Blooming Prairie Times

Steele County's Largest Weekly Newspaper

VOLUME LI — BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1944

Invasion New Reaches Here Tuesday A. M.

Ross Hollowell Spreads News At 5 A. M.; Church Doors Open

D-Day, June 6, 1944, or news of the invasion of France became generally known Tuesday morning when Manager Ross Hollowell, Intercounty Telephone company, had his operators spread the word by telephone around six o'clock. Many homes that could not be reached by phone, Mr. Hollowell made personal calls, rousing the occupants out of bed to inform them that the invasion was on.

Blooming Prairie's four churches threw open their doors to worshippers who sought to offer prayers for their loved ones and the success of the great military undertaking. Followers of the Catholic faith were the first to enter their house of worship to offer special prayers before the altar of the Almighty.

The fire siren heralded the news by blowing numerous long blasts as the signal that would be given as stated in the Times.

Most all business places closed for one hour in the morning. Flags were displayed in the business section all day, and an air of reverence coupled with tension was displayed by many residents. Bond buying was stepped up as result of the invasion. Blooming Prairie's two banks report the sale of around $6,000 on D-Day. Bond sales were made without solicitation.

Many Blooming Prairie boys and those from nearby communities make up a part of the invasion forces, and the thoughts of everyone for the success of their undertaking and their safety is ever upper-most in their minds. Tuesday, June 6, 1944, was indeed a solemn day in the history of the United States—one that will live in the memories of all those who realize its significance.

Small Twister Hits Southwest of Town On Sunday Night

A wind of cyclonic force hit this area about 9 o'clock Sunday night. The storm struck Hollandale and did some damage. It then seemed to jump until it hit the Albert Noble farm 8½ miles southwest of Blooming Prairie where it blew the west end of Albert's large barn in and the east end out. One of the barn doors was ripped from its fastenings and struck the chimney on the Noble residence, knocking it off and tearing a large hole in the roof. A brooder house on the Noble farm was also demolished and 150 chickens were killed.

The cyclone also hit the Albert Spinler farm located about one mile south of the Noble place. The galvanized roof of the barn was completely ripped off, small buildings upset and trees damaged.

The Little Dutch church at Hollandale was completely demolished and many trees were uprooted or badly damaged.

On the Goodnature farm, Newry township a silo was wrecked by the twister.

Blooming Prairie, fortunately was on the fringe...

Proclamation!

—●—

WHEREAS, our brave boys and their British and Canadian allies have invaded France, and the final step for the liberation of Europe from German tyranny that threatened the very existence of the entire world, our country will raise not less than $16,000,000,000 by the sale of government bonds in the 5th War Bond Drive that officially starts Monday, June 12,

WHEREAS, the town of Blooming Prairie's quota in this worthy undertaking is $103,000, it is time to take stock in our home and our places of employment, and "invade the bond front" with the same zeal and courage as our men are now going against the fortress of Germany. D-Day has arrived on the fighting fronts. It also means the day when all the forces are dedicated to the attack and move into action in full force. It's "Show-down day" on the home front.

I THEREFORE proclaim the period starting June 12th, 1944, for the citizens of Blooming Prairie to invest more than ever before n government bonds so that the necessary war materials may be furnished our boys that will help bring a speedy victory to our armed forces now in France. Blooming Prairie residents have never let our boys down. They will not do it now during the crucial days of the invasion. Let us all buy more than ever.

Most respectfully,

O. J. Underwood,

Mayor

Mrs. Sam A. Rask In Washington To Fight "Ole" Trust

Oleomargine lobbyists are at it again! Through the efforts of Senator "Cotton" Ed Smith, of South Carolina, they are deliberately trying to break down the unity of dairy farming.

In an effort to stem unfavorable legislation that would ruin many farmers in this section of the state, Mrs. Sam Rask left Monday afternoon for the nation's captiol to fight anti-dairying legislation. Mrs. Rask arrived in Washington Wednesday morning and will do her utmost to prevent oleomargine lobbyists from scuttling dairying legislation of 50 years standing.

The proposed Smith bill would spur use of cottonseed oil in oleo production.

Marie Paulson's Engagement Announced In Seattle

Mr. and Mrs. George Paulson announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Marie V. Paulson, to Mr. C. R. Neitzke, U. S. N. R.

Wounded In Action



POSTMASTER GEO. CARROLL

Postmaster George D. Carroll, Blooming Prairie, serving with the U. S. forces in Italy has been wounded in action. Word was

Farm Wage Scale Meeting June 12th

J. R. Gute, chairman Steele county farm wage board, announced today the notice of a public hearing upon the prevailing farm wage rates in Steele county. The meeting will be held on Monday, June 12th, 8:30 p. m. at the County Extension office. Mr. Gute states the hearing is necessary as an incident to the recruitment of foreign workers and use of prisoners of war as provided for by Public Law 229, 78th Congress.

All persons or organizations who are interested in the determination of prevailing farm wage rates in the county are invited to attend.

Farm Bureau Meet Here Next Thurs.

A Farm Bureau meeting will be held in the community building on Thursday, June 15th at 8:30 p. m. Benj. A. Hansen is chairman of the program committee; assisted by Fred Kaune and Mrs. Roosevelt Ditlevson. The serving committee will be Mrs. Benj. A. Hansen, Mrs. Fred Kaune and

Bond ... Called Here Tuesday Nite

Solicitors Asked to Meet; Short Skit On Evening's Program

If Blooming Prairie is to meet its Fifth War Bond Loan of $103,000, the undivided support of workers as well as investors must be had, states local chairman George Burtness.

A meeting of village solicitors has been set for Tuesday night, June 13th, at the community building for 8:30 p. m. County chairman Sidney Kinyon will be present and given instructions to bond salesmen who face the task of convincing our residents that U. S. war bonds are the safest investment in the world today. With the invasion of the continent of Europe Tuesday by the brave American and allied forces marks the beginning of an expenditure of men and material far greater than anything heretofore known in the history of the world. Bonds must be sold, so that our brave boys may have the implements of war to wage a successful fight against Hitler's Huns who seek to destroy the liberties of all free and peace-loving peoples.

A short skit will be presented at Tuesday night's meeting which will give valuable information in the approach of prospective bond purchasers. The skit is very interesting but also humorous.

Steele county's quota for the Fifth War Loan is $2,100,000. Blooming Prairie's alloted quota of this amount is $103,000. Although the sales campaign does not open officially until Monday, June 12th, and continue until July 8th, several residents of this community have voluntary purchased war bonds. Blooming Prairie's two banks report sales of well over $10,000 of the Fifth bond issue since June 1st. In this drive for the first time each county and sub-division thereof will have a definite quota for sales of bonds to individuals, and during the first two weeks from June 12 to June 26th, the sales campaign will concentrate on such sales. Steele county's individual quota is $1,305,000 and each township, village and the city of Owatonna has been assigne ddefinite shares which must be sold to individual bond purchasers.

Following named men are requested to be present at the meeting to be held in the community building Tuesday night. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wishing to assist in the bond drive is cordially invited Mr. Burtness informs The Times.

W. R. Carroll; Harold Morrison; Dr. J. E. Price; E. T. Thompson;

(Continued on Page 16)

Richardson House To Sell At Auction

The fine modern residence of R. L. Richardson will be sold at public auction by Ole Olsen tomorrow (Friday) night. The sale will start at 8 p. m. A cash prize will be given the one guessing nearest what the place sells for. Plan to attend the sale.

Application Dates Set For Canning Sugar



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INSIDE A: 2A ..... Opinion; 8A ... 150th Celebration — B: 1B ..... Hometown Living; 6B ..... BP Honor Grads — C: 1C ..... Sports; 5C ..... History — D: 1D .. Farm Page; 4D ..... Legals

Vol. 125, No. 45 — Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 — 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

For a good cause

Warm weather busts forth; the days grow longer and extended merriment is in the mix. It is a time when the windows come open and the fresh breezes of the cool mornings wake us up with anticipation of all this season has to offer.

The winter hats, coats, gloves and sweaters go into Rubbermaid bins and then join the boxes of Christmas decorations that were just packed a few months before. Like old friends, you rediscover articles of clothing that had been carefully packed away seven months ago. Memories flood your mind of the last bonfire of the summer and the family vacation at the Boundary Waters.

You also begin to envision the places where your summer outfits would be "perfect." And the anticipation begins to build as you begin to build your plan.

As the first big festival kicked off this past weekend in Owatonna amid the summer-like conditions, the smell of barbeque was wafting all the way to Medford, the din of the crowd was loud, and drowned out only by the music from the many blues bands that had come to sing into our lives, their passion and their tales.

Sitting back to observe such a spectacle gives you a warm feeling of camaraderie, a strong sense of community and a fellowship of fun. The backbone of it all are the causes. People can choose to just party and have a good time, but when they do it to include the less fortunate and the ones who perhaps cannot participate, it takes the level of fun to a supernatural level and adds purpose to the celebration.

Whether it is a 5K to help our children have the tools they need to succeed in their education; to the festivals such as the Knights of Columbus' Smokin' in Steele which raises money for our Special Olympians, the compassion of organizers to provide an incredible venue without lining their own pockets is so refreshing in a world that has become all too cynical and "Scrooged" in its nature.

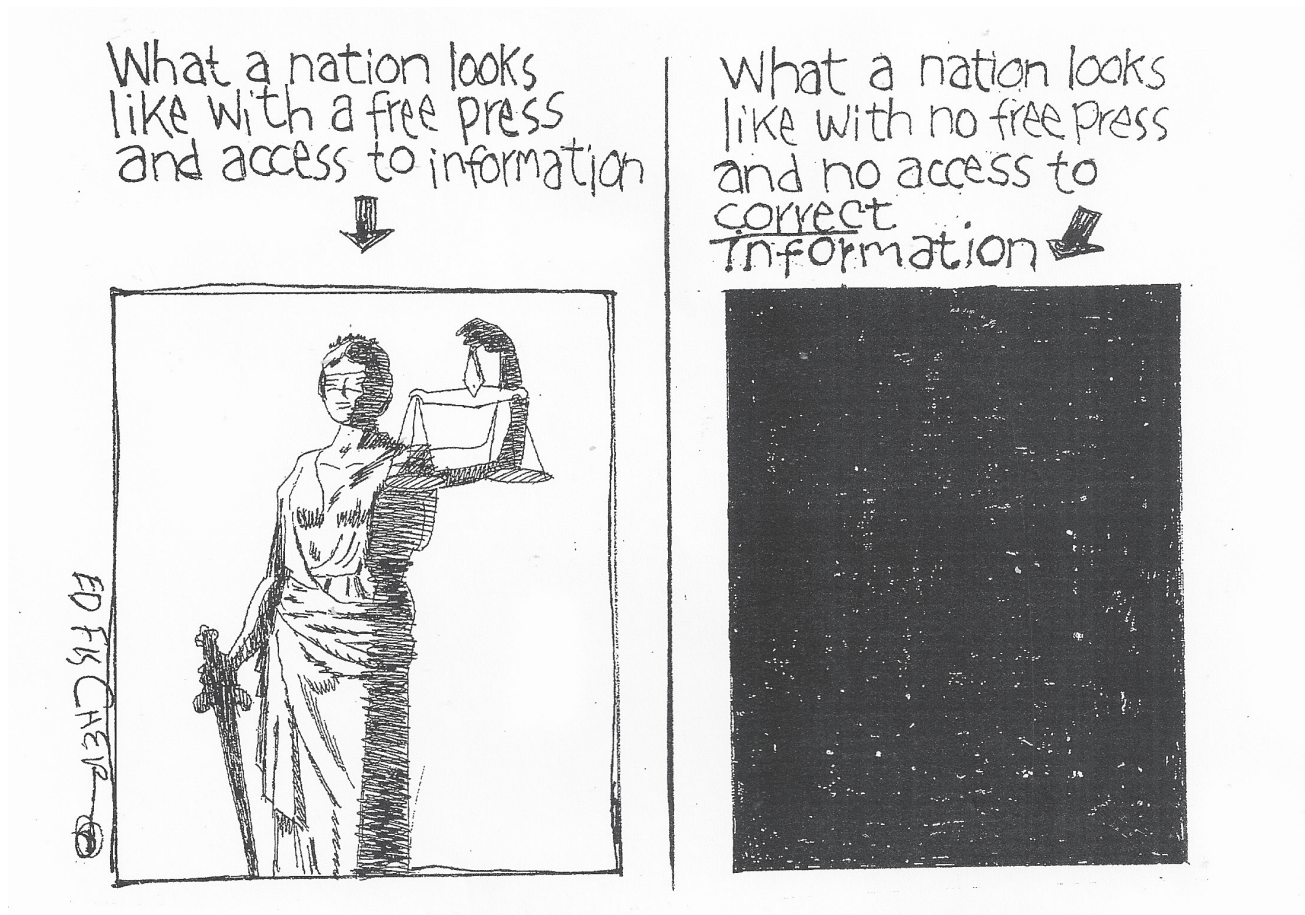
So often you hear the phrase, "pay it forward," and a few have bought into that. By participating in the festivals and the races and the shows, you are not only providing a way to grab that much needed "me time," but you are also taking care of the needs of others.

Jerry Lewis, who provided entertainment for a cause on a grand scale said, "I am probably the most selfish man you will ever meet in your life. No one gets the satisfaction or the joy that I get out of seeing kids realize there is hope. When I hit around 65, 66, I started to feel tremendous worth and incredible self-esteem. I was becoming very cognizant of my contribution to the American spirit of helping your fellow man and all of the good stuff."

Some may attribute the extra charitable spirit to the warm weather or the extra opportunities for fun. Perhaps it's that we have more light in our days in this season. But, just maybe, it's like Lewis said, "I started to feel."

If you see people like The Blueshammer, the Elberts, the Stephans, the Nobles and so many others who are raising money this summer and who are running around without their shirts on their backs, it's most likely because they gave them to people who were in need. They have a heart to see us smile and a spirit to see the unfortunate taken care of.

In all the dissention of the world right now, America, we like your odds.



HOT PURSUIT



RICK BUSSLER

Graduation not special? Hardly!

Since when isn't graduation a special occasion?

That's the question that I've been grappling with over the past few weeks as we spent extra time putting together our special section honoring area high school graduates.

During my seven years of owning this newspaper, we have always prided ourselves on designing special sections featuring various life milestones along with different community events. We continually find new ways to showcase the community in a positive light.

As part of the special sections, our sales staff sells advertising space to area businesses. After all, it's advertising that pays for the newspaper as well as all the special sections we do throughout the year. Sorry to inform you that I haven't had a rich relative that left me with piles of cash to put out a newspaper each week. And I haven't won the lottery either.

When our sales representative contacted a major Main Street business with ties to the community for decades in preparation for the graduation section, she was told that the business would not be doing an ad because "we only do special occasions." And the business person continued by saying, "it's not our job to support the local newspaper."

As you may imagine, hearing those comments from my sales rep made my blood boil. I had to refrain myself from overreacting to such ridiculous comments. I've had to do everything I can to keep from embarrassing this business publicly by identifying it.

There are two issues at hand. First of all, graduation, at least in my book, has and will always be a special occasion in anyone's life. I don't think many would disagree with my assessment. It is a major milestone that deserves special recognition. And the way your local community newspaper does that is by publishing a special section showcasing pictures and information about the graduates.

Now, perhaps even more troubling in this recent dialogue with the business person is his feeling that it's not the responsibility of his business to support the local paper. My question is who does he think is responsible?

The Times is a community newspaper that covers the trials, tribulations, triumphs, joys, successes and yes, sometimes tragedies of life in and around Steele and Dodge counties as well as the surrounding counties. It's a responsibility that we do not take lightly. Our newspaper is a reflection of what goes on in our little corner of the world in southeastern Minnesota.

Newspapers have two major sources of revenue—advertising and subscriptions. Without either one, there would not be a newspaper. We are a thriving community newspaper only because advertisers and readers support us in our efforts. We may not always be the most popular with every one in the community, but we make every attempt to cover local news.

So in response to the business person who doesn't see that it's his responsibility to support the local paper, you are dead wrong. It takes everyone in the community, including businesses and just regular Joes, working together to keep an institution like the Times going.

I'd also like to point out as Blooming Prairie hits its 150th this year, the Times has been a part of the community for 125 of those years. It's because most businesses through the years have had the foresight to support an icon that shares stories of people in an effort to make the community as a whole a stronger place to live.

To the Class of 2017, you are special people who deserve special recognition even if not all businesses agree. Graduation is still special and will always be treated that way by our newspaper.

I'm left wondering if this business person told his son a few years back that "well, son, sorry your graduation just isn't special." For his son's sake, I hope not.

If he didn't and it was special, what makes graduation not special now? Perhaps we'll never know.

I wish the 2017 graduates the best of luck as they go in hot pursuit of happiness in their lives. Congratulations to all graduates.

CONTACT YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

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Rochester Office
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Southern Office
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Room 212
Rochester, MN 55901
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A STATE AND NATIONAL AWARD WINNING WEEKLY

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

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

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DEADLINE

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

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

STEELE COUNTY TIMES

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

$1 www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday, June 6, 2017



Section Track 1C

Back-to-back Section 1A Champs



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Members of the Blooming Prairie High School boys golf team, as well as girls golfer Taylor Christianson, ride on top of a fire truck from the Blooming Priarie Fire Department down Main Street Monday evening after the boys' squad captured thier second-straight Section 1A team title. Christianson will join the rest of the Blossoms' squad at the Class A State Tournament on June 13. For Day 2 results, go to http://steeledodgenews.com/sports.



Staff photo by Rick Bussler

Karen Kasper feeds a Jersey cow on her dairy farm south of Owatonna. The Kaspers have been milking for 30 years and currently have 400 dairy cows. They will be hosting the Steele County Breakfast on the Farm Saturday. Everyone is invited to come to the farm for a pancake breakfast and tours.

Down on the farm

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Folks wishing to get a close encounter with dairy cows and find out what life is like down on the farm will be in luck this coming weekend when a Steele County family opens up its operation to the public.

On Saturday Pete and Karen Kasper are hosting the annual Breakfast on the Farm event, which coincides with June Dairy Month and is sponsored by the Steele County American Dairy Association. The Kaspers operate a large operation south of Owatonna. The event runs from 8 a.m. to noon.

This won't be the first time the Kaspers have opened up their farm for visitors. They held the breakfast event in 2004 and last year had a smaller gathering of 400 people for an ice cream social in August.

About 1,200 people typically flock to the breakfast event for pancakes and a chance to learn more about dairy farming. There will be activities for children, including barn tours, horse and buggy rides, photos with a calf and other craft activities. As an added bonus, Karen Kasper will be signing the children's books about farming that she has authored in recent years.

One thing the Kaspers hope to stress during the event is how farmers treat their animals with the utmost care. "Our animals make our living and we have to take care of them," she said, adding if they don't take care of things, they wouldn't be in

FARM
Continued on page 7A

Panthers pounce on buddy bench



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Two second graders were chosen along with four other students to put their handprints on the buddy bench as a symbol of community. Principal Doug Anderson also had his hands painted to add to the bench.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

"Thank you!" yelled a crowd of elementary students to the volunteers visiting their school.

This Monday, NRHEG elementary students gathered to watch the installation of two new buddy benches on their playground.

Pat Heydon, Executive Director of Steele-Waseca Habitat for Humanity, oversaw the installation. She asked the students if they knew what the buddy benches were for.

"If you don't have someone to play with, you can make new friends," a young girl called back from the crowd. She was right.

Buddy benches were created as a way to promote friendship and deter bullying. When a student is without someone to play with, they can sit on the bench. That signals to others kids he or she is looking for a buddy, and other students are encouraged to invite them to play.

Community volunteers put the benches together and explained to students the use of different tools as they worked. When they finished, eight students were invited up to dip their hands in paint and decorate the bench with their handprints. Principal Doug Anderson was also called up, and unlike the students, had both his hands painted.

Anderson was glad to see the project completed, "It ties in perfectly with what we strive for with inclusion," he said.

The school's anti-bullying "Paw-sitivity" committee heard about the buddy bench from other schools and was eager to implement it. When Ellen Heydon, Habitat's Community Engagement Coordinator, contacted the school about a collaboration, the committee pitched her the idea and she agreed. "We want to engage all ages," she said.

Students are enthusiast about a new way to makes. Kindergartener Gracie, 6, summed it up with "It's really cool."



Vicki Jensen

Former senator makes run for Congress

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A former Minnesota senator is making a run for the U.S. Congress.

Vicki Jensen, DFL of Owatonna, announced Monday afternoon that she wants the congressional seat currently being held by Tim Walz. In March, Walz announced he is running for Minnesota governor in 2018.

In making her announcement, Jensen said she is building on her experience as a mother, small business entrepreneur and state legislator to conquer Walz's congressional seat.

"Our ability to achieve our goals as individuals, families, businesses and communities depends on our courage to work together for our future," said Jensen, who operates an independent insurance agency with her husband in Owatonna. "I believe people want to send someone to Washington who tells it like it is, allows a seat at the table for everyone, and works hard because they do."

Jensen said when she served in the state senate she advocated for farm families and fought for educational opportunities and job training, transportation improvements, health care reforms and public safety.

"In Congress, I will continue fighting for those issues along with economic and scientific innovation, trade and investments in infrastructure, including housing, energy and broadband technology," Jensen said.

She added, "With all the uncertainty and dysfunction in Congress, we need representation from someone with roots in this district who understands the issues and works hard to ensure our rural communities don't get left behind."

Jensen was elected to District 24 state senate in 2012, but lost to John Jasinski in 2016.

She lives in Owatonna with her husband Trevor and son Benjamin. She also has a grown daughter and son.

Jensen credits her children for greatly impacting her decision to get involved in politics.

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2017 Smokin in Steele

Blues & BBQ bonfires ignite in Owatonna

A decade of fire for Smokin' in Steele

Story and Pictures by Mark DeLap
A festival review
from the SC Times Managing Editor

A fire that was initially ignited a decade ago has burned slow and steady, flaring up each year in June and leaving lasting embers burning deep and hot in the hearts of those who love to be caught in this inferno.

Smokin' in Steele now has a decade of blues, barbecue and blaze under its belt. Each year, the standard has been raised a little higher and a little higher until this year, when the heated fever pitch incinerated the bar altogether.

People have never seen anything quite like it. Incredible bands, one right after another, power giving way to power, people losing their voices, pulling muscles on the dancefloor and delighting in the insane adrenaline energy that brought the performers into the crowds to perform "table top."

"I want someone who sees the fire in my eyes and wants to play with it"

Anon.

The festival itself grew out of the minds of the brothers Elbert, Tom and Joe, who had a nagging aching hunger to start something fun and to find yet another cause for the Knights of Columbus Council 945 to champion. While at a festival "far, far away," and keeping their eyes peeled for festival ideas, Joe asked Tom, "what do you think about barbecue?"

Tom liked the idea, not to mention chowing anything with barbecue sauce, and they planned a road trip to Kansas City. The world hub for all things barbecue. The rest, shall we say is history.

Enter John "Blueshammer" Hammer, and you now have the perfect storm for a warm "summah" rain.

"John knows a LOT of people," Tom Elbert said. "He has been the thrust behind getting the entertainment for our venue, and the bands who come, don't come for the money, they come for the party and because they love John."

Hammer, who is constantly driven to build bigger and bigger shows for Owatonna was, most of the time standing in the shadows enjoying the people who were enjoying the show. The line-up was so spectacular that there were many comments about the magnitude equaling a category 5 tornado.

Hammer, whose passion is only surpassed by his humility said, "I'm not dead yet. I can do better."

Really.

Perhaps it's just because I was only in my sophomore season at Smokin' in Steele, but I walked away in 2016 and thought to myself, "there is no equal to what I just witnessed." And then, 2017 came and it pretty much ticked all the boxes on my bucket list, so I'm probably close to death at this point.

All the crowd could mutter as the grand finale ended and drifted off into the fog of "camp grab-me" was, "he (Hammer) did it again."

He did. They raised that bar and he jumped it. HE JUMPED IT. I can only imagine now, just how high that bar has become. Certainly those without vision won't be able to see it anymore.

And as big as this blues fest has become, Tom Elbert warns, "this is the best kept secret in the Midwest and we need to be careful to protect it. If it explodes, and we'd see 30,000 people, it would be our last year."

There is a sadness and a bit of fear that I heard coming from his mouth. The festival as it is now, is more like a family reunion for the performers. They have the luxury of playing the small venue to avoid the big crowds, to sit and talk to the small-town voices of Minnesota. They tell their tales of the road with other performers, let their hair down, camp in an intimate setting and come back to their roots.

They find themselves, rediscovering the reason they are musicians and they rekindle the passion of what brought them to the dance in the first place. And bottom line, they love the Blueshammer and the tireless work he does and the causes he fights for.

There was a video I had posted of a young girl, probably no more than 3 years old, playing her harmonica while sitting in the cool grass of Park Square on a very warm second day of the fest. Of all the videos I had posted, Hammer saw this one and said, "this one brought a tear of SWEET JOY to my old eyes."

John posted a message to his friends and fans Monday which thanked everyone else but himself for a successful weekend. He said, "to those who danced with the dream, it was truly a labor of love with individuals coming together to make our little corner of the world just a little bit better, while raising support and awareness for those in our community that need the helping hand of kindness, while engaging in the joyous fun. That is simply how it is done."

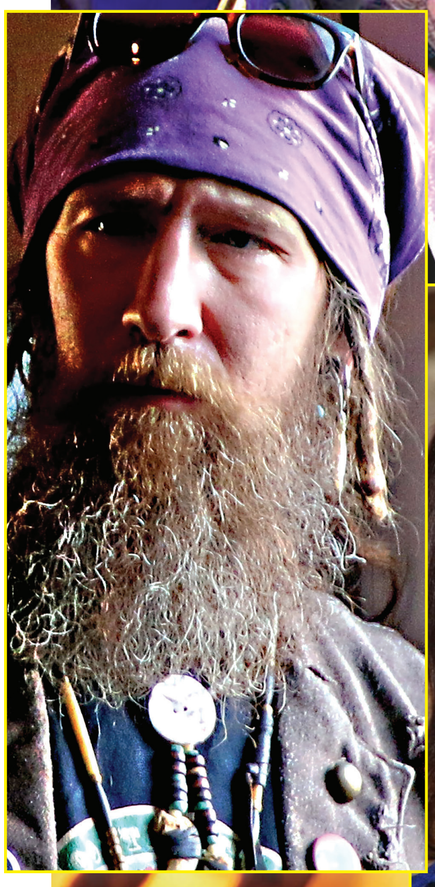
The replies and comments that came pouring in from bands and fans alike are echoing praise and thankyous. Blues aficionado, Spike Stephan might have said it best when he said, "Life is music and music is life. Thank you."

A good number of bands themselves were nationally acclaimed and had enough energy to light up the Eastern Hemisphere. Joyann, a Minnesota girl with a Memphis voice and Mississippi mud in those deep pipes brought her band as the warmup Thursday night for the VIP banquet. Most of us sat awestruck and thought, "if this is the warmup, kick-it-off band, what ARE we in store for?"

It was beyond the realm of our consciousness what would happen next. From old familiar faces like Brother Sun Sister Moon and the Mark Cameron Band to bands like the Jeremiah Johnson Band and Mississippi Bigfoot, it was a show unlike many had ever seen before. Certainly not in such an intimate setting and appearing all in the same weekend.

Dee Miller, Renee' Austin, Grammy-nominated Shaun Murphy, Craig Clark, Slim Willie, Big George Jackson, Boom Boom Steve V, Mike Munson, Mike Beckmen, Mike Fugazzi

SMOKIN'
Continued on page 6A













Blueshammer does it again

SMOKIN': from page 5A

"I'm not dead yet. I think I can do better."

John "Blueshammer" Hammer







and the Harrison Street Band to name a few. Yep. All here. In Owatonna. Can anyone see Hammer clearing that bar with a new record? How could it be? But we've learned not to bet against Hammer.

The Reverend was here Friday night bringing a sense of pride to all of us Wisconsinites and a sound unique to any blues club they grace. From Chicago, there was the Norman Jackson band with his protégé Rick Short, a comedic singer/sax player that brought the house down as he played his sax with red face and sweat on stage. On the floor. Lying flat on his back. On the chairs. On the tables of the fans.

And then there was the sisters who grew up singing gospel in church and expanded their pulpits to the blues clubs of America. It was a righteous performance by drummer, Tikyra, power singer, Tierinii and the entire band, Southern Avenue.

The newbie, however had to be Jeremy Powell the SA keyboardist. I can remember turning to my wife and asking her, "Did he just make that thing growl?" As she nodded her head, I immediately went home, put my piano on eBay, and with a tear in my eye played my last tune poorly and I knew that he ruined it for me.

All event pictures and band videos can be seen if you go to the Steele County Times Facebook page. They will remain posted all week. Also view our Opinion column in section A Page 2.

Not only was this a blues festival, but also a Kansas City sanctioned barbecue cook-off event, a 5K, a bike cruise, a kids cook-off, an antique tractor and big rig show, a classic car show and more food than one could eat in a lifetime.

The best quote was perhaps thrown in by Mark Cameron who told Hammer, "I'm sending you the bill from my weight loss clinic. I just couldn't stop eating."

For the best of the best of the band pictures, please go to: https://www.dropbox.com/…/xa4mhk…/AAATb2z62XwctNrnhx_YCe6ea…





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Second Front

Working on the Cedar River watershed

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff intern

Do we take water for granted? Of course, we do. It is estimated that the average person uses around 100 gallons of water a day. Do we depend heavily on clean water? Absolutely.

Water, especially here in Minnesota (The Land of 10,000 Lakes), really defines us culturally, socially, spiritually, physically and recreationally.

Safe water is important for more than just drinking and bathing. It is something that defines the success of our farming industry, as well as the wellbeing of our ecosystems.

Last Thursday, the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center hosted a kickoff event for the public education of "One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) – Cedar River Watershed." A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water. 10 informational booths were offered by members of each of the local government units and state agencies associated with the Cedar River 1W1P.

Topics covered included groundwater, habitats, flood damage, surface water, and several others. There were also speakers from several different groups, such as the DNR, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's), Cedar Water Project, and the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. Local residents were given the opportunity to address concerns and suggest ideas for the next 10 years of the watershed project.

A prevalent problem in the area is flooding. A rainfall of 5 inches caused the equivalent of over 100 truckloads of sediment to end up in East Side Lake. Not only do events like this harm fertile farmlands, but they also cause runoff to pick up and carry many hazardous materials right into a larger body of water.

This leads to pollution of the environments where many of our plant and animal companions live. It is easy to see why this is a concern; many organisms cannot pick up and leave; they must suffer the consequences. The quality of our surface water is not up to par, and a large contributing factor is the high levels of nitrogen.

A main culprit is the improper disposal of manure on local farms, and another is a collection of septic systems that are not working well.

An additional concern is the fact that water quickly moves into other areas, and much like our circulatory systems, everything connects to just one water source.

To make it worse, most of Minnesota's wetlands are no longer in existence. This is a problem because, just like our kidneys filter our blood, wetlands cleanse and filter the water.

It can be frightening to accept what is happening to our water supply. However, there are many environmental committees, agencies and boards working together on solutions for the Cedar Water crisis.

Because waterways are connected throughout the state, Dodge, Freeborn and Mower counties recently all merged into one plan. By doing so, they can break down political boundaries and make a plan together. "Water doesn't stop at the county line."

These groups certainly don't do it alone, though. They have received money from county and state funds, as well as land owners who wish to help out. Many local farmers have been extremely cooperative, doing anything they can to improve their practices. SWCD's, as well as some of the state agencies, work hand-in-hand with farmers to establish systems that improve the watershed, and function well with their farms.



Staff photo by Marissa Larson

There were four public speakers at the watershed event. Left to Right: Todd Piepho from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Justin Hanson from Mower SWCD's (Soil and Water Conservation District), Adam King from Dodge SWCD, Julie Westerland from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.

When they understand how they can help, more often than not, they are more than happy to implement buffer systems and/or water and sediment control basins. These help hold back the flow of water, so as to prevent severe flooding.

Planning for the projects is tackled by Barr Engineering. They collect biological samples and data in order to accurately target areas that would benefit the most from intervention. They aim to improve surface water, restore the wetlands, improve practices that reduce erosion, and cut down on pollution.

By achieving these goals, we can also focus on resource concerns and work towards conserving our very scarce supply of fresh water.

In the big picture, clean water is a huge part of our life story, and is necessary to sustain what we do here in Minnesota.

1W1P is going to do great things. Together, these three counties, along with state agencies and SWCD's will implement efficient, economical and environmentally-friendly technology to chip away at a fix. Although Minnesota alone has 80 major watersheds, change has to start somewhere.

Because Cedar River was one of the few watersheds in the state to receive funding, systems will continue to be installed in the area. 1W1P means, "One watershed, one unified plan to meet our goals for the preservation and conservation of our water."

Kaspers have 30 years in dairy business

FARM: from page 3A

business.

Karen finds it amazing as to what people don't know about farm life. "Even though we are so close to town, you wouldn't believe how many haven't been exposed to farm life," she said.

The Kaspers have been in the dairy business for 30 years. Pete grew up on a dairy farm in the area, though it's not the one they operate today. They started with 65 milking cows and since then the herd has swelled to 400 Jersey and Holstein cows. The milking parlor was built in 1996.

Milking is no easy task as it consumes 14 hours a day, seven hours beginning at 5:30 a.m. and seven more in the evening. The Kaspers finish milking usually around 1 a.m. Their son, Anthony, has joined the operation. They also employ six people, including some teenagers.

The Kasper dairy herd produces more than 8 million pounds of milk each year. The milk is shipped to AMPI in Rochester.

Operating a large dairy operation didn't come natural for Karen. "I grew up in town," she said, "this is all new to me."

In fact, she worked off the farm for many years at Federated Insurance in Owatonna before leaving to devote herself to full time to farm work. And she hasn't regretted her decision.

"It was the best thing I ever did," Karen says of leaving her career behind. Most importantly, she said, it allowed her to spend quality time with her three children, all of which are now working in agriculture-related fields.

She also appreciates watching the life cycle of animals on the farm. "It's fun to see things grow. I like to see a calf being born and grow up into a cow," Karen said.

Karen is excited to be opening up their farm for visitors.

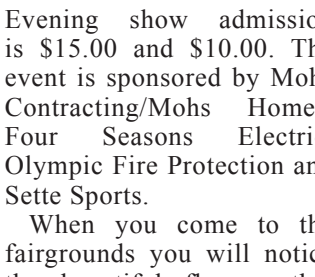
"We want to show people reality," she said. "We want them to see how we take care of our animals and that we truly care about our animals."

IF YOU GO

Breakfast on the Farm
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8 a.m.-Noon
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Free transportation
from fairgrounds

ATV Big Air Show coming to county fair

FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

In early March the Steele County Free Fair posted on Facebook a survey asking the public to help select entertainment for the Wednesday grandstand show at this year's fair. The ATV Big Air Show was the overwhelming selection.

The ATV Big Air Tour is a Freestyle Motocross/Extreme Sports Thrill Show that features freestyle ATV's flying three-stories high, motorcycle back flips and the megajump BMX team in an action packed show for the whole family.

Free prizes will be given away throughout each show and everyone in attendance will receive a free autograph card.

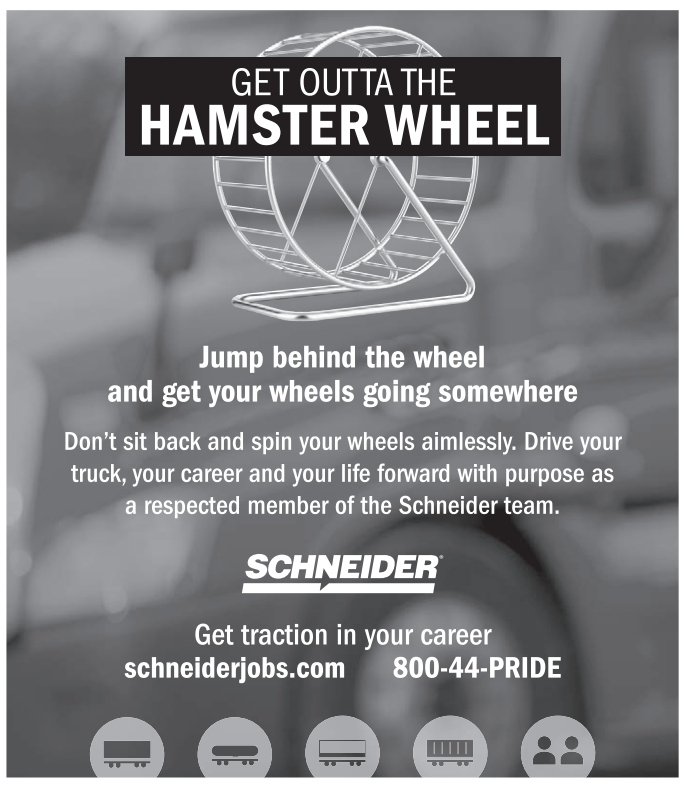
Show times will be Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Cost for the afternoon show is $10.00 for adults, $5.00 for those 12 and under. Evening show admission is $15.00 and $10.00. The event is sponsored by Mohs Contracting/Mohs Homes, Four Seasons Electric, Olympic Fire Protection and Sette Sports.

When you come to the fairgrounds you will notice the beautiful flowers that have been planted by the caring hands of Michelle Warner. Michelle is the co-superintendent of the Flower Department at the fair and has undertaken the job held by Myrna Peterson for many years and has recently retired. Michelle's expertise will assure that flowers will continue to enrich and beautify the fairgrounds.

The two barn dances at the fair have proven to be a popular attraction. The fair barn dances are held in the hog show barn on Wednesday featuring Big Ben and the Brians and Saturday featuring Marion's Concertina Band. The sawdust will be on the floor and fairgoers are invited to "cut a rug" at the fair. Hours of the barn dances are 5:00-9:00 p.m.

There will be no weekly parking passes to the fair sold this year. Parking in the specified ball diamond lots will cost $5.00 per day.

Dates of the 2017 SCFF are August 15-20. Check the fair website at www.scff.org for a full schedule of events and entry forms for competition. The fair office number is 507-451-5305. "Scream and Moo with Much to Do"









Blooming Prairie Times
66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

Remembering days of infamy in World War II

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Writer

This week marks probably one of the most important events of World War II when allied forces invaded the beaches of Normandy in a ferocious assault to take over the war and defeat the Germans.

Not many people remember the details of that encounter, but the logistics of the attack had been in the planning stages for months. As it turned out, things didn't materialize exactly as planned when weather conditions almost forced postponement of the attack.

That would have probably scrapped the whole mission, but Dwight Eisenhower, the allied commander in Europe decided that the onslaught would take place as scheduled. It proved to be the right decision, though many obstacles confronted the troops. An attack centered on four different beaches in the coast, but only two ventures actually succeeded in that first attack wave.

Cliffs, booby-trapped beaches, and fierce defense by the German army led to many casualties by the allied troops, and it was June 12, before the beaches were actually connected. It took until July before one could say that the invasion of Normandy, or D-Day, as it became known, was judged to be a success. Allies counted 4, 414 deaths in the fighting, and somewhere between 4,000 and 9,000 Germans perished in the battles. It did, however, mark the turning point leading to the ultimate surrender of Germany.

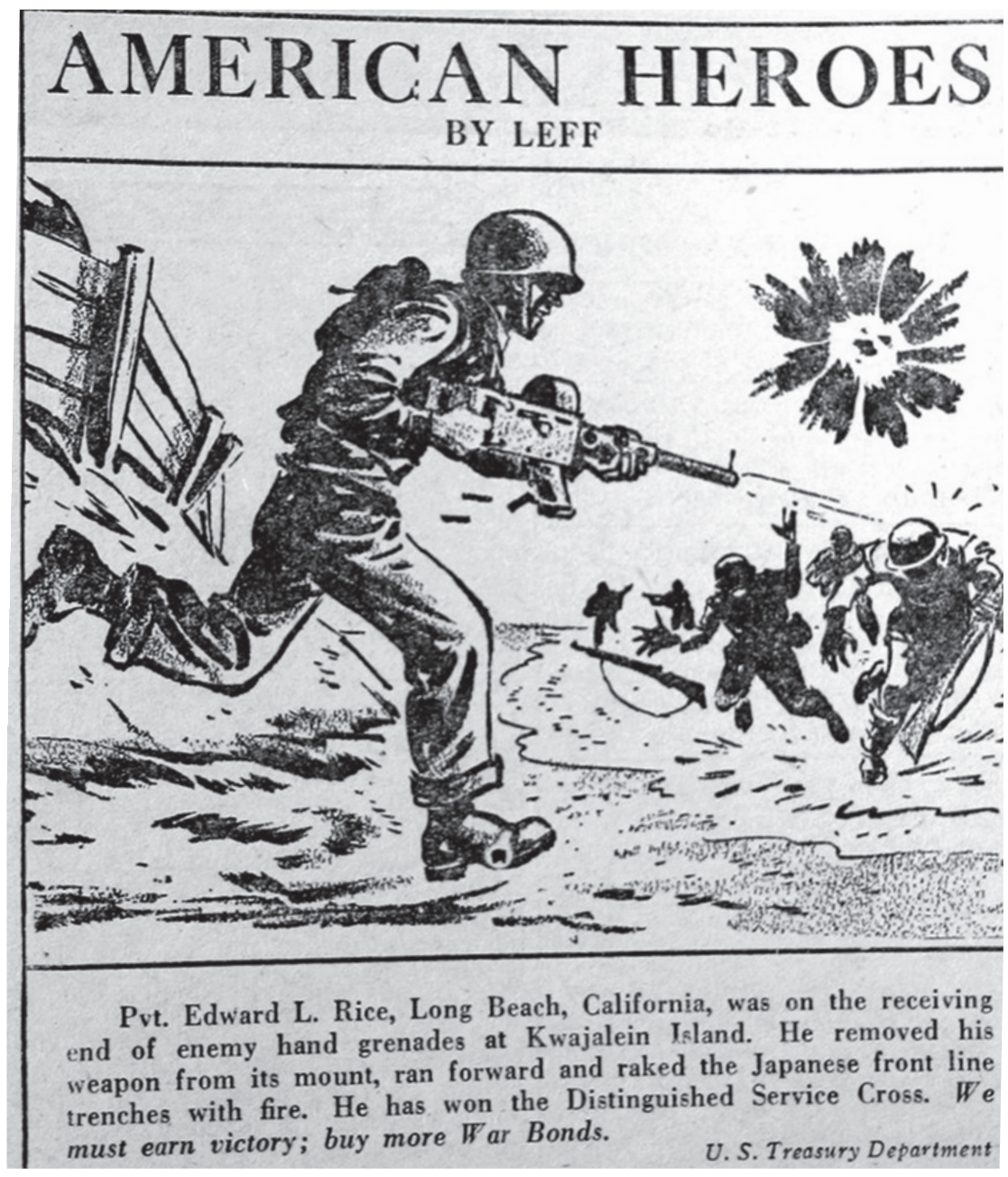
That invasion culminated over three years of the war, and began with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which began the worldwide conflict, as it took place on Dec. 7, 1941. For those in my age group the Pearl Harbor attack will be etched in memories forever, just as john F. Kennedy's death, the first landing on the moon, and the tragedy of 9/11 will be forever remembered by a younger generation.

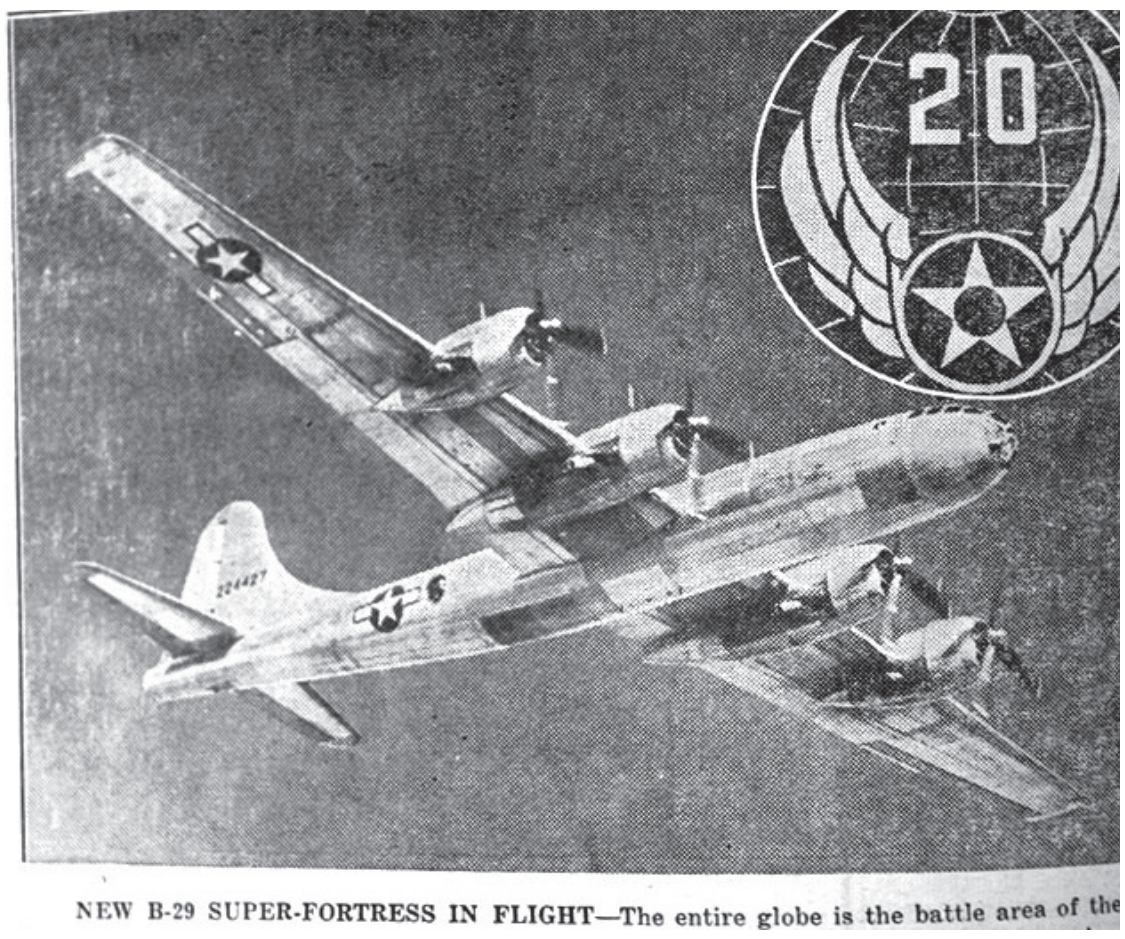
For me, as a 9-year old boy, Pearl Harbor is still clear in my mind. My family was visiting at the farm of an uncle, when the radio announcer broke into the Sunday afternoon programming with the announcement that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by Japanese warplanes. In that one moment, life changed, not only for me, but also for my family, my community and the entire country.

Over four years of fighting would elapse, before VE Day and the subsequent surrender by Germany and later, Japan, would end the conflict. Ironically that war was never supposed to be as WWI was dubbed "the war to end all wars," and here we are a half dozen other wars later embroiled in conflicts yet again.

Is it any wonder that many people are wondering if this is the norm to be in our lifetimes? We hope not.







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Hometown Living

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Staff photos by Joshua Zimmer

Left: Jennifer Mckay accepts the Valedictorian Award from NRHEG school Superintendent Dr. Dale Carlson Sunday at the NRHEG High School graduation ceremony at the school's gymnasium. McKay finished with a 4.0 GPA and plans to study Pre-Med at St. Thomas. Right: Graduate Gretchen Ramaker sings "Goodbye My Friend" during the NRHEG High School graduation Sunday at the school gymnasium.

NRHEG graduation commences

By JOSHUA ZIMMER
County Staff Writer

Surrounded by members of the NRHEG School District, friends and family, 53 seniors from NRHEG High School had one last item to check off their high school checklist Sunday - walk across the stage and receive their diploma.

After welcoming family, friends and other guests to the ceremony, NRHEG principal David Bunn directed his address to the graduating class of 2017. In that address, he noted three keys to life that could lead the future on the right path to success.

Passion, perseverance, and patience.

For passion, Bunn asked the graduates, "Have you ever had the trick candles on your birthday cake?"

He noted that no matter how hard you tried to blow them out, the chances of having your cake drenched in saliva was greater than blowing the candles out. He added that the determination to blow the candles out was to serve as a reminder for the passion that they would have to live with.

GRADUATION
Continued on page 3B

Medford kindergartners moving up



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Medford's class of 2029 graduated from kindergarten last week. There were three classes who received certificates from their teachers and sang about what they had learned in their first year of school.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Hats off to Medford's youngest scholars.

On June 1, Medford's kindergarten classes celebrated their graduation to the first grade. This is the first time Medford elementary has ever celebrated a kindergarten graduation.

Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Padgett, and Mrs. Trapp's classes processed onto the auditorium stage in their red caps with tassels. The room was packed with families who had come out to watch their children, who have completed 178 days of kindergarten

The classes came forward one at a time to receive their diplomas from their respective teachers and shake hands with principal Mark Ristau.

Before coming forward, each class sang about something they had learned during their time in kindergarten. Mrs. Miller's class sang "Who Let the Letters out?" to the tune of "Who let the Dogs Out?" as students showed off their knowledge of the alphabet.

Mrs. Padgett's class

KINDERGARTEN
Continued on page 3B

Blooming Prairie FFA banquet honors seniors

By JEREMEY HOCKING
BP FFA Reporter

On May 13, 2017, the Blooming Prairie FFA chapter held its annual awards banquet. As always it was held in the BPHS commons and was catered by Superior Foods. The banquet is the last meeting with graduating seniors before inducting 2017-2018 officer team.

The 2017-2018 officer team: President - Ethan Arett, Vice President - Tim Wolf, Secretary - Colton Ivers, Treasurer - Kaiden Finley, Reporter - Jeremy Hocking, Sentinel - Cole Christianson, Historian - Haley Ryks, Officer at Large, Alexis Ripka.

Every year, there are degrees given to some FFA members. The Discovery Degree is given to all 8th grade FFA members who have met these requirements: must have taken and agriculture class in either 7 or 8th grade, have FFA dues paid, and participated in a chapter event.

This year, the discovery degree was given to 11 members: Maggie Bruns, Boone Carlson, Cole Christianson, Ethan Grant, Allison Krohnberg, Casey Lyman, Chris Naatz, Megan Oswald, Caleb Smith, Greta Sunde, and Rachael Thompson.

The Greenhand Degree is given to all 9th grade members who have met this requirement: must have been in an agriculture class or SAE. This year, one member received the Greenhand degree: Kaden Finley.

The last possible degree to earn within a local FFA chapter is the chapter degree. This is given to all 11th grade members who have met these requirements: already received their Greenhand Degree, and participated in planning three official functions. This year three members received their Chapter Degrees: Ethan Arett, Jeremy Hocking, Mitchell Oswald.

This year there are four senior members: Sasha Katzung, Zach Sisler, Colin Nelson, and Nate Braaten. Two seniors

FFA BANQUET
Continued on page 2B



Submitted photo

The new officer team, they are: Kaiden Finley – Treasurer; Alexis Ripka – Officer at Large; Tim Wolf – Vice President; Ethan Arett – President; Colton Ivers – Secretary; Haley Ryks – Historian; Cole Christianson – Sentinel. Missing, Jeremy Hocking – Reporter.

Remember to check for ticks



MATT JOHNSON

As the temperatures continue to warm, many of us in Steele County are finding ourselves outside more and more to enjoy the beautiful weather.

And while we should savor this time as much as we can, it is important to remember that all this prolonged time spent outdoors can increase our chances of encountering ticks and the diseases they carry.

The most common of these diseases is one you may be have heard of, Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that has seen a dramatic increase in recorded cases in Minnesota in recent years. Because of this trend, it is important to understand how transmission occurs, what symptoms to look for and what you can do to protect yourself.

So how does one get infected with Lyme disease? Well first things first, it is important to understand that not all ticks carry Lyme. Around Minnesota, Lyme cases are a result of a bite from an infected blacklegged tick, commonly called the "deer" tick. Adult blacklegged ticks are around the size of a poppy seed, while the younger nymphs can often be mistaken for a speck of dirt. The much more common and larger American dog tick that many people encounter, has never been shown to transmit the disease and even among blacklegged ticks, many do not carry the bacteria.

If you do find a blacklegged tick that you feel has been attached for more than 24 hours, the estimated time it takes for the bacteria to be transmitted, there are some symptoms to look out for. There is the infamous "bulls-eye" rash that can appear around the bite location. This rash is the easiest way to diagnose Lyme, but is not always present, appearing in roughly 60-80 percent of cases.

Other symptoms, that usually appear within two to four weeks can include fever, chills, headaches, muscle/joint pain, and fatigue. Because of the commonality of these symptoms it can be very difficult to self-diagnose without the presence of the rash. If you begin to experience these symptoms be sure to contact your doctor as soon as possible, as earlier treated cases are less likely to involve lingering complications.

There are however many things that you can do to minimize your risk of contracting Lyme. The first is to wear an insect repellent that contains at least 20 percent DEET.

This practice also has the added benefit of keeping other pests away as well. Also, avoid heavily wooded areas and thick brush, as this is the preferred habitat of blacklegged ticks. If you do venture into these areas, try and wear long, loose fitting shirts and pants.

But most importantly of all, make sure to inspect both yourself and others with you, including pets. A thorough visual inspection is the best way to detect any unwanted hitchhikers. If you do find a tick attached, use a tweezers and grasp it as close to the tick's mouth as possible. Gently pull the tick off and wash the area with soap and water.

Matt Johnson is currently serving as an intern at Steele County Public Health.

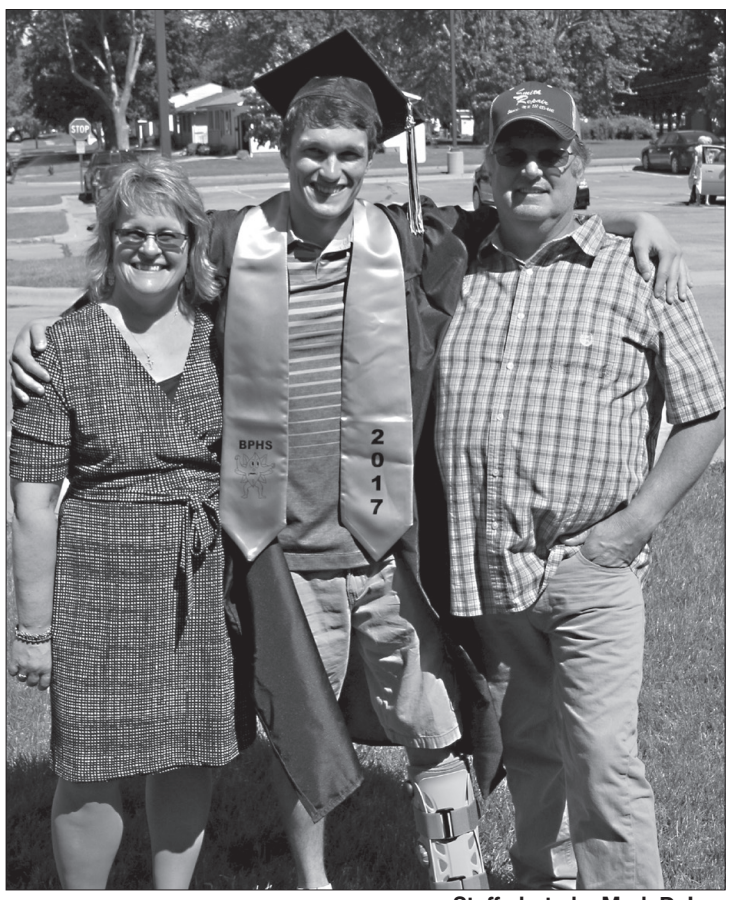
Blooming Prairie Living



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

The BP seniors of 2017 became the 115th graduating class from Blooming Prairie High School and are following in the footsteps of many successful people who have come out of this educational system. The students are seen here giving a round of applause to their parents who have mentored them and guided them through the sometimes rough waters of adolescence.

BP graduate reflects and looks forward



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Ben Smith and his parents pose for an after-graduation picture. Smith, who broke his leg while sliding into a base during the baseball season was bound and determined that he would walk "crutch-free" across the stage to receive his diploma. He had worked tirelessly to achieve his goal and found a way to beat the odds and the timing.

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff intern

On March 18th, 1999, I was given birth to in a land far, far away from the town of Blooming Prairie. In fact, it was all the way in sunny North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Little did my family know the journey that was awaiting us in the slightest bit, but nonetheless we buckled-up and dove headfirst into this thing called life.

Before starting off my schooling endeavors, my family and I suffered the tragic loss of my father who passed away unexpectedly from a severe heart attack. This was a tough time for my family, as my mother was now widowed with five children ranging from all ages, to take care of. Although the magnitude of this tragedy was large, we still had a life to be carried out and lived.

So from there on, I hopped around elementary schools until my mom married my step-dad Mark DeLap. We then ended up moving up to small town, Carson City, Michigan. This is where I spent the majority of my elementary, through middle school career. Next, our family migrated thirty minutes west to Greenville, Michigan.

Living in Greenville was a pivotal time in my life. It is where I grew into myself the most, and I thought it was where I would be graduating. Yet, somehow we managed to move again right before the start of my senior year. It was hard leaving all the friends and acquaintances in Michigan, but I had a confidence about this move, it just felt like it was going to be something special.

Before we moved, my dad Mark had already lived here for six months working at the Steele County Times. That left my mother and I alone at the Greenville home where I was left as the man of the house.

It was challenging at times but we knew that better times were to come.

Fast-forward to today, I am now graduated as an Awesome Blossom. It has been, as I predicted, a very special nine months in my life. I have gained relationships with many quality people and have grown into myself. With this move in particular, I felt like it matured me more as a young man.

Now heading into college, I feel like there is no challenge in life I can't handle. I have been through just about everything an 18 year-old can face and have come out on top each and every time. In a couple months from now, I will be headed to North Central University in Minneapolis, to study Studio Music Production and play on the Boy's Basketball team.



Staff photo by Mark DeLap

There was laughter and tears at this year's graduation and a chance for parents to not only physically "see" their seniors for more than just a few moments, but actually embrace them and the moments. This Hallmark moment was experienced by more than just a few graduates Sunday afternoon as moms held on for just a while longer before sending their babes out into the world.

Seniors speak of FFA's importance in their lives

FFA BANQUET: from page 1B

gave speeches. Honorary degrees went to the graduating member's parents: Kristine Katzung, Dennis and Teresa Sisler, Ron and Nancy Braaten, and Bryan Erickson.

Next, they recognized each of the Career Development Event Teams

General Livestock: (Ethan Arett, Colton Ivers, Tim Wolf, Cole Christianson, and Boone Carlson.) As a team, they placed 8th in regions and Colton Ivers placed 10th overall, and he placed 5th at State individually.

Dairy Judging: (Maggie Bruns and Bobbie Bruns) This team is very young but show great potential in the coming years. As a team, they placed 10th in regions, and Bobbie Bruns placed 10th individually.

Dairy Handlers: (Allison Krohnberg, Racheal Thompson, Chris Naatz, Ethan Grant.) Individually, Allison Krohnberg placed third and Racheal Thompson placed fourth.

Wildlife:(Cole Christianson, Ethan Grant, Boone Carlson, and Chris Naatz.)

There were four speeches throughout the banquet. The first one was from Zach Sisler who thanked everyone for what they had done for him to help him throughout his FFA career, and he challenged all the younger members to get out of their comfort zone and try all the different opportunities that FFA has to offer.

The next speaker was the guest speaker, Megan Andrist, former FFA member from Owatonna FFA and former Region 7 President. She shared with everyone the power of the FFA Jacket.

The last senior address was from Sasha Katzung. She gave an emotional tribute to how FFA had changed her life.

The last speech was from BP FFA Advisor Mr. Rinkenberger. He thanked everyone for all they have throughout the year and also thanked the parents for all their help. He also talked about all the challenges that is ahead for the seniors as they go into the real world, and that they cannot give up when things get tough for them.

For the second year in a row, two members earned their State Degrees. Both Sasha Katzung and Zach Sisler received their State Degrees. They both worked very hard in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) to obtain their State Degrees. Lastly, the Bud Rinkenberger Memorial Scholarship for $500 went to Zach Sisler.



BISCUITS

Ingredients:

2 c. White Lily self-rising flour
1/3 c. lard
1 T. butter
1 c. buttermilk
1 c. flour

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Mix together all the ingredients, except flour.
On the table, knead 1 cup flour into dough, fold into dough, fold over and press flat with fingers.
Cut circles 1/2" thick.
Grease cookie sheet.
Bake 10-15 minutes.

BY IMOGENE SYMES

Chamber Spotlight

Arkema earns Governor's Safety Award

Arkema Inc. was recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health at the Governor's Safety Awards luncheon on May 18 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Arkema Inc. is one of 266 employers to be honored through the awards program, coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council.

"We thank Arkema Inc. for its commitment to safety," said Paul Aasen, president of the Minnesota Safety Council. "These efforts protect workers, strengthen the organization and benefit the community as a whole."

"Our site is dedicated to the concept that all incidents are preventable and that the goal we are always working toward, zero injuries, can be achieved," said David Price, Arkema Plant Manager.

"At Arkema Inc., Blooming Prairie, MN facility we are very proud of our employees. This award is possible through the dedication and hard work of all of our employees and the safety programs such as Behavior Based Safety (BBS), Safety Committee, Responsible Care Management System (RCMS®), and Arkema "Drive to Zero" in accidents and environmental releases. The facility has just achieved the safety certification of OHSAS 18001," stated Loan Trinh, Arkema HES Manager.

Since 1934, the annual Governor's Safety Awards program has honored Minnesota employers with exceptional safety performance. Applicants are judged on several years of injury data, as it compares with their industry's national statistics, and on their progress in implementing a comprehensive safety program. Winners are recognized at three levels:

-Meritorious Achievement (115 winners): Incidence rates that are better than the industry average for at least three years, and a score between 50 and 74 on a 100-point safety program evaluation scale.

-Outstanding Achievement (108 winners): Continuing improvement and/or a continuing outstanding record with incident rates that are 51-90 percent better than the industry average, and a score between 75 and 90 on the safety program evaluation scale.

-Award of Honor (43 winners): Incidence rates at least 91 percent better than the industry average, and a score between 91 and 100 on the safety program evaluation scale.

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Medford/Ellendale Living





Staff photos by Seth Bedenbaugh

Left: The kindergarten graduates show off their singing, and sign language skills, before receiving their diplomas to cap-off the school year. This was one of several singing performances the graduating class showcased for the audience. Right: As this young graduate makes her way to the stage, parents and grandparents marvel. She was a part of one of the four kindergarten classes partaking in this graduation.

NRHEG kindergarteners graduate

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff intern

Friday afternoon in Ellendale, four Kindergarten classes that attend New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools, were gathered in the NRHEG Elementary School gym accompanied by their parents to enjoy a milestone in their youthful education career.

They were all eager to earn their diploma, as they graduated Kindergarten.

To start the ceremony, they filed onto the stage as poised as they could handle. With music playing as they walked, parents stood at attention admiring their children as they filled the platform.

Then, the mic was taken by two of the Kindergarten teachers who welcome those in attendance, and reminisced on memories from the past school year.

Some of these memories included their trip to the pumpkin patch in October, the 50th and 100th days of school, Valentines day festivities, and Dr. Seuss day where they indulged in some tasty green eggs and ham.

The audience was then treated to singing by the kindergarteners, as they followed their words with sign language and dance.

Then, the teachers announced what each kid wanted to do when they were older, as they received their diploma. Professions ranged from professional basketball players, to mechanics, city workers, and astronauts. Also, by the sounds of it, a plentiful amount of doctors will be coming out of the Ellendale area in the future.

Parents and teachers alike should be proud of their graduates, as they were able to complete one of many more years of education in the NRHEG Public School system.

Commencement speakers reminisce about elementary school memories

GRADUATION: from page 1B

For perservance, he referenced that the tasks at hand may not be easy, and that they'll even question why or what they are doing, but by knowing what it is they will work toward, the task becomes minor.

In his final key to success, Bunn talked about how this generation has virtually grown up with a smartphone in their hand.

"Sometimes we have to step back when there's a crisis or an issue," he added in his speech. "Siri may not have all the answers."

Prior to ending his address, Bunn simply turned to the graduates and said, "All of us at the NRHEG School District want to wish you the best."

Bunn ended his address with the class of 2017's motto, "Our lives are before us, our pasts are behind us, but our memories are forever with us."

After the high school band's rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen, graduates Tyler Raimann, Rachel Collins and Maci Surat - the commencement speakers as voted on by the graduating class - immediately strengthen the class's motto by diving back into their memories of growing up in the NRHEG School District.

Raimann, a standout basketball player for the Panthers, spoke about how the elementary school in Ellendale was the place that spurred their competitive fires, noting that three days a week was football and the other two days was basketball, with the teams always being the kids from Ellendale against the New Richland kids.

Fellow graduate Jack Schultz seemed to spur the most memories of the three speakers. Raimann noted that everyonee was jealous that Schultz would get the extra scoop of apple sauce at lunch while Rachel Collins noted that she'll never forget his singing and dance moves from prom.

By far the most sentimental moment for the graduates and their families were when the graduates presented roses to their parents while Rascal Flatts's "My Wish" played over the gymnasium speakers. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Before the presenting of the diplomas, School Superintendent Dr. Dale Carlson awarded Jennifer McKay as the class Valedictorian.

"It's kind of crazy, commented McKay after the ceremony. " I didn't think I was going to be the Valedictorian. It's a really proud feeling."

McKay finished with a perfect 4.0 GPA and plans to study Pre-Med at St. Thomas.

Then, one by one, the 53 seniors walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. Some students just smiled, some hit the "dab" while Anna Riecke pulled out her cellphone to take a selfie with Dr. Carlson.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

The 53 seniors for the class of 2017 for NRHEG High School stand before a crowd filled with family and friends during the school's graduation ceremony Sunday at NRHEG High School.



Kindergarteners demonstrate knowledge through music

KINDERGARTEN: from page 1B

performed "I like to Count It, Count it" to display their ability to count in different number increments, like 5's and 10's.

Proving an ability to sound out different letter combinations they encountered, Mrs. Trapp's class sang "How Do You Sound It Out."

After all of the students had received their diplomas, they sang "Dynamite" and then "First Grade, First Grade" to the tune of "New York, New Work" before processing out.

Braxton, 6, of Mrs. Padgett's class was one the students graduating. He's enjoyed his time in kindergarten, especially recess. In the first grade, he's excited for, "learning how to read."

Another of Mrs. Padgett's students, Chloe, 6, was also happy with her kindergarten experience. She said she liked "playing with my friends," but is excited for "meeting new students" in first grade.

Congratulations to the Medford class of 2029!





Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Left: Chloe McCarthy received her diploma from her teacher Mrs. Padgett. She paused to pose for her parents in the audience. Right: Mrs. Padgett's class sang "I Like to Count It, Count It" to celebrate all they learned about numbers. Each class had its own song to sing.

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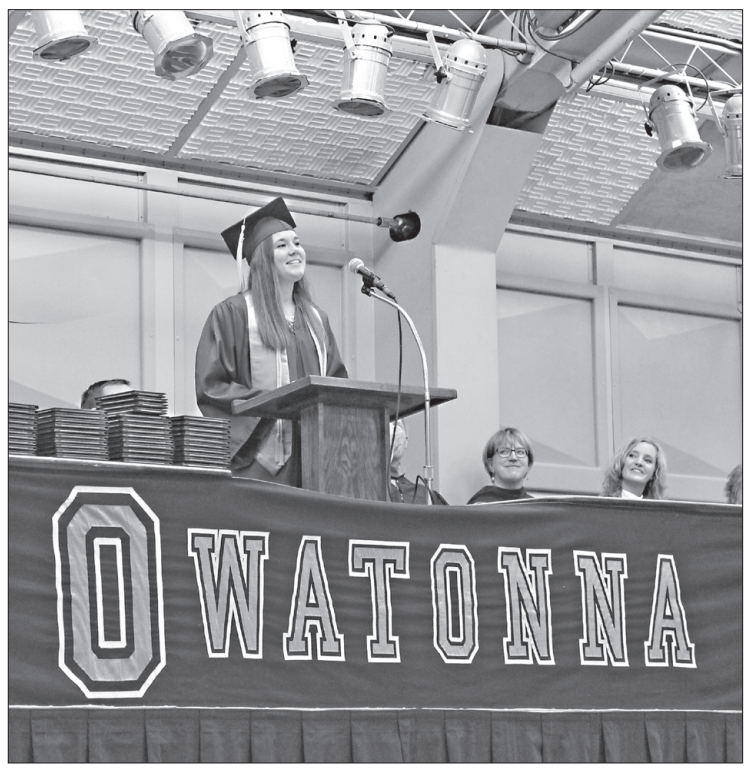
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Owatonna Living







Staff photos by Emily Schoenbeck

Left: The Owatonna senior class stands as fellow classmates process in. The graduation ceremony was held in the Four Seasons Arena on June 4 at 2 p.m. Center: Grace Valen, along with Ethan DeKam, was a student speaker at the commencement. She is Owatonna High School's student body president. Right: Hunter Atkinson shakes hands with Principal Mark Randall after receiving his diploma. He was one of 327 graduating seniors.

Huskies head toward bright future



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

With the end of the ceremony, seniors processed out into the sun as the newly graduated class of 2017. They were played out by the high school orchestra.

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

A sea of blue caps stretched across the arena floor, as over 300 hundred Owatonna seniors sat ready to graduate.

Owatonna High School principal Mark Randall welcomed the graduating students and thanked them for all the work they had done over the last several years in their school and in their community.

He was joined on stage by members of the school board, retiring faculty members, as well as four teachers.

The four teachers were selected by the senior class to represent Owatonna educators. They were: Katie Dahnert (fourth grade at Washington Elementary), Stacy Wobschall (fourth grade teacher and dean of students at St. Mary's), Michelle Nelson (fifth grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary), Polly Shives (Language Arts teacher at OHS).

Two students addressed their peers during the ceremony. Student body president Grace Valen spoke first followed by Ethan DeKam.

Poised and confident, Valen reminisced about the memorable moments the class had gone through together, including a fire in the high school auditorium and a flu outbreak.

"You're destined for something great as long as you believe," she reminded her classmates, "Don't just dream about changing the world… actually do." Valen will be attending Augustana University in South Dakota.

DeKam, who will be attending Saint John's University in the fall, congratulated his classmates on reaching a major milestone, but told them "today will soon be over." He encouraged his classmates to make the most of all the "today's" they had ahead of them.

While this was a beginning for the graduates, the ceremony marked the end of a chapter for several school district faculty members. The conclusion of the commencement ceremony marked the start of retirement for Peter Grant, who concluded five years as superintendent for a total of 17 years with the district.

After seven years, Assistant OHS Principal Jeff Miller ended his time with the district, and high school Business Education teacher John Dickerman also retired.

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates were introduced as the graduating class of 2017 and sent out, sans hat throw, into a beautiful day and a bright future.



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

After receiving their diplomas, the seniors stood to be recognized at the graduated class of 2017. They were applauded by an arena filled to capacity with family and friends. There was standing room only.

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Community Calendar

Owatonna/Medford

June 6th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
June 7th:
7pm - 8pm Medford Park Board (1st Wed even months)
June 8th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
5:30pm - 6:30pm Owatonna Airport Commission, Airport Lounge
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
June 12th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
4:30pm - 5:30pm Owatonna Park & Rec Brd, Council Chambers, Brooktree Golf Couse or City Park
June 13th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: County Board Meeting, Admin Center, BR
June 14th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Meeting

Event Spotlight:
Evening Out with the Koopmans' Orchestra

Join the Rice County Historical Society at the Faribault American Legion on Friday, June 9th, 2017, for dinner, a silent auction and entertainment by the Koopmans' Orchestra. Social Hour begins at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m., and the band will begin at 7 p.m.

The Koopmans' Orchestra is a locally based band that has history extending back to 1948, when Roger Koopmans of Faribault organized the band while he was still in high school. The original group included up to 16 instrumentalists from the region, and arranged for four to five gigs each year. Recently Gary Anderson, a clarinetist who started playing in Koopmans Orchestra at the age of 13, bought the band from Roger. We are excited to have this group share their always-popular Big Band music with us for our fundraising event.

During the evening, we will also have a silent auction of merchandise and services from area businesses, as well as a raffle. All proceeds will support the Rice County Historical Society's ongoing programs and activities and help continue to preserve the rich history of Rice County and to share our history with the community. This evening promises to be one you will not want to miss and won't forget.

Dinner/event tickets are $25.00 each. We also have a limited number of $100 raffle tickets which include: two dinner/event tickets (a $50.00 value), a 1 in 5 chance of winning your $100 back, and a 1 in 100 chance of winning the grand prize of $1,500. Tickets may be purchased at the museum or from any RCHS Board Member. Please contact the Rice County Historical Society at 507-332-2121 for more information.

Event Spotlight:
Nontraditional scholarships available

The Owatonna Foundation is pleased to make available $15,000 to assist students who will be attending non-four year programs at technical/ community colleges to prepare themselves for technical careers. Applications for nontraditional scholarships are due June 25, 2017.

Eligibility requirements include that recipients have an Owatonna mailing address or have worked at an Owatonna business for at least the past two years. You must also hold a GED or graduated from high school prior to, or with, the class of 2016. Scholarship awards range from $500 to $3,000 each.

Applications must be submitted June 25. Applications are available at the Foundation's website at http://www.owatonnafoundation.org/ Grants/ Scholarships, and Apply for a Scholarship; from Jill Holmes at 455-3059, and at the Foundation's office at 108 West Park Square, Owatonna.

Ellendale/Hope/Geneva

June 6th:
All day Hope Curbside Recycling S of 42nd Av
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
June 8th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
June 12th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
June 13th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

HAPPENING NOW

Medford Farmers' Market



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Boundless Roots Farm was one of several vendors at the grand opening of Medford's Farmers' Market on June 1. The market will run every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. through October at Christ the King Church's parking lot.
Produce vendors, crafters, or volunteers who would like to be a part of the market may contact Jennifer Kath at (507) 475-1832 or check out the Medford MN Farmers Market Facebook page for more information.
Monthly events like vegetable tastings and lessons from Master Gardeners are also planned.

LAST YEAR



Archived photo

Last year, members and coaches of the Blooming Prairie golf team holding the Section 1A championship trophy. From left to right: Coach Carl Peterson, Ethan Strunk, Tommy Braaten, Jake Ressler, Lucas Noble, Jon Hatch, Coach Cory Hendrickson. Front: Taylor Christianson and Jessica Ressler.


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June 6th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
June 7th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
June 7th:
4:30pm Police Commission, City Center
June 13th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Event Spotlight:
Strawberry Festival

The Strawberry Festival will take place at Red Oak Luthern Church in Austin on Tuesday, June 13 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

On the menu is Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw, Chips, Fresh Strawberries with shortcake, angel food, baked beans, hot dogs, ice cream, assorted beverages. Eat-in or take out.

There will be greeting cards for sale, as well as a bake and quilt sale.

For More information, call 507-437-3000 or 507-583-2038. Location of event: 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin.

Event Spotlight:
Habitat for Humanity groundbreaking

Habitat for Humanity of Steele-Waseca Area will break ground on the affiliate's 25th home on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Habitat for Humanity invites the community to join in for the ceremony.

The home will be sold to Dessa and Calvin Chambers and their four children after construction. The ceremony will take place at the site of the family's new home: 563 Glendale Street in Owatonna.

Afterwards, Habitat for Humanity invites the public to attend its annual meeting at the Baymont Inn and Suites of Owatonna at 6:30 p.m. There will be an introduction of the 2017 Homebuyer Family, Volunteer of the Year recognition, Board of Director nominations and election of board officers. Refreshments will be served during the meeting.

Event Spotlight:
LTO's 'Funny Girl' Musical

Little Theatre of Owatonna is pleased to announce the summer Musical "Funny Girl" opening June 16. Tickets will be available on LittleTheatreofOwatonna.org on June 10; the LTO Box Office, 560 Dunnell Dr., Owatonna opens June 12 at 4 p.m.

The musical, which is semi biographical, is set in and around New York City just prior to and following World War I. Ziegfeld Follies star Fanny Brice, awaiting the return of her husband, Nicky Arnstein, from prison, reflects on their life together, and their story is told as a flashback. The story is told with comedy, drama, romance and plenty of music including, "People" and "Don't Rain On My Parade."

Artistic Director is Linda Karnauskas, Musical Director Larry Ostermeier, Technical Director Brenda Hager, Orchestra Leader Ray Lacina, and Choreographer Katie Gillespie.

Performances of 'Funny Girl' will be 7:30 p.m. on June 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. Matinee performances will be 2 p.m. on June 18 and 25.

'Funny Girl' is presented by arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc., 560 Lexington Ave. New York. New York 10072. Music by Jule Styne, Lyrice by Bob Merrill; Book by Isobel Lennart

Little Theatre of Owatonna

Event Spotlight:
All employee reunion planned in Owatonna

Employees of National Hydro-Ax, National Tree Expert, Omark, Blount and Caterpillar are invited to gather for the reunion on Aug. 12 from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Building south of Owatonna.

Everyone is asked to bring their own beverage and a dish to pass. Water will be provided.

Come join the group for an afternoon of reuniting, tell some stories or lies or just hang out with some old friends.

All employees, spouses or significant others are welcome.

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JULY 22: B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS"

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Lacrosse: Owatonna girls fall to Farmington, 2C


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Hometown Sports

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Submitted photo

Owatonna's Wall fires 112, qualifies for state

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Lake City -- After qualifying for day 2 of the Section 1-AAA boys golf tournament at the Jewel, the Owatonna High School boys golf team wasn't just competing with the rest of the section for a slot in the state tournament.

They were also competing against the clock.

With Mother Nature staring down the golf course with a thunderstorm late Saturday afternoon, the round was cut short from the regular 36 holes to 27.

However, that didn't stop Owatonna senior Andrew Wall.

Firing a 35 to put his two-day score at 112, the senior finished third to qualify for the state tournament, which will be played at Bunker Hills starting June 13.

In fact, despite the gusty conditions, the Huskies finished six, carding a 495, 42 before Section 1-AAA champion Lakeville South.

"It was a great day for the Huskies' golf program," added head coach Mark Langlois.

After a Day 1 performance where he shot a 77, Wall was nearly perfect in the nine holes played on Saturday. In fact, outside of a bogey on hole nine, he would have either birdied or made par for the day.

Langlois noted that while the weather may not have affected Wall's chances of making the state tournament, the same couldn't be said for John Swenson. Finishing in a tie for 17th place, the senior was just strokes away from a playoff.

"He was five (strokes) off a playoff and I wish he could have played the back nine to see if he could have caught the front runners," added Langlois.

Aiden Ebner and Mac Baumgartner finished tied for 38th place with a 132. Ebner had a career-low 38 on the front nine in Day 1 to help propel him chances on day 2. Corey Gander finished 53rd and Joey Howell fired a 148 to tie for 54th place.

Wall will now a week to refine his game before heading to Bunker Hills for the Class AAA state tournament.



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna junior Margo Achterkirch leads the pack down the backstretch to the finish line in the girls' 4x200-meter relay final Saturday at Lakeville South. The team of Achterkirch, Sydney Schultz, Sara Anderson and Karissa Gregory qualified for the state tournament after clocking a time of 1:43.13.

Girls 2x400 relay, Dalton Kubista crowned Section 1-AA champs; Kretlow, Kubat finish second to earn state bids

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Lakeville – After seeing teammates Dalton Kubista and Braydon Kubat qualify for the state tournament on Friday, the rest of the Owatonna boys track team who slotted positions in the finals were looking to join the two.

Unfortunately, the field was a tough egg to crack.

Despite qualifying for seven running finals on Saturday, the Huskies were unable to qualify in each event they competed in at Lakeville South, but did manage to finish fourth in Section 1-AA. Head coach Kevin Stelter noted that it was overall a good day.

"We were pleased for the most part with the results of the meet," he added. "We ended up in fourth place, which we thought was pretty good, all things considered."

The Huskies however, were able to take home three fifth place finishes.

Both relay squads reeled in top five finishes on the day. The 4x200-meter relay team of Alex Raichle, Zach Barrett, Kubista and Jason Williamson took home a fifth place finish with a time of 1:31.74 while the 4x400-meter relay, the squad of Alex Raichle, Brandon Schmidt, Zach Barrett and Jaden Dowhanuik secured a fifth place finish after recording a time of 3:35.31. Stelter noted that they were a bit banged up as a team, stating that Schmidt was fighting an ailing hamstring while Dowhaniuk was competing through an illness – and illness that costed him a chance to compete in the 400-meter dash finals.

In his first race of the year at the 400-meter dash, junior Alex Raichle showed promise for the future, recording a fourth place finish with a time of 51.20. Stelter noted that it was a pleasant surprise to see Raichle compete the way he did.

"He's never really ran the 400 (meter dash) for us, he's ran the 4x400 for us," he Saturday. "But, he asked if he could try the open 400, and he made the finals and ended up taking fourth place so that was a good job by him."

While the Huskies were fighting not only the competition and the clock, they were also competing against the weather. It was a bit more humid that what was stated in the forecast. In fact, due to rain being predicted, most of the field events took place on Friday.

"It was 88 degrees and humid," Stelter added. "So, the big thing that we emphasized with our kids was to drink some water or Gatorade. The big thing is just trying to keep them hydrated."

The rest of the competitors for Owatonna ran into a talented field. In fact, of the four remaining events that the Huskies qualified for the finals three yielded top ten finishes. Freshman Keenon Young – who has shown promise all season – recorded an eighth place finish in the 300-meter hurdle final with a time of 42.41.

In the 1600-meter run, Ross Stevensen's time of 4:37.77 was good enough for sixth place while Kubat yielded an 11th place finish. In the 4x800-meter relay – the first finals event ran – the team of Jaden Rosacker, Brett Ruiter, Evan Steiger and Caedon McCartney took home a seventh place finish.

HUSKIES

Continued on page 3C

Section 1-AA championships and MSHSL qualifying meet
(Lakeville South High School)

Team Scores: Lakeville South 151.25, Lakeville North 116.5, Rochester Century 92.5, **Owatonna 54,** Winona 39, Hastings 37, Faribault 36.25, Rochester John Marshall 33, Austin 28.5, Kasson-Mantorville 27, Rochester Mayo 26, Northfield/ARTech 26, Farmington 19, Red Wing 16

Boys individual results (Finals)

400-meter dash: 4. Alex Raichle 51.20, Dowhaniuk (DNS). **1600-meter run:** 6. Ross Stevensen 4:37.77, 11. Braydon Kubat 4:41.95. **3200-meter run:** 2. Kubat 9:49.31q. **300-meter hurdles:** 8. Keenon Young 42.41. **4x100-meter relay:** 11. Owatonna (Taylor Hall, Owen Koslosky, Young, Jayden Gunderson) 46.92. **4x200-meter relay:** 5. Owatonna (Raichle, Zach Barrett, Dalton Kubista, Jason Williamson) 1:31.74. **4x400-meter relay:** 5. Owatonna (Raichle, Brandon Schmidt, Barrett, Dowhaniuk) 3:35.31. **4x800-meter relay:** 7. Owatonna (Jaden Rosacker, Brett Ruiter, Evan Steiger, Caedon McCartney) 8:43.49. **High Jump:** 6. Gunderson 6-00, 7. Scott Kingland 5-10. **Pole Vault:** 9. Colton Kamholz 11-06, 22. Carlos Beascoche 10-00. **Long Jump:** 9. Kubista 19-06, 10. Williamson 19-04.25. **Triple Jump:** *1.Kubista 43-11.75, 23. Kingland 35-09.5. **Shot Put**: 3. Darik Elstad 49-04.25, 11. Ethan DeKam 44-10.5, 12. Andy Jensen 44-09. **Discus:** 3. Elstad 143-11, 10. Chandler Buckhalter 132-03.

Team Scores: Farmington 95, Lakeville South 93, Rochester Century 83, Lakeville North 82, Northfield/ARTech 81, Red Wing 59.50, **Owatonna 46**, Austin 44, Hastings 36, Faribault 33, Rochester Mayo 22, Winona 12, Albert Lea 9, Kasson-Mantorville 4.5, Rochester John Marshall 2

Girls individual results (Finals)

100-meter dash: 6. Sydney Schultz 12.97. **200-meter dash:** 6. Margo Achterkirch 26.60. **400-meter dash:** 9. Nyakhor Godoar 1:03.04. **800-meter dash:** 2. Syd Kretlow 2:18.76**q**. **1600-meter run:** 17. Deliah Baedke 5:51.13, 18. Sara Kingland 5;52.38. **110-meter hurdles:** 4. Ali Golberg 16.72, 6. Josie Sullivan 16.92. **4x100-meter relay:** 3. Owatonna (Achterkirch, Schultz, Karissa Gregory, Sullivan) 50.02. **4x200-meter relay:** *1. Owatonna (Achterkirch, Schultz, Sara Anderson, Gregory) 1:43.13q. **4x400-meter relay:** 5. Owatonna (S.Anderson, Kretlow, Godoar, Wolfe) 4:09.85. **4x800-meter relay:** 7. Owatonna (Emily Rahrick, Sydney Hunst, Grace Wolfe, Kaia Elstad) 10:18.58. **High Jump:** 14. Gregory 4-10, 25. Caitlyn Anderson 4-04. **Pole Vault:** 14. Erica Svenby 8-06, 15. Heidi Lundberg 8-06. **Long Jump:** 7. S.Anderson 16-01.50, 20. Schultz 14-06.50. **Triple Jump:** Emma Zimmerman (DNS). **Shot Put:** 11. Mallory Olson 32-00.5, 16. Lexi Langeland 31-06.50. **Discus:** 13. Langeland 99-02, 16. Rilee Wickman 90-07.

***denotes Section 1-AA champion; q denotes state qualifier**



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Tigers maul Huskies in Section 1 semifinals

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Farmington - The first time the Owatonna girls lacrosse team faced Farmington this season, the Tigers ran away with a 13-4 win at OHS Stadium to start the season 1-0.

Friday's Section 1 semifinal contest in Farmington was a rematch of that season opener.

Despite the Huskies developing into a completely different team since their first meeting, they simply couldn't contain the Tigers' firepower.

Led by Josephine Laube's six goals, the top-seeded Tigers cruised to a 14-6 win over the Huskies to advance to the Section 1 championship game Tuesday.

"It was a good game," commented head coach Dan Paur. "I was proud of the girls' effort. I couldn't ask any more out of the 20 girls that suited up. It was amazing. They played their hearts out."

The field may have slanted to the Tigers' favor early, but Owatonna managed to keep the game in striking distance for much of the first half. To really sum up the first 10 minutes of the first half, it was a game of cat and mouse.

After Farmington's Ashley Steffes found the back of the net at the 22:26-mark of the first half, Taylor Woltman was able to tie the game at 1-1 after a penalty roughly three minutes later. The tie was short lived, as Laube regained the lead for the Tigers just a minute later after a penalty. Just two minutes later, Skylar Eaton used a slight flick of the wrist to beat Tigers' goaltender Carly Simon to tie the game at 2-2.

Paur noted that the offense seemed to be in a comfort zone in the early goings of the contest despite the few chances in the zone.

"I think our offense was real confident tonight on things they could do against the defense," he added. "Unfortunately, we didn't play enough of it. You got to have opportunities."

However, the tie would again be short lived, as Kamryn Corraro's goal at the 16:16-mark of the first half would give the Tigers the lead at 3-2.

It would also be the last time the Tigers squander a lead. After Corraco's goal gave Farmington a 3-2 lead, Steffes and Laube added goals just minutes apart, extending the lead to 5-2. Owatonna struggled with finding an answer while in the defense zone.

Despite numerous cycles of the ball from Tigers' players, the methodical approach to their offensive possessions seemingly was putting the Huskies on the ropes.

After a restart from Laube's goal, Sophie Amundson was able to cut the deficit to two goals on the ensuing possession after picking up the loose ball and racing into the offensive zone.

Three minutes later, Kenna West was able to put home a penalty shot to cut the lead to 6-4. Although, the Tigers would net a pair of goals in the final six minutes to take an 8-4 lead into the half.

After scoring the final two goals of the first half, Farmington added the first four in the second half to extend the lead to 12-4.

While Tigers displayed a similar offensive approach as they had in the first half, the second half was all about setting up behind the net. Receiving a pass from Steffes, Laube managed to beat Huskies goaltender Maddie Seykora on three separate occasions to extend the lead to 14-5.

Owatonna would receive two goals late from Jade Huseby and Amy Oldenburg, as the Huskies attempted to surge late in the second half.

Despite Oldenburg's goal at the 4:14-mark of the second half cutting the score to 14-6, the Huskies remained valiant, setting up the offense and attempting to claw to the finish.

"They knew they could fight back in it," commented Paur. "They're just a confident group and I think a lot of them are looking forward to seeing Farmington again."

Owatonna finishes the season 9-4.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Taylor Woltman of Owatonna (16) prepares to take a shot on goal during the Huskies' 14-6 loss to top-seeded Farmington in the semfinals of the Section 1 tournament Friday at Farmington. Woltman scored the Huskies' first goal of the contest in the first half.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Medford's Willie VonRuden throws a pitch during the Tigers' 5-4 win over Maple River on Friday in Minnesota Lakes during an elimination game in the Section 2-AA tournament. VonRuden picked up the win after going 5 2/3 innings and allowing just five hits.

Tigers rally to down Maple River

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Minnesota Lake – After being dealt a 10-0 thumping by Kenyon-Wanamingo on Tuesday, the Medford High School baseball team was on the verge of elimination after falling into an early 3-0 deficit to Maple River on Thursday.

Then, Willie VonRuden started to find his rhythm and seemed to jolt some life into the Tigers.

After his brother Javis registered a leadoff double, the younger VonRuden's RBI single gave the Tigers a 4-3 lead to help complete the rally, as Medford (7-14) knocked off the Eagles 5-4 to stay alive in the Section 2-AA tournament. The win marks the Tigers' second-straight win over a Gopher Conference opponent in the tournament after knocking the conference's top team in WEM out in the opening round.

"At the conference meeting, those two coaches came up to me and said see you in the playoffs," commented skipper Jon Chappius. "I didn't take it as a disrespect thing, but I used it to fire up our boys and they took it to heart."

VonRuden had another magical start from the mound, retiring five batters in 5 2/3 innings of work while allowing just five hits. However, the freshman seemed to not be in touch with his command from the mound in the early goings of the contest.

In the bottom of the first inning -which just happened to be the longest for him on the mound – VonRuden fired 36 pitches to six batters while giving up a run after an RBI triple from Jeff Lewis. Chappuis noted that it's sort of his calling card.

"Willie tends to start out slow," commented Chappuis. "His first inning is always kind of slow, but he usually battles out of it. When he came out in the second and put two runs up, I started getting nervous, but Willie gets up for these games."

VonRuden, however, managed to record two of his five strikeouts in the inning. Lewis collected two RBIs on a double in the second to extend the Eagles' lead to 3-0.

While the Eagles managed to collect five hits through three innings, the Tigers were struggling, as they recorded just one hit – a single by Cole Volkmann in the third – through three innings. In fact, thanks to a throwing error on a Javis VonRuden ground ball, Medford was able to cut the lead to 3-1.

After collecting their first run, the youthful Tigers' squad appeared to have a boost in confidence and it injected life into VonRuden's arm from the mound. After a tiresome first inning, the freshman settled in to fire four strong innings. In fact, after facing six batters in the first inning alone, VonRuden faced a total of 15 batters the remainder of his time on the mound. Even more impressive is that he allowed just two hits in his final 1 2/3 innings and had the Eagles leave a total of five runners in scoring position.

"It's easy to go out there and compete when you have teammates show up and ready to compete in the big situations," added the freshman hurler.

The play in the field carried over the bats in the fourth and fifth innings for the Tigers. After Ben Borash managed to cross home, cutting the lead to 3-2, Ben Sutcliffe tied the game after scoring on a throwing error in the bottom of the fourth. In the fifth, the VonRuden brothers started the inning with back-to-back hits. Just two batters later, Volkmann managed to hit the younger VonRuden home with an RBI single to give the Tigers a 5-3 lead with just two innings left.

The Eagles managed to cut the lead to 5-4 in the bottom of the sixth after a fielder's choice, but Alex Gengler, who came on in relief for VonRuden with two outs in the fifth, managed to have Lewis fly out to centerfield to end the inning.

Volkmann came in to close the game in the seventh and did just that, facing just three batters.

Editor's note: The Tigers were eliminated from the Section 2-AA tournament with a 5-4 loss to Le Sueur-Henderson Saturday.

Blossoms' golfers in contention after Day 1 of Section 1A tournament

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Rochester - After Day 1 of the Section 1A golf tournament at Willow Creek Golf Course in Rochester, it was clear that the Blooming Prairie boys golf team came ready to play.

Despite having to fight strong gust coming from the east for much of the day, the Blossoms sat atop of the leaderboard heading into Day 2 after carding a 342.

"I was extremely happy with our overall performance today!" commented Blossoms coach Cory Hendrickson. "I thought several of our golfers really stayed mentally strong after having some troubles early in the round."

Tommy Braaten has been fairly dominant all season long.

It didn't stop Wednesday.

The fast greens and strong winds didn't seem to affect the Blooming Prairie senior, as he fired a 75 to earn medalist honors. In fact, Braaten and Bethlehem Academy's Khrystjan Peterson were the lone competitors to shoot below 80. Peterson would finish second after firing a 76.

Lucas Noble was just five strokes behind Peterson, after firing an 81 to earn third place and advance to Day 2. Blooming Prairie's Jake Ressler fired a 90 while Kollyn Allwes and Austin Behne shot a 96 and 98 respectively. Colin Jordison fired a 106. Luckily for Jordison, he will still be able to compete on Day 2.

Hendrickson noted that he spoke to his team afterward with the message of staying hungry.

"It's like leading at the half of a basketball game," he added. "You can be happy about it, but you need to re-focus because you have lots of work to do yet! Our boys were in second place after Day 1 last year so we know that no team is ever out of it!"

As for the Blossom girls, Taylor Christianson and Jessica Ressler both sit in prime position heading into Day 2 after shooting a 95 and 96 respectively.

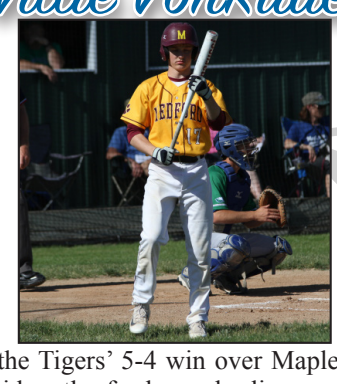
Both teams competed in Day 2 competition on Monday at Willow Creek.

Editor's Note: To read results from Monday's tournament, go to www.steeledodgenews.com/sports

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STARS OF STEELE

Willie VonRuden



In the Tigers' 5-4 win over Maple River on Friday, the freshman hurling continued his dominant Section 2-AA performance from the mound.

Striking out five, VonRuden collected 15 strikeouts while also picking up a pair of wins.

Owatonna girls 4x200 relay

The squad of Sara Anderson, Karissa Gregory, Sydney Schultz and Margo Achterkich punched thier tickets to the state tournament after being crowned Section1-AA champions in the girls 4x200-meter relay Saturday.

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Four qualify for state

HUSKIES: from page 1C

In the field events, senior Darik Elstad – the current Big Nine Conference Champion – was just six inches from qualifying for the state meet after tossing a 49-04.25. Faribault's Felipe Rameriz barely edged the senior with a toss of 49-9.25 in the shot put. Elstad would also take third in the discus, trailing Rameriz and Austin's Pat Hagen. Kubista was crowned champion in the triple jump on Friday after leaping a personal best 43-11.75.

The Huskies' only other state participant in Kubat took second in the 3200-meter run, finishing just five seconds Rochester Century's Antonio Judson-Red with a time of 9:49.31.

Kretlow, 4x200 relay qualifies

After failing to qualify anyone in the Section 1-AA field events on Friday, the Owatonna girls track team had to wait just four events to stake their claim for a spot in the state meet.

Taking the handoff from fellow junior Sydney Schultz, Margo Achterkirch raced down the back stretch with nearly a two-second lead to propel the Huskies into the state meet with a time of 1:43.13 in the 4x200-meter relay.

Prior to the relay, Owatonna ran into stiff competition in the previous three races. However, they all managed to record top-ten finishes. In the 4x800-meter relay, the team of Emily Rahrick, Sydney Hunst, Grace Wolfe and Kaia Elstad recorded a seventh place finish with a time of 10:18.58. Achterkirch and Schultz also had their struggles prior to reaching the podium.

Schultz took home a sixth place finish in the 100-meter dash finals while Achterkirch also took sixth in the 200-meter dash. However, the 4x100-meter relay team of Achterkirch, Schultz, Karissa Gregory and Josie Sullivan were a mere second away from qualifying with a time of 50.02. In the final race of the afternoon, Syd Kretlow took home a second place finish in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:18.76 to be the Huskies' second state qualifier.

Owatonna will compete at the Class AA state tournament at Hamline University on Friday and Saturday.



Staff photo by Josh Zimmer

Junior Alex Raichle explodes out of the blocks during the boys' 4x200-meter relay final Saturday at Lakeville South High School.

2017 Section 1AA Track & Field Championship & MSHSL Qualifying Meet

Lakeville South High School
Running Preliminaries

Boys results

100-meter dash: 11. Jason Williamson, 11.70, 26. Owen Koslosky, 12.52. **200-meter dash:** 13. Williamson, 23.91, 22. Brandon Schmidt, 24.83. **400-meter dash:** 7. Alex Rachel, 51.93, 9. Jaden Dowhaniuk, 53.15. **800-meter dash:** 20. Bretton Ruiter, 2:08.60, 22. Caeden McCartney, 2:09.33. **110 meter hurdles:** 10. Andrew Jackson, 16.53, 13. Zach Barrett, 16.95. **300-meter hurdles:** 6. Keenon Young, 41.87, 17. Jackson, 44.26.

Girls results

100-meter dash: 7. Sydney Schultz, 13.13. **200-meter dash:** 4. Margo Achterkirch, 26.59. **400-meter dash:** 9. Nyakhor Godoar, 1:02.24. **800-meter dash:** 2. Syd Kretlow, 2:20.74. **300-meter hurdles:** 12. Jessica Gregory, 50.56. **100-meter hurdles:** 6. Josie Sullivan, 16.83, 9. Ali Golberg, 17.14.

Chateau Raceway

Fan Appreciation Night at Chateau Raceway provided thrill

By MATTHEW GRAGE
Racing Correspondant

It was Fan Appreciation Night Friday night at Chateau Raceway in Lansing with Free Admission for all fans in the grandstand.

Mother Nature cooperated ,as she provided perfect weather for the free night of racing sponsored by Thrivent Financial of Austin.

Last year, Martha Vrieze and Chad Thomas sponsored NASCAR driver Michael McDowell's visit to the track.

This year, they stepped up again with another great promotional night.

Five of the six feature winners on the night were repeat feature winners from earlier in the season. The lone new winner came in the Chateau Hornets. Mike Wachs Jr. of New Prague made his first trip to the track night to remember, as he came from the back of the nine car field to capture there main event.

A trio of quick cautions slowed the start of the race, but when they finally got a lap in they ran clean to the end. Bob Knutson of Rochester grabbed the early lead and paced the field the first hand full of laps before Wachs made his way up through the field.

After a lap of side by side racing, Wachs finished off the pass for the lead and cruised to the win. The class does not run any heats when there car count is under ten.

Last week, the USRA A Mods ran a clean caution free feature. This week they had one small hiccup in the middle of the race, but the result was the same.

Jason Cummins of New Richland made a quick move out of row two to the front on the drop of the green and lead every lap of the 25 lap main event. Brad Waits of Rochester, making his first visit to the track this season, worked out of row four up to second by the time the checkers fell.

Dustin Sorensen of Rochester and Josh Angst of Winona took home the classes heat wins.

Jesse Stahl of Austin continued his early season run in the Chateau Pure Stock Class ,as he captured his third feature win in four weeks. Stahl was running second to Chris Hotovec of Dodge Center, when Chris got loose in two and Jesse was able to move by for the lead.

When Hotovec got sideways, he caused a couple cars to spin out bringing out a caution and sending him to the rear of the field for the restart. The rest of the race was not so much about the leader as it was about watching Hotovec come back through the field. He slowly picked his way back toward the front eventually moving all the way back up to second. The two were the night's heat winners as well.

Along with Stahl, two other drivers scored sweeps on the night capturing both heat and feature wins.

USRA B Mod driver Kadden Kath of Claremont used a pair of front row starting spots to his advantage, as he took home the two wins for that class. Kylie Kath of Owatonna came home in second in the feature.

Mike Blowers of Waseca turned the trick in the WISSOTA Street Stock Class both times coming from deeper in the field. Blowers worked from row three in his heat to the front while in the feature he picked his way from row four to the lead.

Last week's feature winner Kory Adams of Stacyville IA, also working from a row four starting spot, came home in second ahead of Jason Newkirk of Austin.

Newkirk passed a lot of cars as well. After a tough run in his heat, he started back in row six in the feature and came all the way up to third. The class's other heat winner was Ken Adams of Stacyville Iowa.

WISSOTA Midwest Modifieds were lead to the checkers by Dan Wheeler of Savage for the second time this season.

Again, it was row four that put on the show for the field as both he and Robbie Franklin of Shakopee, worked through the field from those starting spots to get to the top two positions. Wheeler moved around Scott Simmons of Lakeville on lap five for the lead with Franklin's move to second coming a few laps later.

Michael Wytaske of Lansing, making his first trip out to the track this season, came from a deep starting position in row six to come home in third. Franklin and Brayten Cisneros of Blooming Prairie took the class's heat wins.

The 2017 season continues next Friday night at 7 p.m. with the Outlaw Mini Mods joining the show for their third



These are the results from the Chateau Raceway at Lansing for the week of June 2

Results

Chateau Pure Stocks
Feature (15 Laps): 1. Jesse Stahl-Austin; 2. Chris Hotovec-Dodge Center; 3. Troy Maas-Faribault; 4. Dalton Ludington-Zumbrota; 5. Cole Kroneman-Zumbrota; 6. Danielle Maas-Owatonna; 7. Beau Stevens-Albert Lea; 8. (DNF) Jack Dunbar-Zumbrota; 9. (DNF) Zack Ehmke-Dexter; (DNS) Trey Anderson-Janesville,
Heat 1 (6 Laps): 1. Jesse Stahl; 2. 1-Troy Maas; 3. Zack Ehmke; 4. Beau Stevens; 5. (DNF) 00-Dalton Ludington.
Heat 2 (6 Laps): 1. Chris Hotovec; 2. Cole Kroneman; 3. Danielle Maas; 4. Jack Dunbar; 5. (DNF) Trey Anderson.

WISSOTA Midwest Modified
Feature (18 Laps): 1. Dan Wheeler-Savage; 2. Robbie Franklin-Shakopee; 3. Michael Wytaske-Lansing; 4. Ryan Goergen-Stacyville IA; 5. Brayten Cisneros-Blooming Prairie; 6. Garritt Wytaske-Austin; 7. Jeremy Misgen-New Richland; 8. 56-Johnny Magnum-Lakeville; 9. Darryl Hainka-Wannamingo; 10. Tyron Friese-Zumbrota; 11. Noel Hoppe-New Richland; 12. (DNF) Scott Simmons-Lakeville; 13. (DNF) Luke Hainka-Wannamingo.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Robbie Franklin; 2. Luke Hainka; 3. Scott Simmons; 4. Jeremy Misgen; 5. Darryl Hainka; 6. Michael Wytaske; 7. Tyron Friese.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Brayten Cisneros; 2. Garritt Wytaske; 3. Dan Wheeler; 4. Ryan Goergen; 5. Johnny Magnum; 6. (DNF) Noel Hoppe.

WISSOTA Street Stock
Feature (15 Laps): 1. Mike Blowers-Waseca; 2. Kory Adams-Stacyville IA, ; 3. Jason Newkirk-Austin; 4. 15-Zach Elward-Hayfield; 5. Noah Grinstead-Austin; 6. Ken Adams-Stacyville IA; 7. Bobby Blowers-Waseca; 8. Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 9. Brent Holland-Glenville; 10. Jacob Bennett-Austin; 11. (DNF) Parker Voth-Mazeppa; (DNS) Brendan Bustad-Taopi; (DQ) Blake Adams-McIntire IA.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Ken Adams; 2. Noah Grinstead; 3. Zach Elward; 4. Blake Adams; 5. Bobby Blowers; 6. Jason Newkirk; 7. Jacob Bennett.
Heat 2 (8 Laps): 1. Mike Blowers; 2. Cody Hyatt; 3. Kory Adams; 4. Brent Holland; 5. Parker Voth; (DNS) Brendan Bustad.

USRA B Mod
Feature (18 Laps): 1. Kadden Kath-Owatonna; 2. Kylie Kath-Claremont; 3. 36K-Jayden Larson-Mankato; 4. Nate Chodur-Lake Mills IA; 5. Matthew Brooks-Austin; 6. Christian Warner-Owatonna; 7. Raey Hastings IV-Austin; (DNS) Caleb Korpi-Claremont.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Kadden Kath; 2. Jayden Larson; 3. Kylie Kath; 4. Nate Chodur; 5. 44-Matthew Brooks; 6. Raey Hastings IV; 7. Christian Warner; 8. (DNF) Caleb Korpi.

USRA A Mod
Feature (25 Laps): 1. 71-Jason Cummins-New Richland; 2. Brad Waits-Rochester; 3. Kevin Stoa-Albert Lea; 4. Dustin Sorensen-Rochester; 5. Steve Wetzstein-West Concord; 6. Joe Horgdal-Kasson; 7. Keith Tourville-Webster WI; 8. Jacob Stark-Austin; 9. Doug Hillson-Blooming Prairie; 10. Troy Gudmonson-Savage; 11. (DNF) Darwin Karau-Kasson; 12. (DNF) Josh Angst-Winona; 13. (DNF) Greg Jensen-Albert Lea; (DQ) Greg Pfeifer Jr-Austin.
Heat 1 (8 Laps): 1. Josh Angst; 2. Jason Cummins; 3. Brad Waits; 4. Darwin Karau; 5. Joe Horgdal; 6. Keith Tourville; 7.Jacob Stark. **Heat 2 (8 Laps):** 1. 19-Dustin Sorensen; 2. Greg Pfeifer Jr.; 3. Steve Wetzstein; 4. Kevin Stoa; 5. Greg Jensen; 6. Doug Hillson; 7. Troy Gudmonson.

Hornet (Single Feature Event)
Feature Event (18 Laps): 1. Michael Wachs Jr-New Prague; 2. Bob Knutson-Rochester; 3. Caylie Blowers-Waseca; 4. Pat Wells-Faribault; 5. (DNF) Brian Adams-Shakopee; 6. (DNF) Cody Hyatt-Waseca; 7. (DNF) Cale Giesler-West Concord; 8. (DNF) Mike Ryan-Rochester; 9. (DNF) Corbin Giesler-West Concord.

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Blooming Prairie's Sam Wurst qualifies for state

By LEMAR NELSON
Staff Sports Writer

One of the deepest section track meets in the state more than polished its reputation at the two-day event, Tuesday and Thursday.

Triton High School hosted the section meet, and a number of outstanding performances were turned in over the two days.

BPHS junior Sam Wurst proved to be the lone state qualifiers from the Blossom athletes, as she leaped 5'0".

She actually tied for first, but had more misses than the winner. Junior Alec Ille ran fifth in the 1600-meter run and seveth in the 3200-meter run, behind some very talented runners, and senior Elijah Baker closed out his career at BPHS with a 10th in the 400-meter dash.

A single athlete from Medford, Luke Johnson also qualified for state in the wheelchair shot put.

No one school dominated the meet, but Byron won the girls division, with LaCrescent second and Lanesboro third in the 218 section teams competing. Plainview-Elgin-Millville took the title among 26 boys' teams, with Stewartville second and Lewiston-Altura third.

The dominant performances took place in almost ideal track weather, and it demonstrated once again that some of the best track and field exploits in the state come from section 1 athletes.

Now, it is on to the state meet at Hamline University on this Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10.

Owatonna's Otterson fires 104 on Day 2 of Section 1-AAA tournament

By JOSH ZIMMER
Sports Editor

Cannon Falls -- After firing a 99 on Day 1 of the section 1-AAA tournament at Cannon Golf Club, Owatonna junior Marie Otterson shot a 104 on Day 2 of the tournament Monday.

On the first day of competition, Otterson fired a 99 after carding a 47 on the front nine and a 52 on the back.

Ally Lenz finished ten strokes off her teammate with a 109 on Day 1. Eighth graders Greta Korbel, Haley Zempel and Katie Ihrke all competed on Day 1 of the tournament.

GOLF LEAGUE STANDINGS

WEEK 3 - May 22

1	Behnken, Peterson, Peterson	19
2	Pfiefer, Wanous, Hardecopf	18
2	Morgon, Olson, Olson	18
4	Grunklee, Evans, Possehl	17.5
5	Strunk, Farr, Koster	17
6	Braaten, Pirkl, Resler	16.5
6	Kruckeberg, Kruckeberg, Johnson	16.5
6	D. Glynn, C. Gylnn, Esplan	16.5
9	Motl, Myer, Lembke	16
10	Bartsch, Lewer, Kartes	14.5
11	Doerhoefer, Olson, Worke	14
12	Clark, Blome, Skala	13
12	Seykora, Schuster, Schuster	13
12	Hinzmann, Wurst, Hueman	13
15	Carlson, Scheifer Jones, Kittleson	12.5
15	Johnson, Kvaltson, Bolver	12.5
15	R. Skala, J. Skala, Theile	12.5
18	Lembke, Hanson, Benson	12
19	Stangle, Stangle, Flemming	11.5
19	Larock, Iacovino, Schwartz	11.5
21	White, Lysne, Johnson	10.5
22	Glynn, Gorman, Malo	9
23	Haberman, Henefield, Nahlovsky	8
24	Klemmensen, J. Klemmensen, R. Anderson	7
25	Lea, Hansen, D. Johnson	6.5

TOP SCORES

A	Doerhoefer, Olson, Worke	31
B	Motl, Myer, Lembke	32
C	Hinzmann, Wurst, Hueman	35
D	Bartsch, Lewer, Kartes	36

CONGRATULATIONS

for qualifying for the

2017 Minnesota State Track and Field Meet







Samantha Wurst
Section 1A runner-up
(High jump)



Dalton Kubista
Section 1-AA Champion
(Triple jump)
Girls 4x200-meter relay
Section 1-AA Champions
Braydon Kubat
Section 1-AA runner-up
(3200-meter run)
Syd Kretlow
Section 1-AA runner-up
(800-meter run)

Luke Johnston
Section 1A Champion
(Wheelchair shot put and discus throw)



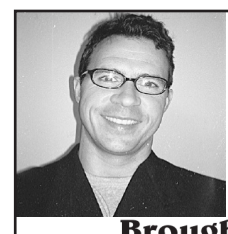
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How to hire a home helper



THE SAVVY SENIOR

Brought to you by: Prairie Manor Care Center

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

Dear Savvy Senior,
I would like to hire a personal assistant/home helper for my mom to assist with some simple household chores like house keeping, errand running, driving her to the doctor, and keeping her company. But mom doesn't require personal/physical caregiving nor does she require any home medical care. Any tips to help us find someone?
Looking for Mom

Dear Looking,

Getting your mom some help at home to handle some of her household chores can make a big difference keeping her independent longer. Here's what you should know, along with some tips to help you find someone reliable for your mom.

Home Helpers

For seniors who could use some help at home – but don't need a caregiving aide for personal care – there are a bevy of personal assistance/home helpers out there that can help make life a little easier.

Most home helpers can assist with any number of things like shopping, running errands, transportation, light house keeping, laundry, meal preparation, arranging services (home maintenance, lawn care, etc.) and other household chores, along with providing companionship and support. And, if your mom gets to the point she needs personal/physical care like bathing or dressing, they can usually help with this too.

Most home helpers are part time workers who work a few hours a day or a few days per week. You also need to know that while Medicare does cover home health care services if a doctor orders it, they do not cover home helper/personal assistant services.

There are two ways in which you can go about hiring someone for your mom; either through a home care agency, or you can hire someone directly on your own.

Home Care Agency

Hiring a home helper through a non-medical home care, or non-medical companion care agency is the easiest, but most expensive option of the two. Costs run anywhere from $12 up to $30 an hour depending on where you live and the qualification of the assistant/aide.

How it works is you pay the company, and they handle everything including assigning appropriately trained and pre-screened staff to care for your mom, and finding a fill-in on days her helper cannot come.

Some of the drawbacks, however, are that you may not have much input into the selection of the aide, and the helpers may change or alternate, which can cause a disruption.

To find a home care agency in your area, Google "non-medical home care" followed by the city and state your mom lives in, or you can use Medicare's home health agencies search tool Medicare.gov/hhcompare. Most home health agencies offer some form of non-medical home care services too. You can also check your local yellow pages under "home healthcare services."

Hiring Directly

Hiring a personal assistant/home helper on your own is the other option, and it's less expensive. Costs typically range between $10 and $20 per hour. Hiring directly also gives you more control over who you hire so you can choose someone who you feel is right for your mom.

But, be aware that if you do hire someone on your own, you become the employer so there's no agency support to fall back on if a problem occurs or if the assistant doesn't show up. You're also responsible for paying payroll taxes and any worker-related injuries that may happen. If you choose this option make sure you check the person's references thoroughly, and do a criminal background check.

To find someone, ask for referrals through friends or check online job boards like CraigsList.org, or try Care.com, CareLinx.com, CareFamily.com or CareSpotter.com.

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

History from the news archives

10 Years Ago
Elise Slinger, Editor
June 12th, 2007

From Blooming Prairie to Pennsylvania to the Czech Republic, Hannah Severtson, a 2004 graduate of BPHS, is making the most of her education. "I chose to goo to the Czech Republic because my mom's family is from Czech," Severtson said.

She added, "it's not very popular, I mean tourists go there but it's not like Paris."She is a Political Science major, she earned 15 credits while working in Pennsylvania.

Every Fourth of July in Blooming Prairie one of the many festivities that happens is the annual car show. One person who is sure to be there is Dale Lindquist.

Lindquist loves classic cars and even has a small business about one mile south of Blooming Prairie called the Hotrod Hayloft. Right now Lindquist also does plastering and drywalls, but hopes in his future to expand the Hotrod Hayloft so he can do it full time.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
May 27th , 1997

At this time of the year all graduates have big smiles on their faces as they await the official ceremony culmi-nating their high school career. Blooming Prairie High School graduates will be leaving with good memories of their academic experience- especially Liz Rather and Christopher Knutson. Both seniors are ready for the challenges that are waiting for them in the coming years.

It's the new business in town and if you don't know what you want- just ask!

David and Cheryl Bruggeman opened up as managers of the Just Ask Renal business April 14, located behind Krampitz Farm and Home. It's the type of business that allows anyone to rent tools, machinery, and many miscellaneous items that they don't have or don't have the money to purchase.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, & Vyrle Krejci, Editors
June 8th, 1967

The Student Council at Blooming Prairie High School announced recently that $930.00 has been sent to the Peace Corps in Washington D.C., for the School-to-School Program.

The funds were raised for this project in the local school since last December.

The Student Council has requested the Times to express their thanks to all the Clubs and Organizations for their generosity and efforts and also the entire community.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
June 11th, 1942

New instructors will be on the staff of the Blooming Prairie high school faculty next fall, according to information issued this week by Emil Extension, superintendent.

Mr. Estenson announced the names of the in-structors who have been engaged. Replacing Lloyd Kaldor as principal will be Louis Moon, Matthew Barry will replace Floyd Carter, Minnie Wylie will teach first grade.

Recalling D-Day, June 6, 1944

REFLECTIONS... AND HOW



HOWARD LESTRUD

There are not too many World War II veterans who are alive and recall the events of June 6, 1944, D-Day.

I can only go to the history books to learn more about D-Day. One of our neighbors, Ed Grabowski, was a veteran of D-Day. He was a half-track driver.

Go to History.com and find out more about D-Day. Let's take a look at some of the history as recorded here.

"During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany,Äôs control.

"Code named Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France,Äôs Normandy region.

"The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target.

"By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe."

Let's read on:

"Although the term D-Day is used routinely as military lingo for the day an operation or event will take place, for many it is also synonymous with June 6, 1944, the day the Allied powers crossed the English Channel and landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, beginning the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi control during World War II.

"Within three months, the northern part of France would be freed and the invasion force would be preparing to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet forces moving in from the east.

"With Hitler,Äôs armies in control of most of mainland Europe, the Allies knew that a successful invasion of the continent was central to winning the war. Hitler knew this too, and was expecting an assault on northwestern Europe in the spring of 1944. He hoped to repel the Allies from the coast with a strong counterattack that would delay future invasion attempts, giving him time to throw the majority of his forces into defeating the Soviet Union in the east. Once that was accomplished, he believed an all-out victory would soon be his.

"On the morning of June 5, 1944, U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious military operation in history. On his orders, 6,000 landing craft, ships and other vessels carrying 176,000 troops began to leave England for the trip to France. That night, 822 aircraft filled with parachutists headed for drop zones in Normandy. An additional 13,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

"By dawn on June 6, 18,000 parachutists were already on the ground; the land invasions began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture Gold, Juno and Sword beaches; so did the Americans at Utah. The task was much tougher at Omaha beach, however, where 2,000 troops were lost and it was only through the tenacity and quick-wittedness of troops on the ground that the objective was achieved. By day,Äôs end, 155,000 Allied troops,ÄìAmericans, British and Canadians,Äìhad successfully stormed Normandy,Äôs beaches."

Wikipedia says "The Normandy landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history, with nearly 5,000 landing and assault craft, 289 escort vessels, and 277 minesweepers participating. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on D-Day, with 875,000 men disembarking by the end of June. Allied casualties on the first day were at least 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead. The Germans lost 1,000 men."

The D-Day invasion was one of the bloodiest parts of the war.

Our American soldiers at D-Day helped ensure our freedom forever.

Learn more about D-Day by talking to World War II vetoers and by going to sites on the Web.

Steele County Times Professional Directory

Accountants

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

Automotive

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Pastor's corner:

Patrons Saints of some popular professions

Patron saints of some popular professions

Some Roman Catholic churches require parishioners hoping to receive the sacrament of confirmation to choose confirmation names.

In such instances, prospective confirmands are asked to choose a saint who inspires them or one with whom they identify. Some would-be confirmands may identify with the patron saints of professions they hope to one day pursue.

The following is a list of the patron saints of some popular professions.

- Accountants: St. Matthew
- Artists: St. Luke
- Athletes: St. Sebastian
- Authors: St. Francis de Sales
- Carpenters: St. Joseph
- Comedians: St. Vitus
- Dietitians: St. Martha
- Engineers: St. Ferdinand III
- Firemen: St. Florian
- Hotel keepers: St. Amand
- Lawyers: St. Thomas More, St. Yves
- Medical technicians: St. Albert the Great
- Mountaineers: St. Bernard of Menthon
- Musicians: St. Cecilia, St. Gregory the Great
- Nurses: St. Agatha, St. Camillus de Lellis, St. John of God
- Paratroopers: St. Michael
- Physicians: St. Cosmas & St. Damian, St. Luke
- Preachers: St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. John Chrysostom
- Priests: St. John Vianney
- Public Relations: St. Bernardine of Siena
- Sailors: St. Brendan, St. Erasmus
- Scientists: St. Albert the Great
- Social Workers: St. Louse de Marillac
- Soldiers: St. George
- Teachers: St. Gregory the Great
- Television workers: St. Gabriel

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

Area Church Schedule



**Starting June 4, there will be one service at 9 a.m. followed by coffee time.*

Lutheran

AURORA LUTHERAN
6329 SE 38th St., Owatonna
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696

Trinity Lutheran Church (5881 118th St, Blooming Prairie) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am

(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4th), Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5881 S.E. 118th St., Blooming Prairie
Pastor Stephanie Wood
(507) 676-5696
Aurora Lutheran Church (6329 SE 38th St, Owatonna) Joint summer worship, Sundays at 9:00 am
(Location rotates between Aurora and Trinity, beginning with Trinity on June 4) Check the website for specific dates: www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH —LCMS
4532 S.E. 84th Ave., Claremont
The Rev. Alan Broadwell
(507) 528-2404
sjlcoffice@frontiernet.net
Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 7 p.m. with Holy Communion, Sunday Morning at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

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

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

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

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

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—LCMS
108 Third Ave S.W., Medford
Pastor Mark Biebighauser
(507) 451-0447
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday
Education hour: 10 a.m.

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2781 S.W. 92nd Ave., Meriden
Interim Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar
(507) 451-2165
Worship 10:30 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH—ELCA
609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna
Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor
Dean Smith, Associate Pastor
(507) 451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org
Worship Services: Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8:15 & 9:30 a.m.
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Comtemporary
Holy Communion served
All Saturdays & 1st/3rd Sundays
8:15 & 9:30 am Sunday School

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

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

Catholic

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

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

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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales,
Weekend Presider
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.
Litomysl Summer Festival, Sunday July 30

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
205 NW Second Ave., Medford
(507) 451-6353
Fr. Kevin Connolly, Pastor
Deacon Patrick Fagan
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Monday Mass: 9 a.m.

Christian

CHRIST COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
540 18th St. SE, Owatonna
Dr. V. Brent Carlson, Pastor
507-451-1032
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Connections 10:15 a.m.

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

Full Gospel

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Blooming Prairie, MN
http://streetfireministries.net/
Pastors Mark & Robin DeLap
616-788-1044
www.streetfireministries.net

Pentecostal

FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF OWATONNA
230 Locust Ave, Owatonna
Pastor Eliazar Talamantes
(507) 363-3046
www.upcowatonna.com
Sundat Service: 10am

Methodist

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

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

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

Non-Denominational

BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
130 East Bridge St, Owatonna,
Pastor Keith Haskell
507-215-2249
Sundays 10:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship starts at 9:30 a.m.
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Fridays at 7 p.m.

CEDAR CREEK CHURCH
30 E. Main St. P.O. Box 224, Hayfield
Pastor Aaron de Neui
(507) 477-2255
www.cedarcreekchurch.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday

ELEVATION NORTH CHURCH
2002 Austin Rd.
Pastor Doug Jones
(507) 363-3099
www.elevationnorth.blogspot.com
Sun 10 a.m. English Service
10:30 a.m. Service & Kids Zone
2 p.m. Spanish Service
Wed. 7:00 Bible Study
Fri 7:00 Spanish Outreach

NEW BEGINNINGS CHURCH
332 14th St. N.E., Owatonna
Pastor Scott Peterson
(507) 721-1366
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sunday

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

SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
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Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

PRAIRIE MENNONITE CHURCH
13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie
Dennis Martin
(507) 583-2081 & (507) 477-3216
Services: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Mormon

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

Presbyterian

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

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

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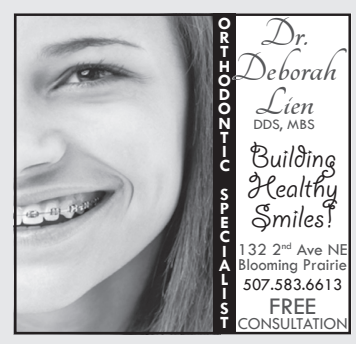
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Community Living

Obituaries

Ruby Gaynell Klingfus, age 80, of Cass Lake

Ruby Gaynell Klingfus, 80, of Cass Lake, Minnesota, formerly of Austin, died Thursday, June 1, 2017. Klingfus was born June 20, 1936, to George and Ragnhild Simonson in Sargeant Township, Sargeant, Minnesota.

She was baptized July 7, 1936, at Evanger Lutheran Church and was confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie in 1950. She attended school in Blooming Prairie and was Valedictorian of the class of 1954. After high school, she attended the College of Medical Technology and was awarded a diploma as a Medical Technician in 1955.

She accepted a position with the Mayo Foundation Cancer Research, University of Minnesota. She later worked in labs in California, Virginia and then returned to Minnesota and worked at Hormel in Austin. On June 30, 1962, Klingfus was united in marriage to LaVern Klingfus at St. John's Lutheran Church in Austin, where they made their home and raised four boys.

Klingfus graduated from Austin State Junior College in 1968 with an Associate of Arts degree. Klingfus returned to school and attended Mankato State University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1976 with a degree in Health and Sciences.

She later returned to Mankato State University, where she earned her master's degree. She taught science, biology, and in the Area Learning Center at Austin High School before retiring in 2001. Upon retirement, Klingfus and LaVern moved to a lake home in Cass Lake, where she was active in the local community with the American Legion Auxiliary, volunteered at the local food shelf, and participated in local bible study and book club groups.

Klingfus was a member of Sons of Norway and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was an avid world traveler and traveled with her sons and family to Norway on several occasions. She was very proud of her Norwegian heritage and recently attended a family reunion in Norway in the summer of 2016.

Klingfus is survived by 4 sons: Tim (Carla) Klingfus, Mike Klingfus, Joe (Sara) Klingfus, and Tom (Karla) Klingfus; 5 grandchildren: Tyler (Erica) Klingfus, Hannah Klingfus and Samuel, Nora and Isaiah Klingfus; brothers and sisters: Gloria Jacobson, Jacob "Jake" Simonson, Milward (Donna) Simonson, and Alice Williams.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister in infancy, her husband LaVern, her sister Esther Wiese, three brothers-in-law: Stanley Jacobson, Donald Williams and Arnold Wiese and a sister-in-law LaVonne Simonson.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. The Klingfus family will greet



friends from 10:00 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Interment will be in the Evanger Lutheran Church Cemetery rural Sargeant. Memorials to donor's choice. Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Online condolences may be expressed at www.worlein.com.

Eileen C. Risch, age 83, formerly of Blooming Prairie

Eileen C. Risch, age 83, formerly of Blooming Prairie, died Thursday, June 1, 2017, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. Eileen Carol Bray was born March 29, 1934, in Austin, to Raymond and Florence (Benson) Bray. Following her graduation from Blooming Prairie High School, she received her A.A. Degree from Austin Community College.

Risch worked as a secretary at Wilson Foods in Albert Lea. She married Donald Risch and the couple raised 3 children in their 19 years together. Upon moving to Rochester in 1973, Risch worked at Osco Drug for many years. Her favorite pastime was being a mom.

She enjoyed her family very much, especially being with the grandchildren. She loved to worship the Lord and was active in Baptist churches throughout her life. Her family will miss her dearly.

Survivors include her children Rodney (Nancy) Risch of Hastings, Minnesota, Jeffrey (Lynda) Risch of Rush City, Minnesota, and Heather (Greg) Knott of Glenwood Springs, Colorado; 8 grandchildren; two sisters Marilyn Wilson of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Myrna (Marvin) Donkers of Nerstrand, Minnesota. Risch was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Nathan Bray.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 3, at the Worlein – Blooming Prairie Funeral Home Chapel in Blooming Prairie. There was a visitation held for one hour before the service at the funeral home.

Interment was at the Red Oak Grove Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials can be directed to recipient of donor's choice. Services prearranged and performed by Worlein Blooming Prairie Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.worlein.com.



Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays
June 7
Loretta Ingvalson,
Leigh Yentsch
Veronica Brown, Brad Weringa
Monica Lea, Kevin Tocko
Doris Lea
June 8
Jim Srsen
June 9
Clarence Boyd,
Cheryl Coughlin
Bob Nahlovsky, Kari Ann Lueth
Cheryl Hernandez
Julie Peterson, Becky Braaten
June Bussler
June 10
Billy Lindquist,
Larry Gravenish
Christian Gardner,
Thomas Rogers
David Trihus, Morgan Snider
June 12
Cindi Leonard, Addison Doocy
Suzie Pechacek, Jacob Vogt
Robert Salinas, Dinna Mae Strand
Tiffany Thompson,
Marion Amundson, Ella Dahl
June 13
Shelley Prihoda, Julie Strand
Tim Andrews, Jordan Paulson

Anniversaries
June 7
David and Lori Miller
Dave and Diana Verley
Jesse and Lavon Hernandez
June 8
Bryan & Cheryl Hernandez
Cletus and Sharon Glynn
June 9
John Dean and Jackie Olson
Heidi and Brett Zimmerman
Marty and Robin Shaw.
Cliff and June Bussler
June 11
John and Mary Worke
Joel and Dawn Inghvalson
June 12
Paul and Laura Iversen
June 13
Maylon and Marilyn Heinz
Brandon and Stephanie Emanuel

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SEMCAC senior menu

June 7
Chicken pasta salad/Chow mein noodles
June 8
Meatloaf
Boiled red potatoes
Succotash
Green Bean salad
Fresh grapes
June 9
Veggie soup
Smothered Chicken on a bun
pear half w/ cranberry sauce
Frosted chocolate chip
June 12
Minnesota Hot Dish
buttered beets
Pineapple/orange cup
chocolate cherry bar
June 13
Beef tips over mashed potatoes
Oriental blend vegets
Mixed greens salad
Dinner roll
Fruit cup

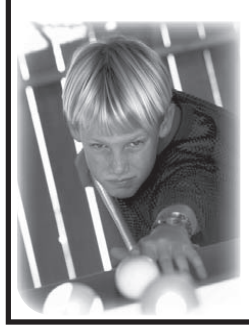
Arkema Inc. announces Scholarship Award winner

Alison Pryor is the 2017 recipient of the Arkema Blooming Prairie Plant Scholarship Award. This award is presented each year to a qualifying graduating senior from the Blooming Prairie High School. The award is in the amount of $4,000.00. One half ($2,000) of the award is given at the time of graduation, the balance ($2,000) after successful completion of the first college year.



Alison Pryor

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Thank you

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52 of Blooming Prairie sincerely thanks everyone who generously contributed during their recent Poppy Day campaign.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who distributed the poppies at various places in Blooming Prairie, the businesses that provided the campaign areas, the Blooming Prairie Times and KRFO radio for their publicity.

The proceeds from the campaign are invested in local programs for the benefit of veterans and their families.

Doris Rasmussen
Poppy Chairman

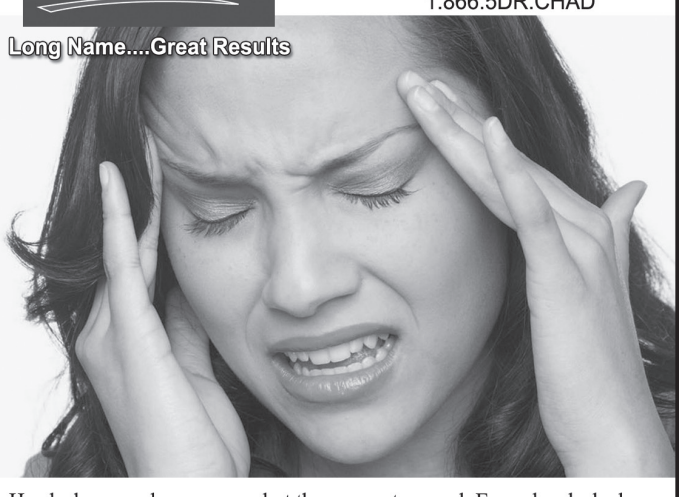
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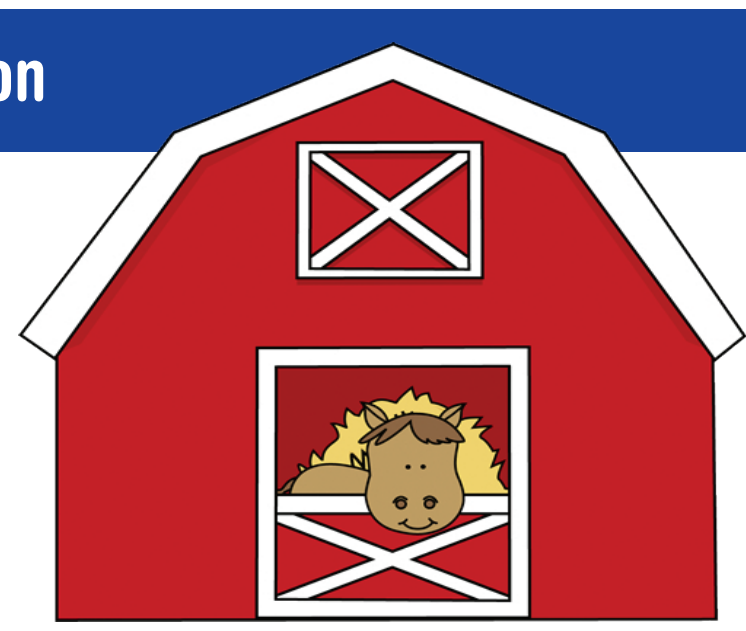
Breakfast on the Farm

Provided by Steele County American Dairy Association



Photo by Rick Bussler

Hannah Mundt, 14, from the Pratt Commandoes 4-H club takes a well deserved break using her Brown Swiss cow, Hawaii, as her dream catcher



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Take a Picture with a Calf
Enjoy a Horse and Buggy Ride
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Ride the Kiddy Train
Make Butter
Craft in the Youth Activity Tent
Jump in the Bouncy House

Book Signings by Karen Kasper

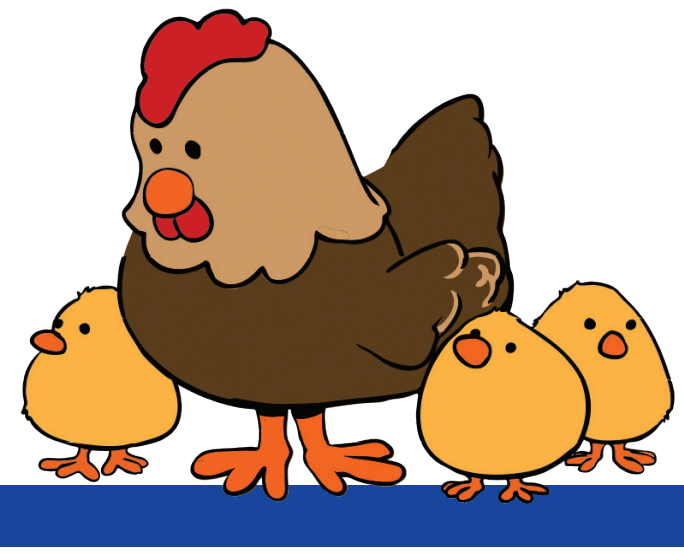
June 10, 2017

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Detrimental mistakes

What are the most detrimental mistakes farmers make in their businesses, for themselves, or in the industry?

■ By David Kohl

Recently, I was with a group of young farmers in an educational session on business management. During our question and answer segment, one producer asked me, "What are the most detrimental mistakes farmers make in their businesses, for themselves, or in the industry?" This question struck me as poignant; especially in today's economic environment. Well, the group dove into this challenging question, touching on the several good points.

First and foremost, one of the most detrimental mistakes in today's environment is the lack of planning, execution and monitoring. Many producers lose focus on what is important because of the noise from that which is urgent. The sick cow, the disgruntled family member or employee (perhaps both), or the equipment breakdown are all inevitable. Unfortunately, these types of distractions encourage procrastination towards important tasks. Today's producers must make time, without distraction, for planning and strategizing. With the cell phone on silent and the computer off, one can critically think through each step. Additionally, one must devote the same type of uninterrupted time to monitoring monthly or quarterly results based on the developed plan. This is the type of focus that leads to success. As an aside, from the macro perspective, today's political and economic drama nationally as well as internationally can also be a significant distraction for producers and lenders.

Another detrimental mistake is skipping the chance to learn. Educational events and continued learning are the next keys to success.Those producers that say they are too busy, or think they already know all they need to know, are making a detrimental mistake for the business, but more importantly, for themselves. There is a saying that I heard recently, "If you're not learning, your neighbor is!"



Next, one of the most costly and damaging mistakes can be putting off transitional planning, as well as actual transition of the business. The longer one waits to complete the process, the fewer options there are. For example, the death or disability of family member or employee can result in emotional decision making and less than ideal outcomes. Additionally, in this situation, it is likely that the next generation is ill prepared to take over the operation. This creates stress inside the business, family and individuals. Of course, this situation can be rectified with time and hard work, but it could also lead to business failure.

Lastly, a detriment to the industry is the attitude of "us versus them." For the nonfarm public, perceptions often become their reality regarding agriculture. So, when it comes to an environmental organization or animal welfare groups, it is important to keep an open mind. Be a good listener. Many times, a fact-based, logical response is the best way to start bridging the widening gap between the agriculture industry and the general public.

Undoubtedly, other mistakes could be added to the list, but these missteps are among the top tier. However, regardless of which mistake may be the worst, perspective is a critical factor for success. Demonstrated by his question, this young producer was interested not only in his own business, but in the long term sustainability of the industry. Further, he already recognizes the immense value in personal maintenance of health and well-being. This perspective is shared by many in the younger generation, and will naturally avoid many detrimental mistakes as it welcomes and embraces change. Indeed, the future of agriculture has many bright spots!



Minnesota Crop Report



Warm weather advanced crop development in Minnesota during the week ending June 4, 2017 according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The sunny days and dry conditions allowed for 5.5 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included planting, spraying, and cutting hay.

Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 7 percent short, 83 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. **Subsoil** moisture supplies were rated 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 86 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus.

Ninety-two percent of the **corn** crop had emerged, one week behind last year, but 5 days ahead of the five-year average. Corn condition improved to 77 percent good to excellent, up 9 percentage points from the previous week. **Soybean** planting was 94 percent complete, remaining 8 days behind last year, but 10 days ahead of average. Sixty- eight percent of the soybean acreage had emerged, 6 days behind last year but 3 days ahead of average. Soybean condition was 74 percent good to excellent.

Spring wheat was 31 percent at or beyond the jointing stage 10 days behind last year and 6 days behind average. Spring wheat condition rated 95 percent good to excellent. **Oats** were 96 percent emerged, with 53 percent of the oat acreage at or beyond the jointing state. Seven percent of the oats were at or beyond the heading stage. Oat condition improved to 84 percent good to excellent. The **barley** crop was 97 percent emerged with 33 percent at or beyond the jointing stage. Barley condition rated 92 percent good to excellent. **Dry edible beans** planting advanced to 4 days ahead of the average to 84 percent planted. Thirty-two percent of the dry edible bean crop had emerged. **Sunflowers** were 94 percent planted, one week behind last year, but 15 days ahead of average. **Potato** planting was nearly complete at 98 percent planted.

The first cutting of **alfalfa hay** advanced 31 percentage points to 45 percent complete, 2 days behind last year but 8 days ahead of average. All hay condition rated 81 percent good to excellent. **Pasture** condition rated 75 percent good to excellent.



Understanding agriculture from the ground up

How much water does it take to farm?

Farm water use depends on a variety of factors including the type of crop, the type of soil, the area climate and the form of irrigation. Increasingly, farmers are using new technologies and techniques to improve when and how they water their crops for most efficient water use.

An important aspect of water use is soil management and how a farm is laid out. Many farmers perform conservation tillage or other processes to ensure their soil absorbs and conserves the most water for the crop.

The type of crop, also effects the amount of water use, as some plants need more water than others. Innovations in seed breeding is allowing farmers to plant crops that require less water than before. Picking the right crop is important for each farmer, as each crop's water needs vary.



Take control of soil compaction

ON THE FARM



Claire LaCanne

Imagine coming home with a bag of loose, fertile potting soil. Now imagine pouring the soil into a flower pot and dumping gallons of water into the pot too. Then, you smoosh the soil tightly into the pot, and when it dries, the soil more closely resembles a cement block than a nice loam. When soil is compacted like that, plants have a hard time growing in it.

Soil compaction occurs when soil particles are pressed together and the pore space between particles is reduced. Soil compaction is especially likely in crop fields when the soil is wet, has low organic matter content, or doesn't have stable aggregate structure. Heavily compacted soils have reduced pore space which translates to less room for critters, water, air, roots, and gas exchange; all of these factors are vital to soil health. I am going to address some myths about agricultural soil compaction and advise how to reduce compaction.

There are two common myths about compaction. First, there's the thought that freeze-thaw cycles will alleviate the majority of machine-induced soil compaction. Second is the thought that deep tillage will ease any compaction that nature doesn't sort out itself. University of Minnesota soil experts have emphasized that although soils in our region are subject to annual freeze-thaw cycles, only the top two to five inches will undergo more than one freeze-thaw cycle a year, which does not ease compaction for the majority of the soil. The myth that freeze-thaw cycles loosen compacted soil may have formed decades ago when compaction was shallower due to lighter machines and more frequent crop rotation, but now we see soils with compaction over three feet deep. Deep tillage is capable of breaking up some compaction, but it has not been proven to consistently increase yield or alleviate compaction long-term. Some possible explanations for the ineffectiveness of tillage may be that soil gets re-compacted by subsequent traffic and tillage deteriorates other soil properties which affect compaction.

If freeze-thaw cycles and tillage don't do the trick, what can a farmer do to prevent and relieve compaction? Soil is especially vulnerable to compaction when wet, making staying off a wet field a good prevention strategy. When delaying fieldwork isn't an option, farmers can make sure tires are properly inflated, keep axle loads to no more than ten tons/axle, and re-use the same wheel tracks across a field. Long-term, the best defense against compaction is creating healthy soil aggregate structure by reducing tillage, adding plant residue, diversifying crop rotations, or using cover crops. Prevention is important, because deep compaction may have permanent effects on productivity. Sometimes compaction is unavoidable, but there aren't a lot of quick fixes. Farmers can try applying fertilizers differently, like band applications of P and K and split applications of N, and can try subsoiling or using a cover crop.

Soil is a valuable resource for growing a healthy and profitable crop and by understanding how specific agricultural practices affect compaction, farmers can take control of their soil health.

Claire LaCanne is the new agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. She may be reached at 507-444-7691 or lacanne@umn.edu.





Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Medical. On May 28 at 11:11 p.m., a female under the influence walked into a nursing home in the 300 block of 2nd St. NE in Hayfield. She was transported to St. Mary's Hospital.

Crime brief

First date ends in dual arrests

A first date for a couple from Owatonna ended with both of them going to jail.

On May 27, Owatonna Police investigated a theft of a wallet and credit card transaction fraud. The persons involved with the incident were identified as Daniel Moller and Tawna Marie Johnson.



Daniel Moller



Tawna Johnson

Moller told police he saw Johnson outside Cashwise Liquor Store and offered her a ride home. They also agreed to a date. They drove off and parked in the area of the 400 block of State Avenue.

Johnson was short on cash so Moller agreed to give her $40 in exchange for sexual favors. After she left, he realized his wallet, credit cards and checkbooks were missing. Johnson allegedly made three purchases using his credit card.

Officers later found Johnson in possession of Moller's wallet and a methamphetamine pipe. Moller later got his wallet back. Although he was embarrassed, Moller confessed to engaging in prostitution with Johnson, police said.

Both Moller and Johnson have been charged with prostitution. In addition, she faces credit card fraud, controlled substance and theft charges.

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
May 26

Disturbance. At 6:47 a.m., police responded to a disturbance in the 600 block of 11th St. SE. They took a subject into custody from the scene.

Theft. Officers took two identity theft reports during the day – in the 200 block of Maple Leaf Lane NE at 9:19 a.m. and in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 3:59 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 700 block of Elm Ave. N. at 2:20 p.m.

Theft. Police arrested a subject for theft in the 300 block of Highland Ave. NW at 5:06 p.m.

Warrant. Officer made a warrant arrest in the 100 block of Clark Dr. NW at 7:26 p.m.

Fight. Officer issued a citation for a fight in the 600 block of Rice Lake St. E. at 7:35 p.m.

Fight. At 10:09 p.m., police responded to a fight in the 700 block of Vine St. E. They arrested a subject at the scene.

May 27

Theft. At 1:32 a.m., officer took a theft report in the 300 block of Highland Ave. NW.

Theft. Police arrested a subject for theft in the 400 block of State Ave. NW at 5:29 p.m.

May 28

Disturbance. Officers responded to a disturbance involving disorderly conduct in the 2700 block of 3rd Ave. NE at 1:04 a.m.

Warrant. Police arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:57 a.m.

Assault. At 12:21 p.m., police responded to an assault in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1800 block of Kenyon Road NE at 1:37 p.m.

May 29

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 2200 block of 46th St. NW at 5:06 p.m.

Vandalism. At 6:26 p.m., police issued a citation for property damage in the 700 block of 14th St. NE.

DWI. Officer arrested a motorist for driving while intoxicated at McKinley St. W. and Linn Ave. SW at 11:40 p.m.

May 30

Drugs. At 12:42 a.m., police responded to drug activity in the 400 block of Selby Ave. SW. They took a subject into custody from the scene.

Juvenile. Police received a juvenile complaint from the 200 block of Linden Ave. NE at 11:53 a.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:51 p.m.

Arrest. Police arrested motorists following traffic stops in the 500 block of State Ave. NW at 12:33 p.m.; at Grove Ave. N. and Pearl St. E. at 7:26 p.m. and at Cedar Ave. S. and School St. E. at 10:27 p.m.

May 31

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 300 block of Rose St. E. at 9:11 a.m.

Burglary. At 9:13 a.m., officers began a burglary investigation in the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S.

Fraud. A fraud incident occurred in the 700 block of Broadway St. W. at 11:49 a.m.

Domestic. Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of Mineral Springs Road NE at 1:53 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage occurred in the 600 block of Walnut Ave. S. at 3:18 p.m.

Arrest. Police assisted another agency with an arrest in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 8:27 p.m.

June 1

Shoplifting. Officer issued a shoplifting citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W. at 2:16 p.m.

Domestic. At 4:59 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 2300 block of Cedar Ave. N. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Criminal Sexual Conduct. Police began an investigation of criminal sexual conduct in the 200 block of Pearl St. E. at 5:50 p.m.

Arrest. Officer assisted another agency with arresting a subject in the 300 block of Allan Ave. SW at 7:51 p.m.

Drugs. Police responded to drug activity in the 1200 block of Barney St. SW at 10:26 p.m. They issued a citation at the scene.

Steele County Sheriff
May 26

Weapons. At 4:42 p.m., deputies responded to a weapons incident in the 5000 block of 46th St. NE in Merton Township.

May 27

Animal. Deputies responded to an animal call in the 3200 block of 50th St. NE in Clinton Falls Township at 8:45 p.m.

May 29

Medical. Paramedics and deputies responded to a medical emergency in the 4800 block of 21st Ave. NW in Clinton Falls Township at 7:24 p.m.

May 30

Warrant. At 2:49 p.m., deputies made a warrant arrest at the detention center.

Crash. Deputies assisted the State Patrol with a motor vehicle accident resulting in property damage at Cedar Ave. and 86th St. NE in Medford Township at 3:25 p.m.

May 31

Burglary. Deputies responded to a burglary in the 900 block of 8th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 8:58 a.m.

Crash. Paramedics and deputies responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries in the 100 block of 3rd Ave. SW. in Medford at 9:25 a.m.

Animal. At 9:32 p.m., deputies responded to an animal bite in the 4100 block of 66th St. NW in Medford Township.

June 1

Death. Deputies began a death investigation in the 1100 block of 28th St. SE in Owatonna Township at 12:54 p.m.

Fraud. At 3:08 p.m., deputy took a report of a fraud incident in the 6700 block of Frontage Rd. W. in Medford.

Man with violent history faces attempted murder

Jaeger accused of stabbing woman 8 times in Owatonna

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A Rochester man has been charged with attempted murder in connection with a stabbing in Owatonna that seriously injured a woman.

Ron Henry Lee Jaeger, 34, faces attempted second-degree murder and first-degree assault after allegedly stabbing a woman multiple times June 1.

During his initial court appearance Friday, Judge Karen Duncan set Jaeger's bail at $1 million with conditions or $500,000 without conditions. He will be back in court June 14.

If convicted of either count, Jaeger would face at least three years in prison.

County Attorney Daniel McIntosh said the serious charges against Jaeger are warranted because he stabbed the victim eight times in the abdomen, back and face. "This was beyond trying to scare her," McIntosh said, adding Jaeger has had previous incidents with the same victim in the past. In December, he was convicted of domestic assault with her and received 180 days in jail.

McIntosh pointed out that Jaeger "threatened to kill her" during the 2016 incident.

In the most recent case, Owatonna Police responded to a stabbing at the Skyline Gardens trailer park on Third Avenue NW around 10:43 a.m. Thursday. The suspect had reportedly fled the scene.

A 36-year-old woman told officers her ex-boyfriend had stabbed her with a knife and took off in her vehicle. She was airlifted from the scene to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

At about 11:15 a.m., the State Patrol and Dodge County Sheriff's Office stopped a vehicle on U.S. Highway 14 just east of Dodge Center matching the description of the victim's vehicle. Officers arrested Jaeger in the vehicle and found blood on him and inside the vehicle, according to the criminal complaint.

Detectives found blood on the steering wheel and the exterior driver's side door. They also saw a folding style buck knife on the floor of the passenger's side. A search warrant was obtained for detectives to collect evidence.

Police spoke to a neighbor who spoke to the victim just after the stabbing took place. The victim asked the neighbor to tell her kids that she loved them and did not want to die.

During an interview with police, Jaeger admitted he got into a struggle with the victim, but denied she had been cut or stabbed. However, he acknowledged to police that he had a utility knife on his belt during the incident.



Ron Henry Lee Jaeger

The complaint said the victim sustained stab wounds to her right cheek, back and abdomen. She was immediately taken into the operating room for trauma resuscitation. A medical examination revealed potential hemorrhagic shock due to blood loss and penetrating injuries affecting her vital organs.

Court records show Jaeger has been convicted of felony domestic assault in Olmsted County in 2009, terroristic threats in 2014 and second-degree felony assault with a dangerous weapon in 2006.

Judge rules police violated murder suspect's rights, statements suppressed

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

Incriminating statements allegedly made by a man charged in a drug-related murder in Steele County will not be used against him because a district court judge has ruled that they were generated from police misconduct.

In a 30-page ruling issued on May 31, Judge Joseph Bueltel ruled that police investigators violated Gerald Blevins' constitutional rights by not allowing him the right to counsel. Specifically, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent Dave Schafer did not stop questioning Blevins when he asked to have an attorney present. Schafer kept going with the interview for about an hour with Blevins requesting an attorney.

Bueltel went as far to say in his ruling that the police misconduct was flagrant. "Agent Schafer flagrantly violated Blevins' right to counsel in order to continue the interview," the judge wrote.

The suppression of Blevins' statements to police comes as great news for his public defender Lauri Traub. "I was disturbed by the conduct of the BCA agent and the prosecutor," Traub said, noting that Blevins asked three times for an attorney, but wasn't allowed to have one. "I have friends in law enforcement who are disturbed by this conduct," she added.

Prosecutors tried to convince the judge that Blevins was asking to speak to a prosecutor and not his own attorney. At one point during the interrogation, the BCA investigator brought in Steele County Attorney Daniel McIntosh to discuss Blevins' concern for his safety in this case.

"This is absurb," Bueltel wrote in his ruling. "The meaning of that exchange (requesting an attorney) is clear, unambiguous and routine. Blevins was willing to speak further to authorities, if he were represented by his own lawyer."

Traub finds it ironic that the Steele County ruling came on the same day as another judges' ruling about a kidnapping and killing of a girl in northern Minnesota. In that case, a Cass County judge ruled that investigators improperly questioned the man accused of killing Alayna Ertl of Watkins. The judge said Zachary Anderson's first statement to investigators is inadmissible at any trial he might face.

The Cass County ruling said that agents from the BCA read Anderson his rights to remain silent and heard him say three times that he didn't want to talk to them. However, the BCA agent kept probing as to the girl's whereabouts. Anderson finally told them she was "in the swamp." The court found that the statement obtained was in violation of Anderson's right to remain silent.

In the Steele County case, Traub says the ruling is "a big win" for Blevins as he prepares for trial. "It sends a good message that you have to follow the law," she said referring to police investigators. "You have to stop talking to them and it was not done in this case."

Officials with the BCA in St. Paul declined to comment about the Steele County ruling or the practices used by its agents in murder investigations. Schafer works out of the Rochester office for the BCA and has been an agent for 10 years.

County attorney Daniel McIntosh said Bueltel's ruling will not harm the murder case. "None of the statements amounted to a full confession," McIntosh said. "It wasn't fatal to the case."

McIntosh said Blevins made a confession to another person and that will be admissible at trial.

Blevins and Cyrus Trevino have been indicted on first-degree murder charges in connection with the death of Richard Jurgensen, 22, of Medford. Jurgensen's body was found along a gravel road north of Owatonna. He had been bound and shot to death because they believed Jurgensen had been a police informant against Trevino. Authorities have said the death was related to methamphetamine.

Trevino is scheduled to go on trial Sept. 18. No trial date has yet been set for Blevins.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 22 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Jacob J. Fuller, 42, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to $1,081, 45 days in county jail, chemical assessment, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, mental health evaluation, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, psychological evaluation and 5 years of supervised probation.

Kristy M. Rhodes, 34, Owatonna, previously appeared and was convicted of felony terroristic threats and misdemeanor assault. Rhodes was sentenced to $131, 6 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, domestic abuse counseling, mental health evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, 150 hours of community service and 5 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of May 22 – 26:

Blooming Prairie
Police Department

Christopher S. Casey, 44, Blooming Prairie, expired tabs and no insurance, $311; Danae A. Lujan, 18, Blooming Prairie, no license, speeding and no insurance, $431; Ascencion I. Moreno, 26, Austin, suspended license, $281; Kong K. Thiravong, 75, Austin, speeding, $131.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Patricia A. Anderson, 68, Nevada, IA, move over law violation, $131; Rio D. Belanger, 24, speeding, $141; James A. Bently, 25, New Richland, speeding, $131; Tara G. Bratcher, 42, Paris, TX, speeding, $121; Thomas E. Donnelly, 75, Fridley, speeding, $131; Jessica L. Elmer, 42, Albert Lea, speeding, $131; Gary L. Fitzpatrick, 66, Waltham, speeding, $121; Michael L. Groen, 48, Little Rock, IA, vehicle weight violation, $1,081; Tony D. Hoy, 31, Waseca, speeding, $131; Isaiah N. Jibben, 29, Waseca, window tint violation and covers violation, $171; Clarissa L. Kryzer, 35, Faribault, revoked license, $281; Clifford W. Kuykendall, 65, Brooklyn Center, speeding, $141; Daniel J. Olson, 33, Fountain, endorsement violation and inspection decal violation, $281; Bryan M. Perry, 34, Bonne Terre, MO, speeding, $121; Marvin J. Purrier Jr., 44, Faribault, speeding, $141; Lenamae A. Reese, 62, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121; Jennifer J. Rios, 24, Faribault, possession of paraphernalia, $131; Alejandro Rosalestellez, 30, San Diego, CA, window tint violation, $131; Sandy Ruelas, 31, Mankato, speeding, $141; Michelle R. Rugger, 35, Waseca, speeding, $141; Cody J. Slowinski, 27, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Derrick J. Torrez, 35, Owatonna, speeding, $131; Jonathan Trujillo, 29, Baudette, possession of paraphernalia, $131; Darius D. Williams, 18, Mahtomedi, speeding, $221; Kenyetta D. Williams, 18, St. Cloud, speeding, $131; Camu J. Yark, 31, Meriden, CT, speeding, $141.

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.

- Teresa Saucedo – DWI - $12,000 bail
- Benjamin Savedra – DWI – no bail
- Jennifer Seeger – contempt of court - $500 bail
- Todd Senholtz – order for protection violation - $6,000 bail
- Benjamin Shannon – theft - $3,000 bail
- Aman Sheikh-Yusuf – theft by check – no bail
- George Shelton – possession of pistol – no bail
- Thomas Siagiannis – seat belt violation - $1,000 bail
- Oscar Sias – terroristic threats - $25,000 bail
- Pedro Sifuentes – DWI – no bail
- Angela Silvas – assault - $1,000 bail
- Michael Sinn – revoked license, no insurance - $1,000 bail
- David Kenneth Smith – theft - $20,000 bail
- Phillip Smith – controlled substance - $10,000 bail
- Paul Randall Smock – possession of stolen property - $20,000 bail
- Alan Sobey – disorderly conduct - $500 bail
- Gumecindo Solis – child endangerment - $3,000 bail
- Jorge Solis – aggravated violence - $3,000 bail
- Josefina Solis – child neglect - $3,000 bail
- Michael Sommerfield – theft - $500 bail

Owatonna Police Department

Rocio G. Alvarez, 19, Waseca, permit violation, left turn wrong lane and no insurance, $712; Russell W. Anderson, 56, Kilkenny, no insurance and expired tabs, $311; Garret M. Busch, 17, Owatonna, equipment violation – horn, $131; Ross C. Harding II, 30, Rochester, aid and abet theft, $481, 2 days in county jail, obtain employment, 40 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Ayan A. Hersi, 34, Owatonna, invalid license, $181;

Khadar O. Mohamud, 19, Owatonna, theft, $2,781, diversion program and 2 years of unsupervised monitoring without conviction; Matthew C. Moss, 24, Madden, MS, DWI, $406, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Anna L. Niessen, 37, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Mohamed D. Nur, 27, San Diego, CA, open bottle and no license, $281;

Zamzam S. Nur, 20, Owatonna, texting while driving, $131; Brandon M. Oreskovich, 31, Owatonna, DWI, $381, 30 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, 224 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised probation; Cory L. Rasmussen, 38, West Concord, aid and abet theft, $581, 2 days in county jail, cognitive skill training, 60 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Isaac R. Smith, 31, Owatonna, assault, $381, 17 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, no possession of firearms and 2 years of supervised probation.

Steele County Sheriff's Office

Mohammad A. Abusbeih, 25, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Prasith Bounkeovisane, 51, Maple Grove, speeding, $141; Codi S. Dittrich, 30, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Bennett J. Dobberstein, 16, Geneva, speeding, $121; Daniel L. Fuller, 36, Austin, speeding, $121;

Jill M. Houglum, 41, Onalaska, WI, failure to notify owner of property damage accident, $181 and 1 year of unsupervised probation; Nathan A. Leiferman, 37, Owatonna, DWI and illegal transport of hunting firearm in motor vehicle, $481, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Katrina L. McDaniel, 34, Blooming Prairie, speeding, $121;

Higinio G. Mireles, 27, Owatonna, failure to drive in single lane, $131; Joseph R. Rezac, 23, New Richland, speeding, $141; Mercedes K. Sorvaag, 28, Owatonna, rearview mirror violation, $131; Kossivi D. Soudi, 31, Austin, no insurance, $281; Delmer G. Weiss Robbins, 23, Albert Lea, revoked license, $131 and 2 days in county jail; Deborah Z. Wheatley, 52, Robbinsdale, careless driving, $181.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 231 complaints during the week of May 24 – 30. Some of them include:

May 24

Apprehension Order. Deputies transported a subject to the Steele County Jail for an apprehension and detention order from the court house at 9:15 a.m.

Violation. At 10:45 a.m., deputies received a report of a city ordinance violation of a business being run out of a residence in the 200 block of 1st St. SW in Dodge Center.

Property. Deputy took a report of lost property in the 22600 block of 740th St. in Hayfield at 8:23 p.m.

Disturbance. Deputies responded to a disturbance in the 21300 block of 605th St. in Dodge Center at 9:53 p.m.

May 25

Animal Neglect. At 6:57 a.m., deputies received a complaint of three horses having no shelter in the 18600 block of 670th St. in Dodge Center.

Civil. Deputy assisted with civil matters in the 400 block of Central Ave. N. in Dodge Center at 12:22 p.m. and in the 800 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 4:09 p.m.

School Bus Stop Arm. At 3:23 p.m., deputies received a report of a school bus stop arm violation at State Hwy. 30 and State Hwy. 56 in Hayfield.

Narcotics. Deputies responded to a narcotics incident at the court house at 8:31 p.m.

May 26

Threats. Deputies responded to a subject making threats in the 20900 block of 601st St. in Dodge Center at 12:53 a.m. and at 1:09 p.m.

Disturbance. At 3:37 a.m., deputies responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield. They mediated the issued at the scene.

Assault. Deputies responded to an assault between two brothers in the 20800 block of 600th St. in Dodge Center at 4:50 p.m.

May 27

Intoxication. Deputies responded to an intoxicated female walking on U.S. Hwy. 14 at 12:27 a.m.

Disturbance. At 10:38 a.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance on 2nd Ave. NW in Dodge Center.

Animal Bite. Deputies responded to a dog bite in the 400 block of Main St. E. in Hayfield at 12:48 p.m.

Animal. A citizen reported that a possum possibly had rabies in the 600 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 2:51 p.m.

Found Property. A wallet was found in the 700 block of Center Ave. S. in Hayfield at 3:06 p.m.

Fraud. Deputy took a report of a fraud incident at the court house at 8:38 p.m.

May 28

Animal Abuse. At 5:38 p.m., deputies received a report about a Facebook post made about abusing animals in the county.

Vandalism. At 8:43 p.m., a citizen reported vandalism of two tire marks on the concrete at the park at County Road 16 and 210th Ave. in Dodge Center.

Suspicion. Deputies received a suspicious activity report of three vehicles parked on the wrong side of the road by a shed in the 10100 block of 750th St. in Blooming Prairie at 10:41 p.m.

Drunkeness. Deputies responded to an intoxicated subject at Main St. E. and 1st Ave. SE in Hayfield at 12:44 p.m.

May 29

Tampering. At 11:31 a.m., a citizen reported that her vehicle had been gone through and her purse was missing in the 400 block of 5th St. NE in Hayfield. Her neighbor later found the purse.

Larceny. Deputy took a report of the theft of license plates off of a vehicle in the 400 block of 5th St. NE in Hayfield at 1:54 p.m.

Court news
Dodge County

The following case was heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 22 with Judge Jodi L. Williamson presiding:

Dallas R. Bennerotte, 33, Dodge Center, previously appeared and was convicted of felony assault-dangerous weapon. She was sentenced to $1,080, 104 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend sex offender program, counseling, psychiatric evaluation, anger management, no contact with victim, no contact with minors, no possession of pornography, obtain employment, 100 hours of community service and 7 years of supervised probation.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Dodge County District Court the week of May 22 – 29:

Dodge County Sheriff's Office

Joseph E. Awdng, 24, domestic assault, $380, 2 days in county jail, domestic abuse evaluation, no possession of firearms, 30 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Krystal L. Carlock, 30, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32;

Jose P. Curiel, 24, Sioux City, IA, speeding, $130; Lorne N. Deraad, 48, Kasson, DWI, $480, 40 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation; Mark D. Elmore, 52, La Crosse, WI, suspended license, $280;

Rhonda S. Larson, 48, Mantorville, speeding, $220; Shelby K. Mindrup, 20, Waltham, stop sign, $130; Jacob K. Schandorff, 20, Hayfield, check forgery and motor vehicle registration – intent to escape tax, $230, 11 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, mental health evaluation, obtain GED, 100 hours of community service and 2 years of supervised probation; Kathryn L. Trana, 66, Dodge Center, parking violation, $32.

Kasson Police Department

Renard L. Carter, 26, Kasson, nonsupport of spouse or child, stay of adjudication, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, maintain employment and approved housing, obtain GED, be current with child support and 2 years of supervised probation; Christopher J. Hilliard, 18, Kasson, vehicle registration violation, $110; Scott D. Loge, 48, Kasson, failure to yield to pedestrian, $180; Richard J. Massey, 60, Mantorville, seat belt, $105; Ronald C. Riggs, 45, Rochester, intent to escape tax, $1,055, 90 hours of community service and 2 years of probation; Dallas J. Smith, 42, Rochester, seat belt, $105.

MN State Patrol Rochester

Miguel R. Carmona, 41, Rochester, speeding, $120; Rebecca R. Johnson, 26, Kasson, speeding, $220; Jeffery A. Mintz, 52, Rochester, speeding, $120; Zachariah T. Prouty, 31, Hayfield, window tint violation, $130; Tyler J. Ritter, 26, Rushford, speeding, $130; Caly M. Stockwell, 27, Owatonna, speeding, $130; Antoine Williams, 29, Waukesha, WI, speeding, $130; John J. Zeller Jr., 17, West Concord, speeding, $120.

West Concord Police Department

Eric R. Baker, 22, West Concord, parking violation, $32; Justin B. Blank, 21, West Concord, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, $175, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

James R. Rongve, 33, West Concord, DWI and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle, stay of adjudication, $1,075, 74 days in county jail, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, maintain employment, psychiatric evaluation, complete drug court, individual therapy, 100 hours of community service and 7 years of supervised probation; Jacob D. Sonnek, 37, West Concord, parking violation, $32.

Arrest
Steele County

Owatonna Police

David Lee Perry, 40, arrested at 7:34 p.m. May 26, warrant arrest, $10,000 bail.

Tawna Marie Johnson, 41, arrested at 6:35 p.m. May 27, felony robbery and possession, held for court.

Daniel Paul Moller, 63, arrested at 9:14 p.m. May 27, engage in prostitution, held for court.

Travis Jay Troska, 37, arrested at 4:07 a.m. May 28, felony possession of controlled substance, held for court.

Damian Jacob Hortop-Rocha, 20, arrested at 12:59 a.m. May 29, felony violation of conditions of release-use of alcohol, held for court.

Cory Lee Rasmussen, 38, arrested at 12:39 p.m. May 30, possession, suspended license and possession of paraphernalia, held for court.

Steele County Sheriff

Terry Allen Lester, 43, arrested at 11:36 a.m. May 29, warrant arrest, $6,000 bail.

Crossword solution

B	A	B	A	R	■	P	I	E	R	■	A	R	A	D
A	L	U	L	A	■	S	T	R	E	E	T	C	A	R
W	A	N	A	M	A	K	E	R	T	R	O	P	H	Y
L	E	T	■	■	R	O	M	■	R	A	N	T	S	■
■	■	■	■	V	A	V	■	W	I	S	E	■	■	■
■	■	S	O	D	S	■	■	H	E	E	D	E	D	■
A	B	A	S	■	■	■	R	E	V	S	■	P	A	C
D	A	B	S	■	S	M	O	T	E	■	C	E	B	U
O	B	I	■	A	N	E	W	■	■	■	T	E	A	L
■	E	N	A	M	O	R	■	■	S	A	N	S	■	■
■	■	■	T	A	R	E	■	A	A	H	■	■	■	■
■	P	L	O	N	K	■	A	S	L	■	■	A	O	T
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
U	N	R	E	A	L	I	T	Y	■	I	R	A	T	E
I	D	E	S	■	S	O	U	■	■	T	A	K	E	N

Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer

By MARK DELAP
Managing Editor

Summer came marching home again last weekend behind the bands… Harrah. She came carrying an umbrella and a knit hat.

The traditional Memorial Day festivities found a few hearty grillers turning the brats and burgers while dodging raindrops and blocking the wind shears. Standing in a cemetery on Memorial Day, though, usually means you can't see your breath in the early morning serenity. Not so, this year.

Our bi-polar Mother Nature is evidently off her meds again.

The erratic patterns of 2017 which is almost half over, by the way, prompts many look-ahead questions.

If she comes in like a lion, will she go out like a lamb? Does this mean we will experience a late winter? Has she temporarily relocated a Duluth weather pattern to punish us for something? Do we have to wear snowsuits to the Fourth of July parade? Has global warming changed its name to global cooling?

So many questions, so little time.

BREAKING NEWS: Summer is already upon us, no matter what she demands us to wear, we will adapt because we are Minnesotans.

They told us tales of this mystical season back a few weeks ago while standing on the frozen tundra. They said that a warmth would come that could actually take that Minnesota chill from the bone and replace it with a humidity so strong that you'd sweat in the shade.

They wept when they cried aloud, "we will shed these heavy down-filled orange coats and bulky fur hats that smell like last week's bacon." To dream that impossible dream of experiencing the feel of anything on your fingertips but a yarn covering would be too much to ask for. The anticipation of being able to put salt on your steak instead of your driveway seemed like such a far-away concept.

But here we are, two weeks from summer and we change our garb from full bodysuit Carhartts to Carhartt shorts. Our cologne turns from "Eternity" to "Off." Our clothing goes from smelling like the breakfast diner in the stagnant of a Saturday winter morning to Charcoal briquettes and fresh fire.

The wildlife also changes as we go from watching Mutual of Omaha's animals on television to actually encountering Minnesota wildlife. Deer sleeping along the roadsides, mosquitoes so big that they carry ticks, and skunks who love to spray the world with love.

Ah, that gentle but distinct scent that becomes more pungent with every breath, and by the time you are "tasting" it, it's too late to close the windows, so you lean back into the hammock, listening to crickets and tree frogs and watching the fireflies. A virtual plethora of summer for the senses.

The floodgates open as the graduates are walking off the stage. The kids are flooding the community pools and peddling their bike cruises through town. Our county boasts some of the best activities in the state with one of the biggest Fourth of July parades in Blooming Prairie and the biggest county fair in Owatonna. There are the Straight River Days in Medford with a huge parade and Ellendale Days in Ellendale that includes incredible street dances and a legendary beanbag tournament. And who could overlook GB & G summer days in Geneva.

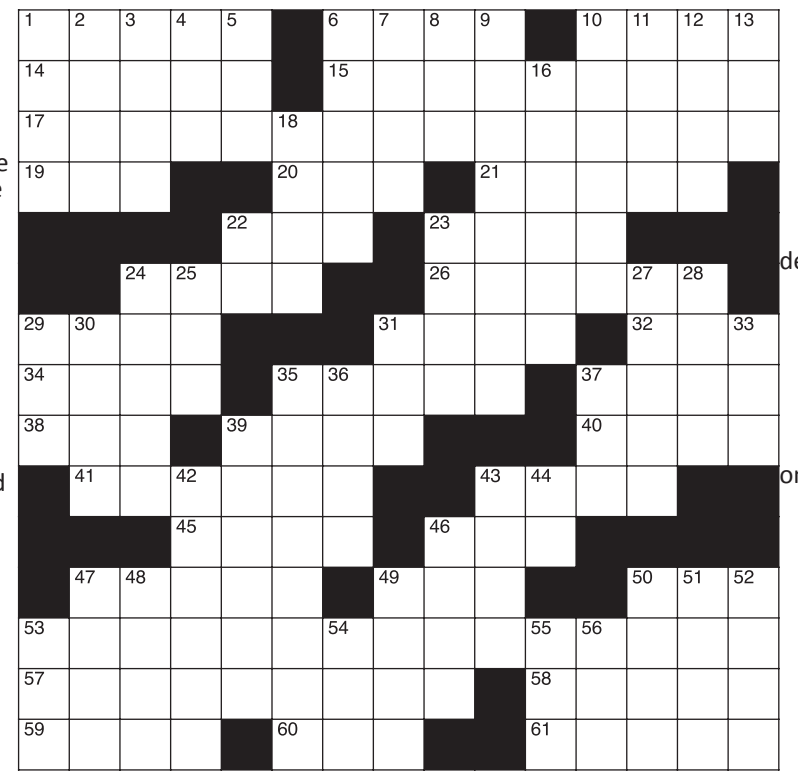
There are 5Ks to run, parades to watch, beanbags to toss, fireworks to "oooh and ahhhh" over, boys of summer to cheer on, summer dogs and elephant ears to be eaten, vacation spots to travel to, fish to be caught and a billion pictures to be posted to social media.

I don't know about you, but I love to vacation in Duluth. Their summer is on July 22 this year, so be sure to get there early. The season itself there is actually shorter than the drive up and back. We have a great time waving goodbye to the ice cutter on Superior leaving for a few months and watching the ore boats come in under the lift bridge, grabbing a sandwich at the Amazing Grace Bakery and then heading up to Split Rock for the fall colors that are already becoming spectacular.

Hopefully when you come to the end of your summer and they ask you how it went, you can say, "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't have enough time."

And be careful out there.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Elephant's name
6. Support
10. Mures River city
14. Bastard wing
15. One was named Desire
17. PGA Tournament prize
19. A way to leave unchanged
20. Unchangeable computer memory
21. Harangues
22. 6th Hebrew letter
23. Well informed
24. Turfs
26. In a way, obeyed
29. Lawyers group
31. Increases motor speed
32. Political action committee
34. Light pokes
35. Struck down
37. Central Philippine Island
38. Japanese sash
39. Afresh
40. Bluish green
41. Inspire with love
43. Without (French)
45. Counterbalance container to obtain net weight
46. Express pleasure
47. Cheap wine (Br.)
49. Signing
50. ___ compilation, compiling computer language
53. Have surgery
57. Being trompe-l'oeil
58. Extremely mad
59. Day
60. Small coin (French)
61. Snatched

CLUES DOWN

1. Cry
2. Wings
3. Baseball play
4. Flower petals
5. Drive against
6. Velikaya River city
7. A single unit in a collection
8. Stray
9. Bring back
10. Repented
11. Receipt (abbr.)
12. Expresses pleasure
13. Not wet
16. In a way, takes off
18. Macaws genus
22. "Fast Five" star's initials
23. Sharpen a knife
24. Oral polio vaccine developer
25. Former CIA
27. Fencing swords
28. Aba ____ Honeymoon
29. Bustle
30. Minor
31. Propel a boat
33. Passage with access only at one end
35. Underwater airways
36. Small, slight
37. Box (abbr.)
39. __ Blake, actress
42. Repents
43. Merchandising
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. With fireplace residue
47. A small lake
48. Bait
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. K____: watercraft (alt. sp.)
51. Norse variant of "often"
52. Adolescent
53. Visual metaphor (Computers)
54. River in Spanish
55. Cowboy Carson
56. Powerful gun lobby

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Legal Notices

Foreclosure

15-101690

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: November 21, 2005
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $229,050.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Amado Mendez Solis and Lorna E. Mendez, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Town and Country Credit Corp.
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Town and Country Credit Corp.
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed December 7, 2005, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000337562
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Ameriquest Mortgage Company; Dated: December 2, 2005 filed: December 26, 2007, recorded as document number A000354323; ; thereafter assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., dated December 2, 2005, recorded December 26, 2007 as Document No. A000354324; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificateholders of Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 dated March 19, 2012 recorded April 9, 2012 as document number A000383927; and dated November 1, 2012, recorded November 13, 2012 as Document No. A000387911; thereafter assigned to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2 by a Corrective Assignment of Mortgage dated December 1, 2016.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
Lot 6, Block 3, Radel's Francis Addition
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1283 Bellflower Lane NE, Owatonna, MN 55060
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-437-0306
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $411,521.23
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: July 11, 2017, 10:00am
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on January 11, 2018, or the next business day if January 11, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: May 15, 2017

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities I Trust 2006-HE2, Asset Backed-Certificates, Series 2006-HE2
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

5/23, 5/30, 6/6
6/13, 6/20, 6/27

Notice

IN PROCEEDINGS SUBSEQUENT TO INITIAL REGISTRATION OF LAND

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CASE TYPE (10) TORRENS

Court File Number: 74-CV-17-737

In the Matter of the Petition of Federal National Mortgage Association

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

for a New Certificate of Title After Mortgage Foreclosure

TO: BRIAN BLADINE, BOBBIE RANDELIN AND UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RANDY BLANDINE

Upon receiving and filing the Report of Examiner of Titles in the above entitled matter, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that you and all persons interested, appear before this Court on the 18th day of July, 2017, at 10:15 a.m. , at the Steele County Courthouse, 107 West Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, and then, or as soon as thereafter as said matter can be heard, show cause, if any there may be, why this Court should not entered an Order as follows:
That the Registrar of Titles, upon the filing with him of a certified copy of this Order cancel Certificate of Title No. 17848 and enter a new Certificate of Title for Lot Six (6) and the North (5) feet of Lot Five (5), all in Block One (1), of Naefke Addition to the City of Owatonna, Minnesota in favor of Federal National Mortgage Association free of the memorial of the following documents:
#T000066774; #T000015321; #T000066775; #T000067149; #T000071844; #T000073770; #T000073591; #T000073591; #T000073793; and #T000073947;
and free of the memorial of this Order, but subject to all other memorials and recitals appearing on Certificate of Title No. 17848.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order be served:
(a) at least 10 days prior to such hearing upon above named parties residing in this State in the manner provided by law for the service of Summons in a civil action;
(b) it shall be served at least 14 days prior to such hearing upon any of the above named non-residents by sending a copy of this Order to such non-residents their post office address, by registered or certified, with a return receipt requested;
(c)it shall be served upon any party who cannot be found by two weeks published notice and by sending a copy of this Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing by first class mail to their address as stated on the Certificate of Title if an address is so stated.
(d) upon a dissolved, withdrawn or revoked business entity governed by Minn. Stat., Chp. 302A, 303, 317A, 322A, 322B, or 323 in the manner provided by Minn. Stat. 5.25. (Note: return date on the Order to Show Cause must be least 30 days after the date of mailing by the Secretary of State).

YOU NEED NOT APPEAR IF YOU DO NOT OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

BY THE COURT,

Karen R. Duncan
Judge of District Court
5/22/2017

Attorney for Petitioner:

The Academy Law Group
Rebecca F. Schiller
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Approved as to form:
By David L. Einhaus, Examiner of Titles

5/30, 6/6

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number:
74-PR-17-937

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

Estate of
Gail Marie Demmer
a/k/a Gail M. Demmer
a/k/a Gail Demmer
Decedent

Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's will dated July 1, 2015, and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statues section 5242-513 ("Will"), has been filed with the Registrar. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Registrar has informally appointed Scott R. Demmer and Amy J. Ostrander, 4734 SW 108th St., Ellendale, MN 56026 and 73706 170th Ave., Hayfield, MN 55940 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 representatives 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.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statues section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

BY THE COURT,

Kris Schmitz
Registrar
5/30/2017

Attorney for Applicant
Name: Scott P. Miller, Mark W. Balzarini
Firm: Miller Legal Strategic Planning Centers
Street: 100 County Road 8, P.O. Box 738
City, State, ZIP: Tyler, MN 56178-0738
Attorney License No: 0269645, 0337936
Telephone: 507-247-4700
FAX: 507-247-5333
Email: scott@millerlegal.com

6/6, 6/13

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m.
Thursday, June 15, 2017
Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room
7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 19, 2017
Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m.
Monday, June 19, 2017
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
Donations
B. Employment
C. 2017-18 Preliminary Budget
D. 2016-17 Audit
E. Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy
F. Washington DC Trip (11/16/17-11/19/17)
G. Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship for Hockey

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

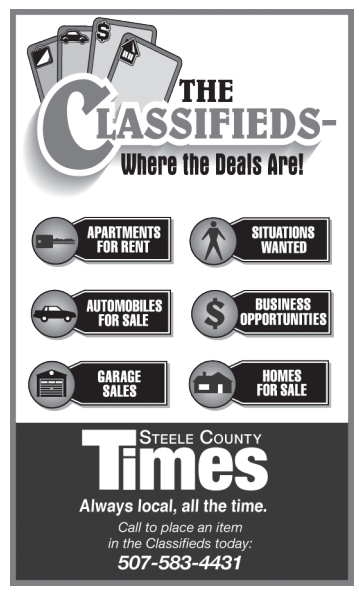
A. Committee Reports
B. Enrollment Data
C. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

6/6



Happy day for Scarlett Tanner

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

"Oh Happy Day!" exclaimed Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Buetel in announcing Scarlett Tanner's graduation from the Steele Waseca Drug Court on Wednesday, May 31.

Scarlett, 25, of Owatonna became the 21st Steele County graduate in the program which began in July of 2014.

Family and friends of Scarlett helped her celebrate her graduation from the Steele Waseca Drug Court with a special ceremony at a makeshift courtroom setting in the Steele County Administrative Center in Owatonna.

Scarlett was given a graduation robe to wear, signifying her accomplishments.

Echoing what previous graduates have said about their re-direction in life with the help of the SWDC, Tanner said the court experience has helped save her life.

"It made me sober, helped me get a job, helped me get my driver's license back and helped me get my kids back," Scarlett said with pride and emotion. She fought an addiction to meth for more than eight years.

She has been sober for over two years and currently works the front desk at the Baymont Inn & Suites, Owatonna.

Scarlett came into the SWDC program for felony drug possession and a separate felony conspiracy sale in the second degree. The charges carried a risk of incarceration of 78 months.

She started the program on June 10, 2015 and has logged 722 days in Drug Court.

Nicole Grams, SWDC coordinator Nicole Grams revealed that she was Scarlett's probation officer when Scarlett was a teenager.

After being part of the Drug Court program, Tanner has totaled 748 days of sobriety. She attended 55 court hearings, exceeded 615 recovery hours, exceeded 149 tests, not including vehicle and compliance checks.

Grams said Tanner's challenge is to continue to mentor, and to stay connected with her recovery community and to improve upon relationships with her family.

"My friends can call me if they need rides to support meetings and I always have a listening ear," Scarlett remarked.

A friend of Scarlett for 10 years, Sabrina Shouse said, "From Day one, I knew the woman she could be and now I know the woman she has become."

Sabrina and Scarlett live together with their four children. Scarlett has three kids: Bayleigh, 6; Rylee, 2 and Cayden, 11 months. Sabrina has a son Leighym, 5 1/2.

Sabrina recalls Scarlett being irresponsible and not caring about consequences for her actions. "She didn't care about my opinions and now she cares about how I feel," Sabrina explained.

Grams told a listening audience that Scarlett had made "tremendous growth" and showed dedication to becoming a "good" mom.

Jessica Bedney, Department of Corrections probation officer said Scarlett worked hard to be a good parent to her kids.

"It's a long journey and you are a person who has stuck with the program," commented David Wright, mental health professional for the Drug Court. He said the community has an investment in Drug Court. "The community wins in the end," he said.

Offering congratulations on her graduation, Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh said, "We hear sounds of children in the room today and your hard work is setting them up for success."

Parents Stacy and Robert Tanner both said they were happy that Scarlett stayed on path. "She was a handful for awhile," her father related. "Scarlett is an inspiration to all of us and we are lucky to still have her," added Stacy.

"My friends and family keep me going and I am so happy for being part of the Drug Court program," Scarlett told those in the courtroom.

Judge Buetel introduced court personnel to loud cheers from Drug Court participants and he also read a letter of congratulations from U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar. "I applaud you for making it this far and for defeating addiction and reclaiming your life," Klobuchar wrote.

Judge Buetel also presented Tanner with a souvenir coin and with a plaque of achievement.

Coordinator Grams provided some history on the SWDC. Planning began in 2013 and implementation started on July 1, 2014.

The program, supported by a series of grants, was a response to a growing need in the Steele County and Waseca County communities to work effectively with high risk and high needs adult offenders with optimal results. Candidates cannot have a disqualifying crime of violence. They must reside in Steele or Waseca counties. Their addiction must be a contributor to their criminal behavior.

SWDC has had a total of 229 program referrals and has served a total of 112 participants with 36 that either withdrew and said sitting their time was easier or were terminated based on new criminal behavior or a rejection of services.

The SWDC currently has 56 participants. It is a rigorous program with four phases and it is a commitment of a minimum of 18 months.

SWDC requires court attendance ranging from weekly to monthly, recovery hours of three weekly; contingent on phase. This includes treatment, support meetings, mental health meetings, completion of a cognitive skills program that helps to promote a change in thinking to change behaviors.

Participants submit to a minimum of twice weekly random testing. All participants must complete treatment, make meaningful connections in the recovery community, obtain a valid driver license, GED/Diploma, employment, comply with child support and pay fines, fees and restitution prior to graduation.

Scarlett is a testament that Drug Courts Work, said Grams. She said Drug Courts reduce crime, restore citizenship and save lives.

The combined total amount of sobriety among the SWDC group today is 12,048 days or 33 years.

Prior to Scarlett's graduation celebrated in the Steele County Administrative Center, Judge Buetel met with 20 of the SWDC participants. Judge Buetel reviewed all participants' progression in the program.

The next Steele County graduation is planned for Wednesday, June 28.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Steele County District Court Judge Joseph Buetel presents Scarlett Tanner with a Steele Waseca Drug Court graduation plaque on Wednesday, May 31 at the Steele County Administrative Center.

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MISCELLANEOUS

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Southeastern Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA) will be held at the SEMMCHRA Main Office, 134 East Second Street, Wabasha, MN 55981 on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. 25p

WANTED

Area Pastor seeks 2 bedroom home with fenced yard OR in a rural setting. 2 car garage mandatory. 1 level preferred. Call 507-215-2249. 25-26p

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Caregiver every Tues. 7am-7pm at 11.84/per hour AND/OR every other Sat . night 7pm-7am at $12.59/per hour. No heavy lifting, will train. NW Rochester 507-289-2756. 23,24,25nc

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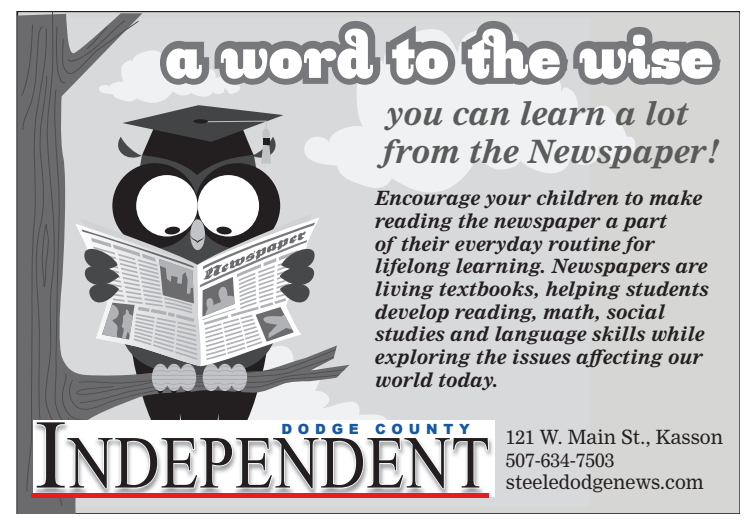
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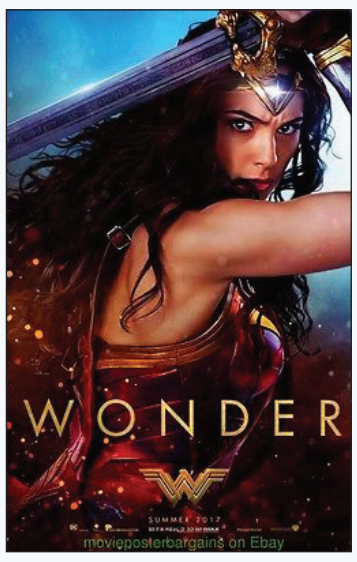
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EOE

Movie Review: Wonder Woman



BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

Step aside, boys, a new hero's arrived to save the summer. Wonder Woman is as invincible as the heroine herself.

After making her debut film appearance in Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice, Gal Gadot is back as the sword-wielding Amazon in her own movie. The plot tells the story of how Diana, daughter of the Amazonian Queen Hippolyta, grows up to become the iconic Wonder Woman we know and love.

It's a journey that takes her from Themyscira, home of the Amazons, through 1918's London, and to the trenches of WWI. She seeks to kill Ares, the Greek god of war, hoping that his death will bring an end to mankind's love of war.

This is a wondrous movie. After bleak superhero fare like Suicide Squad and the laughably grim Batman V Superman, Wonder Woman is a return to classic fan favorite features like color and say, humor.

The Amazonian princess isn't a brooding loner. She's an optimist who cares deeply for people and hopes for the best of humanity, even as she fights the worst of it. Rather than trivializing her conflict, this hopeful approach over the cynical, raises the stakes and furthers the audience's investment. We care because she cares.

Director Patty Jenkins excellently paced the film. The plot never bogs itself down by lingering too long on a moment or idea. It assumes its audience is smart enough to understand a point without being beaten over the head with it.

This is a heartfelt and entrancing movie for everyone. Go see this movie, no caveat needed.

Rated: PG-13

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

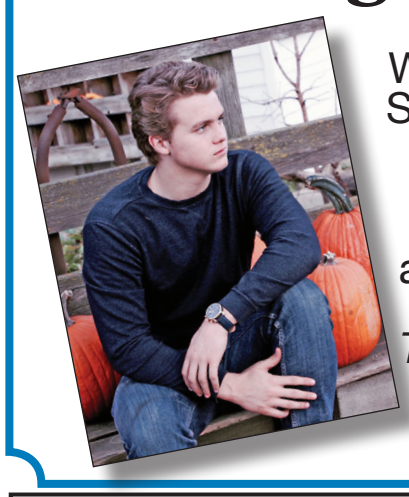
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Congrats to interns!



We're so proud of Seth Bedenbaugh and Marissa Larson for graduating and glad to have them as part of *The Times* team.



Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

Safety is motivator for Arkema's donation to BP Cancer Group



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

David Price, plant manager of Arkema of Blooming Prairie, presents a $500 check to Cheri Krejci, treasurer of the BP Cancer Group.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

One of the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group's most reliable donors is Arkema, a reputable Blooming Prairie industry located near the center of the city.

Arkema recently donated $500 to the BP Cancer Group.

Just recently, Arkema commenced its annual shutdown of nine days to emphasize safety.

David Price, plant manager, said that more than 40 of Arkema's employees participated in behaviors needed to recognize safety.

To motivate employees, Price said $5 was dedicated to each safety observation with the maximum amount being $500. Price said the employees reached their maximum quickly with 109 observations.

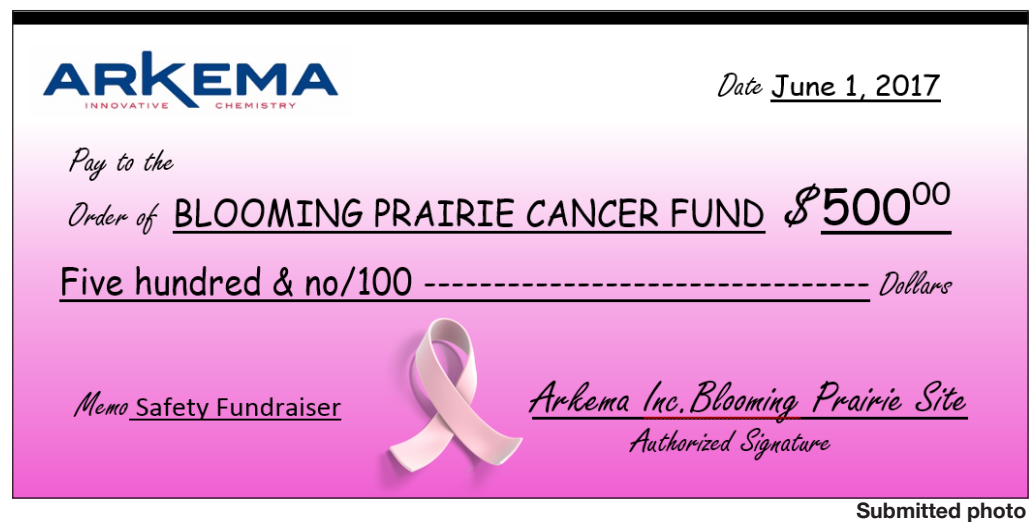
This year's safety efforts marked the third year Arkema has dedicated its funds from its safety exercises to the BP Cancer Group.

"We like working together on a project and a donation to the cancer group serves as an active motivator," said Price.

Arkema has also donated funds to help sponsor the BP Cancer Group's Turkey Bingo event in November.

The BP Cancer Group is always supporting various fundraising activities around the community.

Two cancer-driven events scheduled for Saturday, June 24 include a benefit for Scott Easton and the Cancer Cruise sponsored by Harvey and Nancy Farr of J & H Liquors. More on these events to be included in upcoming Cancer Corners.



Submitted photo

Arkema of Blooming Prairie recently donated $500 to the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group.

Sponsored by Krejci Ford

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