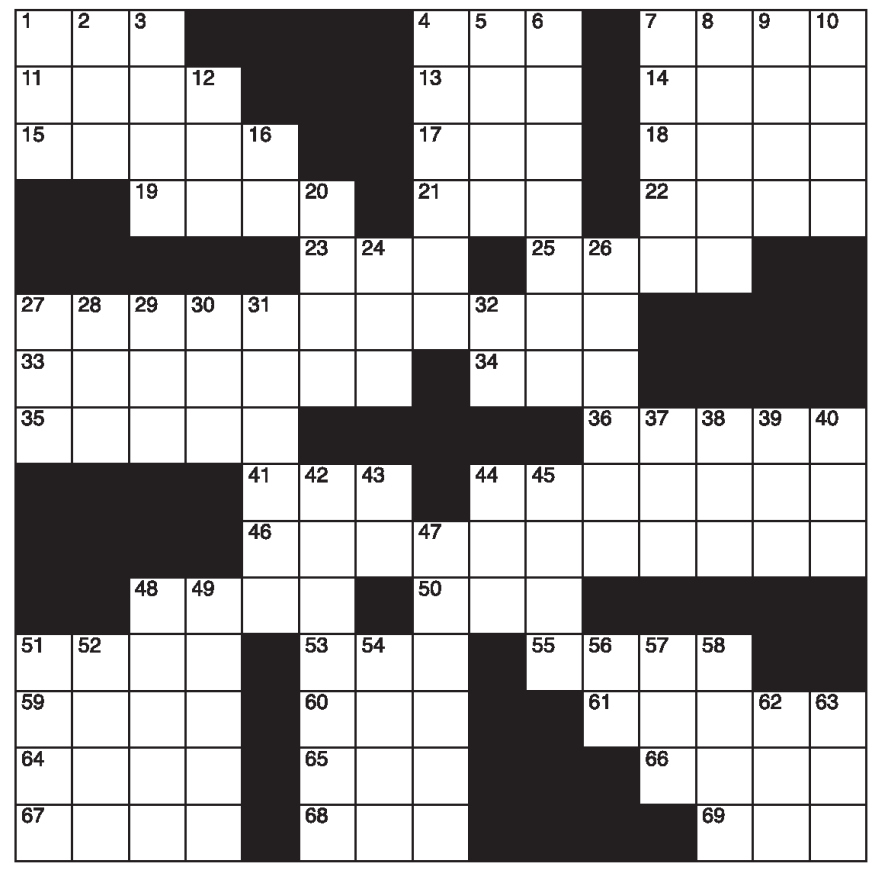
She is helpful to her peers and a good friend to others. Great job Caralee!

Student of the Week is sponsored by:

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Weekly Crossword

Answers on Page 3D



CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion dandy
4. Cycles per second
7. Strikebreaker
11. Aquatic reptile (informal)
13. Express pleasure
14. Swiss river
15. Contains cerium
17. Ribonucleic acid
18. On top
19. Taxis
21. Banking machine
22. Small salamander
23. Voltage
25. Pointed summit
27. DWTS host
33. In a way, smoked
34. Peat moss source
35. W. African nation Sierra ___
36. Cocoa plum tree
41. Holiday (informal)
44. Venezuelan capital
46. DWTS hostess
48. Hideouts
50. Actress Lupino
51. The content of cognition
53. Point one point N of due E
55. Plunder a town
59. No. Albanian dialect
60. No (Scottish)
61. Blatted
64. X2 = a Pacific tourist commune
65. AKA option key
66. Angelina's spouse
67. "Wedding Crashers" Wilson
68. Grassland, meadow
69. Laughing to self (texting)

CLUES DOWN

1. Licenses TV stations
2. Metal-bearing mineral
3. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)
4. A bottle with a stopper
5. Short labored breath
6. Hair washing soap
7. Steam bath
8. "R.U.R." playwright Karel
9. Beside one another in lines
10. Not straight
12. Former OSS
16. Truck driver's radio
20. Dried-up
24. Million gallons per day (abbr.)
26. Encircle (archaic)
27. '__ death do us part
28. A single unit
29. A siemens
30. Prohibition
31. V. William's clothing line
32. Scotland's poet's initials
37. Auto
38. Single spot card in a deck
39. Crow sound
40. Former CIA
42. Factory where arms are made
43. Radioactive unit
44. Scoundrel
45. Freshwater duck genus
47. 9 decades
48. Makes tractors
49. 55120
51. Southeast Nigeria people
52. Arab sailing vessel
54. Hay bundle
56. Blood type
57. Driver compartment
58. "Das Kapital" author Marx
62. Consume food
63. Dental degree

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HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Blooming Prairie

May 3:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4 at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m.
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
May 4:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4 at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m.
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
May 10:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4 at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m.
Blooming Prairie Card Club & Luncheon
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
May 11:
Citywide Garage Sale! SIGN-UP by May 4 at US Bank. Sale Begins Saturday, May 14 at 8 a.m.
10:30 a.m. BPBL Storytime
4:30 p.m. Economic Development Authority Meeting

Servicemen's Club
210 Fourth St. N.E. • Blooming Prairie • 507-583-7884
• Happy Hour 3 p.m.- 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday
• Taco Tuesdays every Tuesday at 5 p.m.
"BURGER NIGHT" SPECIAL: #1 BEEF POT ROAST, VEGETABLE & ROLL #2 CRAB SALAD SANDWICH & CHIPS
LUNCH SPECIAL (5/3 & 5/4): ONE OR TWO SLOPPY JOE'S WITH FRIES

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Ellendale/Geneva

May 3:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellendale
May 4:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
May 5:
5:30 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7 p.m. NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
May 9:
6:20 p.m. NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellendale
May 10:
7 p.m. NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellendal

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Medford

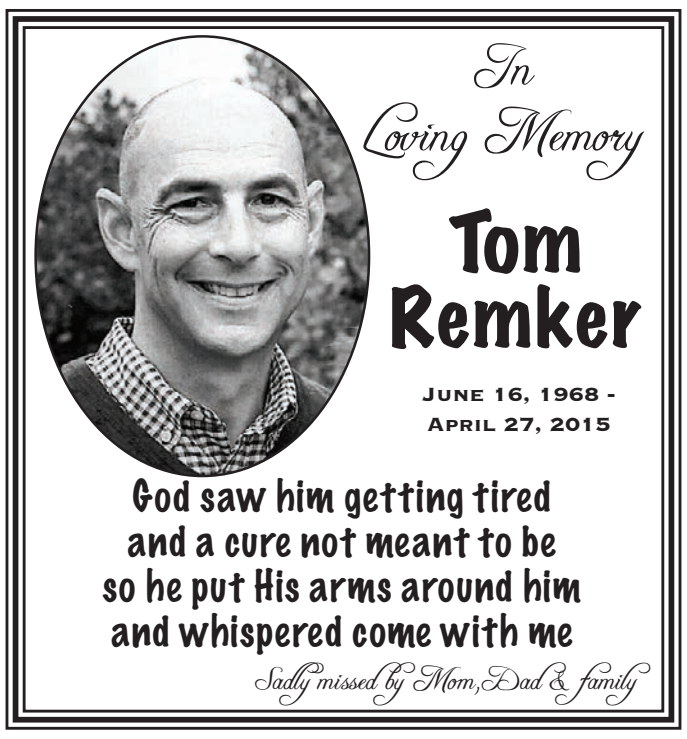
May 5:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 8:
5 p.m. Medford EDA (2nd Wed odd months)
May 9:
2 p.m. The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Whistle Stop Diner
May 11:
4 p.m. Medford Veterans Committee Meeting

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BAR BINGO: MONDAY @ 6:30 P.M.
SUMMER: MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 • JUNE 6, 20
JULY 11, 25 • AUG 8, 22 SEPT 12, 9, 26
WINE + WOMEN: WED @ 6-10 P.M.
MEAT RAFFLES: FRIDAY @ 5:30 P.M.
BEAN BAG LEAGUE: JUNE 2 - JUL 28
STREET DANCE: JULY 2ND 8PM-MIDNIGHT
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JULY 4TH: OPEN 10 AM TO CLOSE
♦ ♦ ♦ CRUISE FOR A CAUSE ♦ ♦ ♦
CRUISE FOR CANCER RIDE: JUNE 25TH
REGISTRATION: 9-10:15 AT J&H
LEAVES: 10:30 SHARP • FEE: $15 PER RIDER
INCL: MEAL:5-6:30 PM - J&H - Taco Bar
Public Welcome
B.O.B RIDE "Toys for Tots" JULY 23RD
REG: 9-10:15 AM AT J&H
LEAVES: 10:30 SHARP! • FEE: $10 PER RIDER
MEAL: 5 P.M. AT J & H LIQUOR

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, Hope
7 p.m. Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall, Owatonna
May 4:
Hope Curbside Recycling N of 42nd Av
May 5:
2 p.m. Owatonna Public Library, Independent & World Films
6:30 p.m. Owatonna Public Library, Family Story Time
May 7:
Women's and Girls' Spring Extravaganza & Brunch. The Steele County Clothesline Fundraiser, Trinity Lutheran Church
10 a.m. Extravaganza with expo vendors, bake sale and youth activities
12 p.m. Brunch – Brunch tickets: Adults. Child (age6-12), 5 and under Free. Ticket sales at: Clothesline, Trinity and Kristi's May 9:
4:30 p.m. Owatonna Park and Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Couse or City Park
May 10:
Steele County Commission
9:30 a.m. Owatonna Public Library, It's TALE TIME! Owatonna
7 p.m. Steele County: County Board Meeting, Admin Center, BR, Owatonna
7 p.m. Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owatonna, 2nd Tues (Sept – Jun)



Mower

Mower
May 3:
Friends of the Library Collection for Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library, Austin
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, County Historical Society, Austin
10 a.m. Hearth and Home: Raising Kids in Exotic Places, Hormel Historic Home, Austin
12 p.m. Tuesdays with Toastmasters, Hormel Foods Corporate Office, Austin
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
May 4:
1st Responders Meeting, City of Lyle
Minnesota Bike To School Day, Austin
9 a.m. Plan B Programming - Student Field Trip, Grand Meadow Public Library, Grand Meadow
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin.

SPOT LIGHT

Area City Wide Garage Sales



Kasson
Thursday, May 5
Saturday, May 7

Byron
Friday May 6
and Saturday, May 7

Blooming Prairie
Saturday, May 14

Hayfield
Friday, June 3 thru Saturday June 4

Mower
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle
6 p.m. Homemade Postcards, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St. N, Austin
7 p.m. Spring Fine Arts Showcase, Riverland Community College, Austin East - Frank W. Bridges and WegnerArt Gallery, Austin
May 5:
6:30 a.m. Spring Bird Watching, Jay C Hormel Nature Center, Austin
9 a.m. Plan B Programming - Student Field Trip, Grand Meadow Public Library, Grand Meadow
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin
3:30 p.m. Mower Co, Southland ISD: Open Gym, M/HS Gym
4 p.m. Austin Farmers' Market, Oakland Ave East, Austin
6 p.m. Brownsdale PL Puzzle Night (subject to change)
6:30 p.m. Twilight Tales: Evening Storytime, Austin Public Library, Austin
7 p.m. Keepsake Quilter's Guild Meeting, St John's Lutheran Church, 1200 13th Ave NW, Austin
May 6:
Brownsdale Citywide Yard Sales and Events, Brownsdale
9 a.m. Defensive Driving Class, Mower County Senior Center, Austin
9 a.m. Garden Spot Market, 106 W Main St, Brownsdale
10 a.m. Electrifying Minnesota: A Traveling Exhibit from the Minnesota History Center and the Bakken Museum, Mower County Historical Society, Austin
10 a.m. Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library, Austin
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle
6:30 p.m. Chateau Raceway Points Night, Chateau Raceway, Lansing
7 p.m. 300M4 Freedom Concert, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Austin
7:30 p.m. Comedy Night, Historic Paramount Theatre, Austin
May 7:
Brownsdale Citywide Yard Sales and Events, Brownsdale
Austin High School JV/C Softball Tournament, North Todd Complex, Todd Park, 11th Street and 21st Ave NE, Austin
8 a.m. Cedar River Archery 3D Shoot, 54691 270th St, Austin
9 a.m. 17th Annual Women's Health Care Symposium, Hormel Historic Home, 208 4th Ave NW, Austin
9 a.m. Austin City-Wide Rummage Sale, Austin
9 a.m. Austin Farmers' Market, 501 Oakland Ave E, Austin
9 a.m. Masonic Pancake Feed, Austin Masonic Lodge, Austin
10 a.m. Downtown Rummage Sale, Downtown Austin
10 a.m. Spring Used Book Sale, Austin Public Library, Austin
10:30 a.m. Kids' Studio Saturday - Painting/Drawing, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
1 p.m. 5-in-1 Wrap Bracelets, Austin ArtWorks Center, 300 Main St N, Austin
5:30 p.m. #300M4 FREEDOM, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Austin
9 p.m. Sola Fide Observatory Viewing, Sola Fide Observatory, Austin
May 8:
8 a.m. Cedar River Archery Club 3D Shoot, 54691 270th St, Austin
9 a.m. Dad's Belgian Waffles, Austin Eagles Aerie, Austin
1 p.m. Grand Meadow Open Gym, Wrestling Room, Weight Rm, Grand Meadow
May 9:
American Legion & Auxiliary Meeting, City of Lyle
11:30 a.m. SEMCAC Meal, Heritage House, City of Lyle
4 p.m. Austin Farmers' Market, 501 Oakland Ave East, Austin



Caring for an elderly relative at home

Decisions about providing care for an aging loved one are seldom easy. Various options exist in terms of elder care, including assisted living facilities and nursing homes. Seniors who are self-sufficient may be able to stay in a retirement community or active living building. In other instances, the best course of action is to have an elderly relative move in with family members.

Taking care of a senior requires a profound commitment and can completely disrupt a person's life, both at home and at work. Men and women faced with caring for an aging parent at home may want to employ several strategies to make that transition go as smoothly as possible.

• Talk to the senior about your options. Making decisions together will be best for everyone involved. It can be challenging to discuss mortality and whether or not elderly parents or relatives can properly care for themselves. Broach the subject well in advance of making any plans so you will have some understanding of how the senior feels about the situation and what would make him or her most comfortable. Your parents may already have a plan in place.

• Establish a caregiving budget. Caring for the elderly is expensive. MetLife says working Americans lose an estimated $3 trillion in lifetime wages, with average losses of $324,044 for women and $283,716 for men, taking time to provide care. Before a senior can be welcomed into your home, you must first determine which financial changes must be made to accommodate this person. Will a parent be contributing to a portion of the expenses or paying rent? Is it feasible for you to reduce hours at work to care for this individual? Once you have the numbers in black and white, you can better assess your situation.

• Make physical modifications. Your home may not be equipped and safe for an elderly resident. You may need to add a private space for your parent or relative, and install night lights, secured railings, grab bars, ramps, a shower chair, and anti-slip surfaces. You may need to build an extension on the home or completely renovate what you have to make the space safe.

• Aim for stability. Moving and changing routines can be especially stressful for seniors who are used to their own



schedules and habits. Transfer furniture and mementos from their home into yours. Encourage seniors to maintain a social schedule and invite friends over. Try to help your loved one keep his or her doctors and, if possible, take them to shop where they have shopped in the past. These opportunities will make the transition to a new home easier.

• Discuss finances. It's essential to understand your loved one's financial situation. Make lists of his or her assets and any insurance policies in his or her name. Understand which health procedures are covered and discuss ways to finance any procedures or medications that are not covered by your loved one's policy. Ask if your loved one wants you to manage his or her finances or when he or she may feel this is necessary. Professional help, such as an attorney, financial planner or a geriatric care manager, can make it easier to understand the legalities and subtleties of these arrangements.

• Make time for yourself. Caring for the elderly can seem like a full-time job, and it's easy to forget yourself in the process. Make time for yourself so your own health is not sacrificed while you tend to your loved one.

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• 2 nights at Fishermans Wharf
• San Francisco City Tour
• Giant Redwood Forest
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• Great Salt Lake
• Temple Square
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- Sculpture Gardens
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•Kansas Oil Museum
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Blooming Prairie school staff go on agriculture tour



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie teachers learning out in the field.

The Steele County Farm Bureau hosted a tour for the 52 Blooming Prairie school staff which allowed them to travel to two different farms for the day and learn about the agriculture that is in the school district. This tour gave the staff an opportunity to better understand what the word "agriculture" means to them and to their students. Roger and Rhonda Toquam and their family hosted the first half of the tour by talking about how they raise their hogs and offered staff a chance to sit in a tractor and understand the technology used in row crop farming. A veterinarian was there to answer questions on antibiotics, as well as the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation staff to talk about water. During lunch, each table sitting included a farmer from around the area to answer questions from the staff. The second half of the day included a tour at the Rodney and Justin Krell farm. There questions about GMOs were answered. The Krells' also talked about raising crops, the use of drones and shared information about the beef industry. Each staff member was given a binder with resources that they can use back at the classroom and help their students understand more about agriculture.

Steele County Farm Bureau President David Joachim stated, "This was a great event where teachers and staff from the Blooming Prairie School were able to see how they can utilize the true facts about agriculture in their classroom curriculum."

Steele County is a member of Minnesota Farm Bureau. Minnesota Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in the state representing Farmers • Families • Food. Members determine policy through a grassroots process involving the Farm Bureau members in 78 county Farm Bureau units in a formal, democratic process. Through this process, members make their views heard to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public. Programs for Young Farmers & Ranchers help develop leadership abilities and improve farm management. Promotion & Education committee members work with programs such as Ag in the Classroom, and safety education for children, especially safety on the farm. Farm Bureau is active in a variety of other programs and activities. For more information, contact your county Farm Bureau office



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tour hosts Rhonda and Isaiah Toquam and Justin Krell.

USDA links

The U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) today announced cooperative agreements with 55 partners to educate farmers and other producers that have been underserved by USDA programs historically about Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs that provide financial, disaster or technical support. Nearly $2.5 million will go to nonprofits, associations, universities, and foundations that will provide training and information on agricultural best practices, local networking opportunities, and more.

"We're always working to find new ways for our programs to reach more producers and create more jobs in agriculture," said FSA Administrator Val Dolcini. "The organizations selected as part of this effort share USDA's priority of helping more Americans build successful farms and ranches."

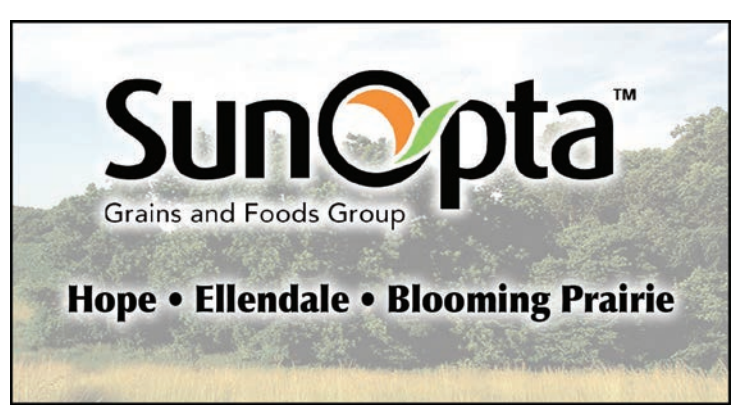
FSA, which solicited applications last fall, received nearly 100 proposals that requested over $9 million in funding. Cooperative agreements, encompassing more than 28 states, will be between $20,000 and $75,000 each and several involve multi-state or national efforts. A list of awardees can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach.

FSA also announced today that it is accepting proposals for consideration in the second evaluation period. Applications are due no later than July 11, 2016. Projects not selected during the first evaluation period will be reconsidered during the second period. Additional information on the funding solicitation and the related FSA programs can be found at www.grants.gov using reference number USDA-FSA-CA-2016-001. For nonprofits and public institutions of higher education that are considering participation, a recording of the online informational session held with stakeholders is posted on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/outreach.

USDA is also helping producers find an entry into farming through urban agriculture opportunities and the increasing consumer demand for locally-produced items. Under this Administration, USDA has invested more than $1 billion in over 40,000 local and regional food businesses and infrastructure projects. USDA is committed to helping farmers, ranchers, and businesses access the growing market for local and regional foods, which was valued at $12 billion in 2014 according to industry estimates. More information on how USDA investments are connecting producers with consumers and expanding rural economic opportunities is available in Chapter IV of USDA Results on Medium.

Since 2009, USDA has worked to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. USDA has also provided $5.6 billion of disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like to Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with $36 billion in farm credit. USDA has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; extending new conservation opportunities; offering appropriate risk management tools; and increasing our outreach, education, and technical support including 102,000 direct and guaranteed farm operating and ownership loans. USDA has also provided more than 18,000 microloans totaling over $406 million since the program began in January 2013. Nearly 89 percent of microloans, or more than $363 million, were used by new, beginning and underserved farmers to grow their farming operations. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.









Minnesota Crop Report: Rain showers combined with below average temperatures slowed fieldwork during the week ending May 1, 2016, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. There were only 2.0 days suitable for fieldwork, though conditions in the northern and southeastern parts of the state allowed more opportunity for planting. Producers in a few areas were concerned about the effects of the cool and wet conditions on crop germination and emergence, though many others noted that the moisture received during the week was beneficial

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus.

Minnesota's corn planting increased to 59 percent complete, 13 days ahead of the 5-year average, but 2 days behind last year. Five percent of the corn crop has emerged, 4 days ahead of average. Six percent of the soybean crop has been planted, which is equal to the average, but 4 days behind last year. Small grain seeding continues to be well ahead of average, nearing completion in the west- central and southwestern parts of the state. Spring wheat planting was 63 percent complete, 16 days ahead of average, but 13 days behind last year. Twenty-seven percent of the spring wheat crop had emerged, 6 days ahead of average, but 4 days behind last year. Eighty-two percent of the oat acreage had been planted, with 53 percent emerged, over 2 weeks ahead of the average. The barley crop was 46 percent planted and 18 percent emerged. Potatoes reached 48 percent planted, 10 days ahead of average, but 4 days behind last year. Sugarbeet planting was 88 percent complete, more than 3 weeks ahead of average.

All hay condition rated 65 percent good to excellent. Pasture condition improved to 5 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Producers noted that pastures continue to develop nicely and forages generally look very good. In some areas, the weather and resulting mud have been hard on livestock.

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Blooming Prairie FFA attends state convention



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured above are Colton Ivers, Ethan Arett, Tim Wolf, Cole Christianson, Kaiden Finley. Back Row: Maggie Bruns, Zach Sisler, Chris Wacek, Kalyn Naatz, Kate Grunklee, Kallie Klemmensen, Sasha Katzung, Sally Peterson, and Boone Carlson.

By KATE GRUNKLEE
Blooming Prairie
FFA Reporter

April 24 though the 26, Blooming Prairie FFA members went up to St. Paul for the State FFA Convention. The Blooming Prairie FFA bought up 14 members from the chapter. Out of the 14 members that went up to state nine of them competed in CDEs, while the other five members went to workshops and sessions. The Blooming Prairie had three different groups competing, which included dairy handlers, dairy foods and general livestock. Kalyn Naatz and Maggie Bruns competed in dairy handling, with Kalyn Naatz placed 3rd in the state and Maggie Bruns placing 11th.. Katelynn Grunklee, Kallie Klemmensen and Sasha Katzung competed in the dairy foods competition placing 39th out of 46 teams. Sally Peterson, Ethan Arett, Colton Ivers and Tim Wolf competed in the general livestock competition placing 5th in state.

On Monday night of state convention all members that were attending State Convention went down to the Mariucci Arena. That night Kalyn Naatz and Chris Wacek earned there FFA State Degree, which is the highest degree that a FFA member can receive in the State. Overall, State Convention went wonderful, with many great speeches and learning experiences. Mr. Rinkenberger couldn't be anymore proud of the kids at State Convention this year.

Research shows phosphorus accumulation in river basins

Analyses will help determine future management of phosphorus in ag production

An international group of scientists, including a researcher from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, has estimated the long-term environmental impact of phosphorus, a chemical element of fertilizer, in three world river basins.

Fertilizers used in agricultural production can leak into waterways and until now, scientists have not had a good handle on how the phosphorous in the runoff accumulates and to what extent.

For the first time, researchers have come up with a way to estimate on a large scale, how phosphorus flows through an environment over many decades. By doing so, researchers are gaining a better understanding of how and where phosphorus accumulates.

"There has been growing concern about excess phosphorus in our water resources; long-term analyses enable us to explore the true causes and consequences. This understanding may assist in the development of implementation strategies supporting sustainable agricultural production and improved water quality protection" said Heidi Peterson, research scientist with the MDA, and co-author of the study.

Peterson and the team of 13 researchers studied three river basins where food and water security are directly linked to phosphorus. The analysis included the Thames River basin in the U.K., the Maumee River Basin in the mid-western section of the U.S. and the Yangtze River Basin in China.

The study areas ranged in size from approximately 5,000 to 700,000 square miles. Historical records dating back 70 years were used to measure the human impact on the flows of phosphorus into and out of each catchment through trade, food waste, human waste and agricultural runoff, comparing these flows to losses of P from each river's discharge. The results showed that massive amounts of phosphorus have accumulated in the landscape — a form of "legacy P" that may affect aquatic ecosystems for decades or even centuries.

The study's novel analyses illustrate the challenges researchers face in figuring how to manage the storage, exploitation and reactivation of phosphorus that is already present in our environment.

The study's findings appeared in the April 11, 2016 online issue of Nature Geoscience.



May Weed of the Month: Multiflora Ros

By EMILIE JUSTEN
MNDepartment of Agriculture

May's weed of the month is an aggressively spreading, thorny plant. Multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora) is native to eastern Asia. It was introduced to North America as a rootstock for ornamental roses, and for erosion control, living fence rows, and wildlife habitat. Because of its highly invasive nature, it escaped cultivation and has become a serious threat to habitats where it outcompetes native plants and desirable agricultural forages.

Multiflora rose is a multi-stemmed, bushy shrub with long, thorny stems. The stems can grow up to six feet tall, and spread horizontally up to 15 feet. Stems are green or reddish in color with stiff, curved thorns. Leaves are compound and divided into 5-11 leaflets The leaflets are one-two inches in length. Clusters of showy white flowers are produced in May and June, and have a distinct rose fragrance. The flowers produce rose hip fruits that turn bright red and contain several seeds that persist throughout the winter.

Because of its ability to root from stems, multiflora rose can form thick, impenetrable thickets. The stems can also climb trees, shrubs, and structures that make it difficult for humans, wildlife, and livestock to navigate. Its invasive growth habitat prevents the growth of native herbaceous and woody plants.

Management of multiflora rose requires a multi-year commitment.

•Large populations invading upland sites can be mowed 3-6 times per growing season for a period of 2-4 years.

•Smaller infestations can be pulled; however, pulled plants should be piled or burned at a designated site to prevent the stems from re-rooting.

•Multiflora rose can be successfully managed by grazing goats. If an infestation is managed properly, grazing goats can kill multiflora rose



Multiflora ose plant in flowe .

•Prescribed burns in early spring may reduce infestations. For information on prescribed burns, please visit the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html).

•Herbicide applications may also be effective at controlling multiflora rose. If using herbicide treatments, check with your local University of Minnesota Extension agent, co-op, or certified landscape care expert for assistance and recommendations.

There are several businesses throughout the state with certified herbicide applicators that can be hired to perform chemical applications. Multiflora rose is also found in or around riparian and wetland habitats. If treating plants near water with an herbicide, please be aware of the state pesticide laws and use only products labeled for aquatic use.





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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: einahaus@owatonnalawyers.com

4/26, 5/3

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

**THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION**

COUNTY OF STEELE

Court File No. 74-PR-16-796

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**Estate of
Karen Lynn Ellis,
Decedent**

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated March 30, 2012, and ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Dale Oscar Ellis, whose address is 11912 SW 72nd Avenue, New Richland, MN 56072, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will or appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

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

**Dated
2016.04.20**

**Kris Schmitz
Registrar**

Attorney for Personal Representative
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

5/3, 5/10

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): Lucero Cardoso Nunez a/k/a Lucero Cardoso Garcia, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., A Minnesota Corporation
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on January 12, 2016 as Document Number A000405926 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $114,285.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 16, 2013
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on May 22, 2013 as Document Number A000391446 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $111,926.33
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Hursh Addition No. 2, Owatonna, Steele County, Minnesota.
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 815 DAWN PLACE, OWATONNA, MN 55060
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: American Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc., A Minnesota Corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-319-0109
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100867104378099162
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: June 21, 2016 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on December 21, 2016.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: April 26, 2016

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/ Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(16-0470-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

5/3, 5/10, 5/17
5/24, 5/31, 6/7

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

Steele County

NOTICE OF FILING FOR THE 2016 STATE GENERAL ELECTION STEELE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The following is the notice of federal and state offices that will be voted for at the state general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The filing period for United States Representative, State Senator, State Representative, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, and Judge of the District Court begins at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 17, 2016 and ends at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

The filing period for presidential elector candidates begins at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 17 and ends at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, 2016, for non-major political party candidates and independent candidates. The certification deadline for major political party presidential elector candidates is August 29, 2016. Note: Filing offices will be closed Monday, May 30, 2016, in observance of Memorial Day.

The place of filing for federal offices is the Office of the Secretary of State, State Office Building, Room 180, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1299. The place of filing for state offices is with the Office of the Secretary of State or with the County Auditor of the county in which the candidate resides.

Candidates may file in person or by mail, if the filing is received during the filing period. Candidates who will be absent from the state during the filing period and meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 204B.09, subdivision 1a, may arrange to file during the seven days immediately preceding the candidate's absence from the state.

This notice is provided pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 204B.33.

FEDERAL OFFICES
Presidential Electors (Ten)
United States Representative for District 1

LEGISLATIVE OFFICES
One State Senator for District 24
One State Senator for District 27

One State Representative for District 24A
One State Representative for District 24B
One State Representative for District 27A

JUDICIAL OFFICES
Supreme Court
One Associate Justice for Seat 6 (Hudson)

Court of Appeals (Nine Seats)
Appellate offices are elected statewide. Where designated, candidates must reside in the congressional district listed for at least one year.

One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 5 (Bjorkman)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 8 (Reilly)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 11 (Larkin)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 13 – 6th Congressional District (Peterson)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 14 - 8th Congressional District (Stauber)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 16 (Reyes)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 17 (Johnson)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 18 (Schellhas)
One Court of Appeals Judge for Seat 19 (Connolly)

District Courts - Third Judicial District: (10 Seats)

One Third District Court Judge for Seat 3 (Schwab)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 9 (King)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 11 (Buytendorp)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 13 (Kritzer)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 16 (Sturino)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 17 (Walters)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 18 (Siefken)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 21 (Wallace)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 22 (Neuville)
One Third District Court Judge for Seat 23 (Bueltel)

****

Candidates for the following offices file with the Steele County Auditor, 630 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060

****

COUNTY OFFICES
County Commissioner for District 3 – Four year term
County Commissioner for District 4 – Four year term
County Commissioner for District 5 – Four year term

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION OFFICES
County Soil & Water Conservation Supervisor District 2
County Soil & Water Conservation Supervisor District 4
County Soil & Water Conservation Supervisor District 5

Dated: April 25, 2016

Laura Ihrke, Steele County Auditor

COURT NEWS

Continued from Page 4A

land, WA, speeding, $221; Trina J. McKenna, 26, Faribault, speeding, $131; Adam M. McNeill, 31, Rochester, speeding, $121; Anthony C. Metcalf, 31, Albert Lea, revoked license, $281; Matthew P. Mollenhauer, 40, Geneva, expired tabs, $111; Felipe D. Moreno DeSantiago, 36, Rochester, speeding, $131; Julia M. Morest, 53, Spring Park, speeding, $131; Kathryn J. Ochs, 28, Chaska, speeding, $121; Trent A. Olson, 41, Lanesboro, speeding, $141; Adam S. Rehman, 16, Faribault, expired tabs, $111; Steven A. Resler, 30, Owatonna, speeding, $121;

Wyatt P. Robinson, 24, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Alan R. Sandidge, 43, Barnhart, MO, speeding, $141; Adam M. Schlichter, 35, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Benjamin Z. Spurgeon, 31, Ellendale, suspended license, $281; Robert L. Tarnaski, 33, Rockville, speeding, $121; Marcos A. Trevino, 23, Owatonna, restraining order violation, $131 and 90 days in county jail; Wendy A. Watkins, 50, Austin, speeding, $121; Jesus V. Zavala, 23, Medford, disorderly conduct, $281, 3 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation.

POLICE BLOTTER
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 213 complaints for the week of April 20-26. Some of them included:

April 20

Suspicion. Deputy checked on suspicious activity at U.S. Highway 14 and County Road 1 by Claremont at 10:54 p.m.

April 21

Medical. Dodge Center Ambulance and deputies responded to a medical emergency in the 400 block of East St. N. in Claremont at 1:38 a.m. A woman was experiencing chest and back pain.

Vandalism. A citizen reported criminal damage to property in the 600 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 3:40 p.m. The victim's bicycle tire had been slashed.

COURT NEWS
Dodge County

Sheriff's Office

Jeffrey M. Baker, 53, Mankato, expired license, $180; Dalton L. Barry, 21, Mantorville, possession of Paraphernalia, $130; Nicole K. Lien, 23, Rochester, suspended license and failure to keep to the right, $330; Juan A. Ochoa, 39, Claremont, expired license, $180; Chad M. Osgood, 37, Hayfield, revoked license, $280; Tanor D. Quam, 22, Kasson, speeding, $130; Gary A. Trelstad, 71, Dodge Center, speeding, $140; Trevor R. White III, 27, West Concord, invalid license, $180.

Kasson Police Department

Stewart M. Graves, 21, Kasson, suspended license, $280; Gredyn M. Hatton-Kirkpatrick, 18, Rochester, invalid license, $180; Terri L. Ryan, 37, Mantorville, seat belt, $105; Rose A. Siegele, 72, Kasson, seat belt, $105.

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Thursday, May 12, 2016
Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room
7:00 p.m. Monday, May 16, 2016
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m. Monday, May 16, 2016
Regular School Board Meeting–High School Media Center
Any person may raise a question to the School Board. The Board will not act on any item presented to them, which is not on the agenda, until the following Board meeting. Also, the Board would like persons to limit themselves to five minutes, with a maximum of 15 minutes per topic. These limitations are needed for us to run a timely and orderly Board meeting. Persons are requested to identify themselves prior to speaking.

I. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRPERSON
II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
III. ROLL CALL – CLERK
IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS
VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED
A. Consent Agenda Minutes
Bills
Treasurer's Report
Resignations
Employment
Donations
B. Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Contract
C. FY 17 Staff Development Allocation
D. FY 16 Revised Budget
E. SASS
VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY
A. Technology Update
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D.Dates to Note
VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS
IX. ADJOURNMENT
*Agenda may be subject to changes

5/3

Foreclosure

15-100469

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: April 30, 2014
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $142,500.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Paul A. Schweim and Amalia Schweim, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 100397202125037268
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed May 7, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000396915
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 1, Block 1, Grace Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2595 3rd Ave NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-299-0101
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $155,088.23
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 24, 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 24, 2016, or the next business day if December 24, 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 28, 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

5/3, 5/10, 5/17
5/24, 5/31, 6/7

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting Agenda
April 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of April
Regular City Council Meeting
Financial Report
Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A.
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission
Business
1. Request for a Temporary Liquor License – Chamber of Commerce 3rd of July Park
2. Chamber of Commerce 4th of July Request
3. Approval of 2016-2017 Liquor Licenses
4. Appoint Insurance Agent
5. Police On-Call Policy Adjustment
6. Resolution Electing to Participate in the Steele County EDA
7. Application for Permit to Consume Liquor in the Park – Ulrich
8. Main Street West Reclaim and Repave
City Administrator's Report
1. Reminder of Changed Date for June Meeting
2. Welcome Sign
3. City Administration Office Carpet
City Attorney's Report
Council Members' Reports Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

5/3





PART-TIME SHIFTS AVAILABLE

RESIDENT ASSISTANTS - For independent and assisted living residents. Ideal candidate enjoys working with seniors and a making a difference in people's lives.
*Must be 18 with GED or High School Diploma.

COOKS - part-time with hours that may vary. We encourage retirees to apply!

Stop in with questions or to use our computer to apply!

Apply online: **www.ecumen.org/careers**

ECUMEN
Brooks & CountrySide
2480 St Paul Rd, Owatonna, MN, **507-446-5855**
650 El Dorado St SE, Owatonna, MN, **507-446-8334**

Company Drivers Wanted

OBERG FREIGHT COMPANY

GOOD STEADY FREIGHT

EXCELLENT HOME TIME

CONSISTANT REGIONAL MILES

NO TOUCH VAN FREIGHT

ASK US ABOUT OUR SIGN-ON BONUS

CONTACT:
Oberg Freight Company
Fort Dodge, IA
1-888-739-5220 ext 2
www.obergfreight.com

INGINAIRE
Engineering Staffing

IMMEDIATE MANUFACTURING OPENINGS

Full-time job openings in Owatonna & Faribault

Assemblers • Punch-Shear Operators
Brake Press Operator
Material Stock Handlers • Brazers

Pay Range $17-$22 per hour
Call for an interview today 612-977-1450

Full Time Lead Cook Secondary School

Full Time Lead Cook
for NRHEG High School ISD# 2168
Hours 6:30AM – 3:00PM

Send application and letter of interest to:
NRHEG Public Schools
ATTN: Dale Carlson, Superintendent
306 Ash Ave South
New Richland, MN 56072

Applications available in the district office or online at http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG
OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Full Time Lead Cook Elementary School

Full Time Lead Cook
for NRHEG High School ISD# 2168
Hours 6:30AM – 3:00PM

Send application and letter of interest to:
NRHEG Public Schools
ATTN: Dale Carlson, Superintendent
306 Ash Ave South
New Richland, MN 56072

Applications available in the district office or online at http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG
OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Bus Driver Position

NRHEG Schools is looking for a Full Time Bus Route driver for the 2016-17 school year. Class B drivers license with bus endorsement and health card required prior to employment. Approximately 4 hours per day/$14,000 per year with opportunities to drive additional extra-curricular events.

If Interested please contact:
Dale Carlson, Superintendent
of NRHEG Public Schools
at District Offic
507-463-3206
http://nrheg.k12.mn.us/pages/NRHEG

Prairie Manor Care Center
"Quality Care with a Small Town Touch"

Heather Haus Senior Living
Is now accepting applications for Personal Care Attendants

EVENINGS AND NIGHTS

PT available • Benefits
Competitve wages
Come Join our Care Team

To apply, contact Deb Kjarland, RN Resident Manager of Heather Haus
(507) 583-7399 or email dkjarland@prairiemanorinc.com
Fax: 507-572-1367 or in person at 223 4th St NW Blooming Prairie, MN
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Prairie Manor Care Center
"Quality Care with a Small Town Touch"

Prairie Manor Care Center has the following openings:
Full Time / Part Time CNA Evening Shifts
Includes every other weekend and holiday

To apply, contact Allison Hensrud, DON 507-572-6188,
ahensrud@prairiemanorinc.com
fax 507-583-2401, or in person
220 3rd St NW Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County ADvantage
Steele County Times

Classifieds

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







REACH OVER 17,000 IN OVER 12 COMMUNITIES

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

EMPLOYMENT

Hiring for concrete construction. Hard working, reliable, laborers and finishers needed. Wage based on experience. Call Dobbs Construction now! Luke @507-259-9180 7tfc

Carpenters wanted. Experience preferred but will train. Health Insurance/401k/Paid Holidays/PTO. Established company. Great starting wages! (507) 775-7068 17tfc

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 17tfc

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 online 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

Company Drivers wanted, Oberg Freight Company, good steady freight, excellent home time, consistent regional miles, no touch van freight, ask us about our sign on bonus. Contact: Oberg Freight Company, Fort Dodge IA, 1-888-739-5220 ext. 2, ww.obergfreight.com 20c

FOR RENT

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

Prime office spaces for rent on Main Street, Kasson. High traffic location. Call 634-4307 for more information. 37tfc

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 12tfc

Two bedroom, 1½ bath Kasson apartment, private nice location, great for single person or couple, appliances, CA, window coverings, and single car attached garage, deck, lawn storage building, and private yard, $830 a month, no small children, NS, and NP preferred, lawns care provided, available July 1st, call 507-456-9472 20tfc

Dodge Center, 2-3 bedroom main floor apt, in house, stove, refrigerator and water furnished, available now, NS only apply, available now, $725 dep., $725 rent, call 507-374-6747.

SERVICES

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

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

TUTORING. Learning can be fun! All grades - most subjects. Linda L. Greene 507-374-2363. 38tfc

WANTED

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

MCAN

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS

NOW HIRING
Company OTR drivers. $2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610

LINSMEIER TRUCKING
A MN based company is now hiring Owner Operators and Company Drivers to pull hopper bottom in the upper Midwest. Home weekends. Call 320/382-6644

FOR SALE

COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE:
1yr old: $0.87/each for a full box of 180 ($156.56). Includes shipping & taxes. Replacement guarantee. Smaller quantities available. 866/873-3846 or treetime.ca/cs

Your ad here!
Only $279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

HEALTH

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

FARM EQUIPMENT

OUR HUNTERS WILL
pay Top $$$ to hunt your land. Call for a free Base Camp Leasing info packet & quote: 866/309-1507 www.BaseCampLeasing.com

MISCELLANEOUS

STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!
Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get $15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096

MISCELLANEOUS

PROTECT YOUR HOME
with fully customizable security and 24/7 monitoring right from your smartphone. Receive up to $1,500 in equipment, free (restrictions apply). Call 800/203-6905

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

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

DISH TV
190 channels plus High-speed Internet Only $49.94/mo! Ask about a 3 year price guarantee & get Netflix included for 1 year! Call Today 800/297-8706

REAL ESTATE

Contract for deed for sale-Kasson, contract to remain as originally written, 10-years/2% if interested call 507-421-4982 19, 20, 21p

Kasson townhome for sale, 1,400 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms, 305 4th St SW, 507-775-6122. 20-22p

House for sale by owner- 107 1st St NE, Kasson, 3-bedroom starter home on large lot, AS-IS. Asking $92,000, call 507-259-2588 to make appointment to view. 20-22p



FOR SALE

International 710-4 bottom 18 in. plow, automatic trip, John Deere, 200A, 10 ft. swather, gas engine, Hutchinson, 30 ft. 6 in. grain auger, 507-634-7278, 19-21p

2004 Chevy Cavalier, 57,000 miles, good condition, asking $2,500. Call 507-273-2307 20-22p

Beautiful brown leather sofa, like new, paid $1,800, asking $750 cash, also many tools for sale. 507-316-4503. 20-22p

DOMAILLE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY FOR TOMORROW

Domaille Engineering, an ultra-precision design and manufacturing company, is accepting applications for a **CNC Machinist position** on our night shift, which runs Sunday - Thursday.

We seek highly-motivated, qualified candidates to join our team. We provide an atmosphere where your creativity and skills will contribute to the growth of the company and the advancement of the team. We offer a comprehensive benefits package and flexible work environment.

To learn more about this position as well as our products and services, visit our webpage,

www.DomailleEngineering.com

Our employment application is also available on our website.

Please email your resume/application to **jobs@domailleengineering.com**

You can also apply in person or mail it to Alison Hicks at:
Domaille Engineering, 7100 Dresser Drive NE, Rochester, MN 55906



**Night shift includes a shift premium and quarterly bonus.*

Join a highly motivated team in the Kasson-Mantorville School District with a commitment to excellence and innovation. We are looking for team members beginning 2016-17 school year for the following positions:

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (1.0 FTE)
Speech/Language Pathologist (.5 FTE)

Please complete application on-line at:
www.komets.k12.mn.us
and include a resume, application letter, transcripts and 3 reference letters. 20c

GRADE 4 ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHER

Triton Public Schools will be hiring a Grade 4 Elementary Classroom Teacher for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

All postings and applications for Triton Public Schools can be found at: www.triton.k12.mn.us - under the District Office menu. EOE 20C

Freerksen ENTERPRISES INC.

TECHNICIANS WANTED 20-23c

- Experienced Diesel Technician
- Experienced Auto Technician
- Light Trailer Maintenance
- Welder/Fabricator

CoMpETiTivE WAgEs bAsED on ExpEr iEnCE
45-50 hours WorkED pEr WEEK
Contact brent or steve at:
507-374-6288

WANTED:
DIRECT CARE STAFF

Immediate openings for Direct Care Staˇ for 4 bed group home in West Concord. FT and PT PM positions available. Must be 18, have current MN driv lic & pass background check. $11.00 – $11.25. Full Beneÿts Package for FT positions. Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview St., West Concord. EOE 17-21c

FAIRVIEW CARE CENTER

Fairview Care Center is seeking a Part-time Housekeeping Aide.

- Day Shifts & Every Third Weekend/Holiday
- 40 hours/Pay period
- Benefits for part-time: PTO and PERA

For application or more information call:
Brenda Vieths, Director of Environmental Services
Fairview Care Center
702 10th Ave. NW
P.O. Box 10
Dodge Center, MN 55927
PH# 507-374-2578
brenda.vieths@co.dodge.mn.us
EOE 20c

MINNESOTA PRAIRIE COUNTY ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY SERVICES OF DODGE, STEELE & WASECA COUNTIES

Positions Available:

- **Temporary Child & Family Social Worker (Steele)**
- **Part-Time Office Support Specialist (Dodge)**

Application Requirements can be found at:
www.co.steele.mn.us

630 Florence Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060
EOE
20-21c



BOOM TRUCK DRIVER openings available!!!

ARROW BUILDING CENTER IN KASSON HAS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR DRIVERS!!

JOB DUTIES INCLUDE:
- Delivery of building materials to jobsites
- Recording of delivery paper work
- Customer Service representative on job sites
- Loading – Unloading trucks
- Pulling orders
- Fork Lift certification

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: MUST REGULARLY LIFT/MOVE 75 POUNDS UP TO 125LBS FREQUENTLY

MUST HAVE:
- Good Communication skills
- Have CDL License w/ Air brakes
- Current Health Card
- Must be able to drive 10-speed
- Must have clean driving record – or don't apply
- Must not be afraid of heights

19-20c

BOOM TRUCK EXPERIENCE AND BUILDING MATERIAL KNOWLEDGE IS HELPFUL.

Please send resume or stop in and fill out application at Arrow Building Center 102 1st St. SW in Kasson, MN 55944

EVENING CUSTODIAN
Byron Middle School

Byron Middle School is seeking a full time evening custodian beginning May16, 2016. This is a split-shift position. During the school year hours are Monday-Thursday evenings 2-10:30 p.m. and Saturdays 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Summer hours are Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Would prefer boilers license but not required. Please submit resume and apply online at: http://www.applitrack.com/byronmn/onlineapp

Contact Brian Haskin, Building and Grounds Manager, 507-624-0346 with any questions. Application deadline Friday, May 6, 2016. 19-20C

KRUEGER TRUCKING

CDL driver over the road dry van. Driver benefits included. Paid holidays, vacation pay, and 401K health plan.

Krueger Trucking
Austin, MN
1-800-634-3317
5-7c

PT COOK/WAITSTAFF
needed at Prairie Meadows in Kasson.
Apply in person.
Ask for Kabrie.
EOE.
13-23c
Prairie Meadows SENIOR LIVING Kasson

WHEN A NURSING HOME IS NOT FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE...

Wellingtonadultcarehastrainedstaˇ whowork24hrs.adaytoprovideyou withservicessuchaspreparedmeals,medicationmanagement,personal care such as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as other activities of daily living. All meals are served family style in the dining room. Special dietsarenotaproblem.Wealsoarrangetransportationtoandfrommedical appointmentsaccompaniedbystaˇ orfamily.Wesupplylaundryservices, andhousekeeping.Ourhomeiswheelchairaccessible.Wehavea1to5staˇ toclientratio.Allroomsareprivate.Weserveavarietyofclientsovertheage of 55. We are licensed by Dodge County and the State of Minnesota.

For more information please contact
Jane Hill @ 507.374.2198 or 507.319.5134 20tfc

Zumbro Valley Golf Course
is looking for part-time cooks, bartenders & servers.
If interested please contact the clubhouse or stop out and apply in person.
ZVRC
25202 615th St., Mantorville
507.635.2821



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.

* Book early ... very early. To guarantee a reservation at any restaurant, namely your favorite restaurant, you will need to make a reservation well in advance of Mother's Day. It's never too early to put your name on the reservation list. Don't forget Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11, 2014.

* Expect to wait. Even with a reservation, you're bound to spend some time waiting at the restaurant. Other families may be lingering at their tables, as no one wants to rush Mom out of the door. Plan accordingly for a potentially long wait time. This means having a snack before you leave. Don't arrive famished, as no one wants the dining party to be hungry and cranky, which is not a good way to celebrate Mom. Have plenty of snacks and drinks on hand for young children, as well as activities to keep them entertained.

* Consider dining out a day before or after. Restaurants are generally packed on Mother's Day, and as a result kitchen and wait staffs might be overtaxed. What's more, diners might be relegated to a special or abbreviated menu. If you want a more relaxed setting and the ability to order whatever you desire, it may be a better idea to celebrate Mother's Day in advance. Then have Mom enjoy a relaxing day at home on her special day.

* Take-out is an option. Families can treat Mom to a dinner out, without really having to go out. Many restaurants offer takeout service, so you will not be limited to pizza or Chinese. Even chain restaurants have curbside service, so if Mom is in the mood for a burger or something more elaborate, she'll have that option.

* Expect an included gratuity. Restaurants often include a gratuity in the bill when servicing larger parties, such as those that might be celebrating Mother's Day. The standard gratuity rate is 18 percent, but you may want to go above and beyond if you feel the service is exemplary.

* Hire a sitter for young kids. Although Mother's Day is a chance for the entire family to spend time together, the main goal is to ensure Mom's comfort and happiness. If very young children are in tow, she may not be able to relax and enjoy her meal. Infants will need to be fed, and toddlers may be easily distracted. Have a sitter watch little ones when adults are dining out, and then Mom can enjoy time with the kids when she returns home for more celebrating.



