STEELE COUNTY
TIMES

$1 www.steeledodgenews.com Tuesday, July 4, 2017



Murder Mystery 2B

Big bash in Blooming



Submitted photo by Becky Noble, BP Area Chamber of Commerce

Workmanship was outstanding on a Blooming Prairie 150th birthday cake float built for the 4th of July parade. Sandy Jones designed the float and worked with husband Mike and with Mary and Pete Kittelson and with Randy and Linda Klemmensen.

Supreme Court rejects feedlot issue

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher

A bitter three-year fight over hog feedlots in Dodge County has finally come to an end with the Minnesota Supreme Court refusing to hear the case.

On June 28, the Supreme Court issued a three-line order denying a petition by Lowell and Evelyn Trom of rural Blooming Prairie to review the case, which has drawn national attention over the past several years.

"It's a dead issue. It's finally done," said Paul Reuvers, attorney for Dodge County. "It's not surprising that the Supreme Court rejected this case," he said, noting that the court takes less than 10 percent of civil cases.

Reuvers said the decision comes as good news for the county so that it "can move on and focus efforts on more pressing issues." He added the litigation cost the county through its insurance trust "tens of thousands of dollars."

The case became frustrating for Reuvers and many others. "It's unfortunate that our volunteers got attacked for their livelihood," he said, pointing to the people who serve on boards like the planning commission. "It is hard to get public officials to serve," he added.



For the Troms, the top court's decision is disappointing. "After a lifetime of hard work and building a beautiful farm, it is sad to see corporate America put a large factory farm next door," said Sonja Trom Eayrs, the daughter of the Troms who spearheaded the fight.

"There is no respect for the land, no respect for the hard-working families that settled this area and certainly no respect for the environment," she said.

While the Trom family concedes they may have lost this particular court case, they haven't thrown in the towel just yet. "This isn't the end," Trom Eayrs said. "It is simply the beginning of a renewed effort to see an end to corporate factory farms and rebuild

FEEDLOT
Continued on page 3A



Staff photo by Emily Schoenbeck

Despite prior plans to leave the room unchanged, reimbursement negotations with the state have led the county board to decide to renovate the room after all. It will cost the county an additional $75,000.

County amends courthouse plans

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff Intern

After rigorous debate at the Steele County Board Meeting this past week, the board has decided to renovate all three courtrooms in the county courthouse.

The commissioners had previously decided to only renovate two of the three courtrooms in hopes of keeping costs down. The plan was to fix up Courtroom B, and pull up stakes on Courtroom C and move it to the first floor. Courtroom A was going to be left unchanged. A reimbursement offer from the state, however, has led the board to reconsider.

The two-courtroom plan alone was costing the county $300,000.

COURTHOUSE
Continued on page 5A

Bus company to expand locations

BY EMILY SCHOENBECK
County Staff Writer

The Owatonna Bus Company has been approved by the Medford City Council to move forward with building a bus garage in Medford Township.

"I'm trying to get some approval for the development of the property I purchased," company owner Bill Regan told the council at the June meeting, "We want to put a bus garage in Medford."

According to Regan, in the past many drivers have been farmers who kept their buses at home, but as that becomes less the case, the company needs more storage space. Buses are currently being parked on the street, which Regan says is not a long-term solution.

The proposed garage will accommodate 14 buses and a light maintenance space with a wash stall. Most maintenance will continue to be done out of the Owatonna garage.

"If you're familiar with the one in Blooming Prairie," Greg Lammers, a fleet manager for the company, said, "It's basically the same size." The one in Medford will simply have some additional office space.

The parcel of land that Regan has purchased is larger than what's needed for the company's storage purposes, but the owner was only willing to sell it as a whole.

Drivers keeping their buses in a company garage also means that management gets a chance to see the drivers before their shift and can ensure they're fit to work.

"We've had great cooperation so far, and we're hoping to continue it," Regan told the council.

"You've had a history of success," Mayor Lois Nelson told Regan before the council unanimously approved the company's developer's agreement.

Early issue

The Steele County Times normally comes out on Tuesday, but due to the holiday and the Rochester Post Bulletin printing schedule, we had to print early.

As a result, we will not have post Fourth of July coverage until our edition that comes out on July 11th. Look for extended stories and pictures in that issue.

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INSIDE
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C: 1B Hometown Living; 3B .. Farm Page
D: 4B Public Safety; 6B ..... Legals

Vol. 125, No. 49 Serving Blooming Prairie and Steele County since 1893 507-583-4431

Opinion

Our view

A Blooming Prairie legacy

How fortunate and special to be a part of a town celebration. It is even more so when we are talking about a sesquicentennial. You must be at the right place at the right time. The perfect storm to get you to be there and to be a part of it.

The people that live in or near Blooming Prairie this year are experiencing a yearlong birthday bash. There has been a lot of history in the past 150 years that has come to surface as we have uncovered old stories, dusted off the newspaper archives and listened to testimonies of people who experienced a portion of the past. Whether that history was made in 1867 or 2017.

After the hurrah of the fourth is finished, the birthday party will continue and linger. Savor the moment. We challenge you to take a few moments to reflect upon the things that define us. Who are we? What makes us different and unique? What do you think of when you think of Blooming Prairie? How did you fit into the Blooming Prairie story?

There are a lot of stories about people being born here, making their living here, going to school here, falling in love and raising their family here. And leaving behind their legacy here. And for every one of those stories there are stories of those that have gone away from home and become great success stories with a Blooming upbringing. Born in Blooming with the courage and strength to change another corner of our world.

Then there are those who have searched for a resting place, a quiet village or perhaps a job opportunity and happened upon the town unaware of the rich history, the camaraderie and the caring for those who come to visit or those who come to stay. A place where everyone is connected and the grapevine has one of the strongest roots in the Midwest.

It's the edge of the prairie – one of the first towns west of the Mississippi. A place where settlers first encountered a taste of the untamed west. A town that had gone through the Civil War shortly before its inception and was born out of the aftermath of that infamy, began as a refuge for railroad workers who had sought employment in the task of rebuilding America.

A place that was laden with prairie grass and blooming blossoms. It was a sanctuary and a serene landscape that was a welcome change from the burnt carnage of war and destruction. To think that this was not some knitted yarn, but the actuality of those who were an integral part of our new beginning.

You can only wonder if they knew at the time that they were not just helping to build a country or a railroad or a town, but they helped to build a lasting legacy in a country that has stood the test of time, a railroad that is still in operation and a town that is celebrating a 150th birthday this year.

Bobby Kennedy, in his "Day of Affirmation" speech describes our efforts in making a difference in shaping history.

"'Give me a place to stand,' said Archimedes, 'and I will move the world.' These men moved the world, and so can we all. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

There have been many who have been a part of Blooming Prairie and who have left a footprint while building a legacy for the future. We can see by that print that they were wearing work boots. What will they be saying about you in 2167?

Lace 'em up, step with courage and let your legacy be one that remains.



Little Thoughts on the Prairie



MARK DeLAP

Preserving the family

Movie night in the average home before the new millennium had a much different face. As did the dinner table, the classroom and the social patterns of the age. Kids don't watch movies anymore, they simply listen to them as they multitask on social media because they are scared to death to miss a tweet or a chirp or a message that may or may not be life altering. Afraid to tell their friends that they "didn't see it" or "didn't hear it" or worse… were the last to know something.

And have you watched families at a sporting event? Mom is in her cyber world, dad is reading the cyber sports pages, the kids are snapchatting, twittering, tweeting and browsing. Couples on a date, each one on their own phone – but seemingly happy together. I applaud us for becoming a people who can multitask, but at what cost?

Part of the romance of the classic movies was to see the expressions on the actor's faces. I can remember my grandmother telling me how wonderful television was because you could see the emotion instead of just hearing it on radio. I guess we are back to the days of the old-time Philco. The only video required is on their I-phones.

My favorite memories of being together as we raised our children, were the sharing times at the dinner table and the movie nights where I forbid any handheld electronic devices into the room. When we went to a sporting event to cheer on one of the kids, we gave that time to the one on the court and not to our electronic worlds. It was nice to say after a game, "That shot you hit in the third quarter was the turning point." I wasn't sharing my son with the stock market or my emails or my employer. They usually got enough of my time.

Family time was not only getting us all in the same room, but was getting all of us on the same page. The attention was not diverted to the individual worlds but to what the family recorded together. Today it is so easy to be in the same room with someone, but at the same time, to be so many miles away.

They say it takes a community to raise a child, but really, we have trained our children to include their communities in everything they do and with everyone they are with. Time is no longer exclusive, but it's shared. I have to make room in my schedule for their droid.

Silence is not tolerated or appreciated. It is awkward to be one-on-one with someone. In the awkward, we have learned to reach out to the other hundreds of people in the room that you can't see. And it's awkward because we are training up a generation to reach for a phone instead of reaching deep down inside to share the precious quality of who they are… face to face.

I am voting for an "off the grid" night. A time when you not only tell someone you love them, but show them by giving them your full attention. It's not that I don't like or appreciate the friends my family has, it's just that… sometimes it gets a little crowded in the family room and although crowded, it can also be lonely.

Take your wife for a car ride in the country and leave the cell phones at home. Go for a walk and leave the I-Pods. Eat a meal in a nice restaurant in a "no TV" zone. Reconnect with those you love and sometimes… care enough to share them with nobody else.

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Letter to the editor

Thanks to public employee who helped me out

Dear Editor,

I have had the need for some minor things to be done around the yard and house and do you think I can find anyone in this town to do some "handyman" projects?

I have posted online, put up notes, talked to relatives and anyone who I get talking to trying to find a person who can do some of the things I cannot. We are on a WalMart and Social Security disability income, so we can pay; just not the hundreds or thousands of dollars some think they are worth.

I was on social media and saw one of Blooming Prairie's public employees, and I asked them since they probably knew everyone in town, if they knew of a handyman who could do some power washing on my deck and house. They said they would come and help. I said I had in mind a retired person or responsible student who needed something to do, but they insisted on helping my wife and me.

You would not find that in Arizona, I can tell you. I guess I just wanted to inform the public that you do have some great employees here, friendly and so very helpful, especially to someone in need. I used to be a big strong tough guy, and a surgeon and hospital's mistake took care of that. I was not looking for a handout, just a little hand up, as the commercial goes, and I got it from the last place I expected.

You know who you are, and I know you read the paper, so again, thank you.

Who am I walking about, you ask? I'm not telling, but open your eyes and you'll see them doing their job and helping others when their shift is over. I was once one of those public employees, and those jobs never do receive enough thanks, and they don't do it for thanks or money. It is their way of life. You should try it some time.

Dave Klug
Blooming Prairie

Keep up the good work, commissioners

Dear Editor,

Apparently our Board of commissioners is trying to drain the economic swamp created by past boards. In so doing it appears they have stepped into a bit of a swamp themselves and find themselves up to their necks in controversy in the highway department. Seems if some employees feel they are subject to each and another rather than the taxpayers of Steele County.

The department ran without these employees and the Commissioners quickly put people in place to take over daily operations until more permanent employees could be hired. Many problems were left by past boards which need to be solved and will take time and effort.

The boondogles known as KODA, Park Place, Enforcement Center, MnPrairie, and a couple I probably forgot to mention, all need to be addressed.

Bureaucracies tend to become heavy at the top as they expand far beyond what was intended. Part of the problem is that they are able to write their own rules and regulations, which usually require more employees to administer. This, of course, requires more people at the top who can think of even more rules and regulations. Add to this mandates from the State that are unfunded except through county taxes.

I hope the Commissioners continue to look into all departments in an attempt to stream line them. It seems having to pay many upper employees 80, 90 and in some cases well over a hundred thousand dollars while most taxpayers must have two incomes to come close to those wages needs to be rained in.

So keep up the good work Commissioners, a majority of Steele county citizens are with you.

David Nielson
Owatonna

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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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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

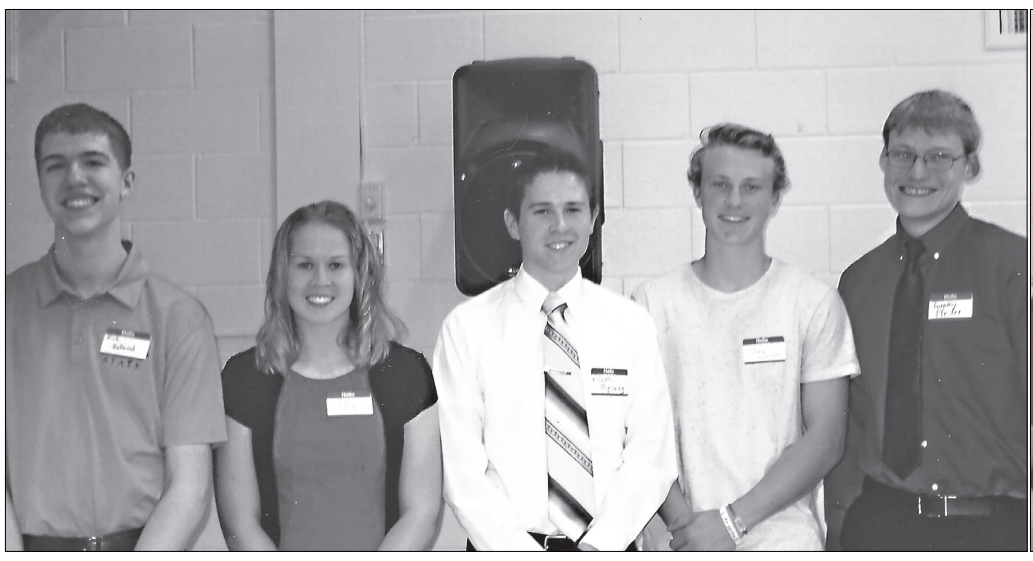
ETHICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Second Front





Submitted photo

Left: Starting on the left, awardees receiving $1,000 scholarships are Nick Hellerud, Caitlin Anderson, Elliot Rysavy, Jay Sullivan and Thomas Pfeifer. Right: Pictured from the left are Anaka Degner, Tori Urch, Anna Weisenburger and Payton Adams. They received $500 scholarships.

Kiwanis club awards scholarships

The Owatonna Kiwanis Club Golden K presented several scholarship awards at the Associated Church in Owatonna May 25.

Winning $1,000 scholarships are Nick Hellerud, Caitlin Anderson, Elliot Rysavy, Jay Sullivan and Thomas Pfeifer.

The Kiwanis group gave out $500 scholarships to Amy Oldenburg, Katherine Segler, Mariah Dant, Anaka Degner, Tori Urch, Anna Weisenburger and Payton Adams.

Robert Stark served as the Master of Ceremonies for the program. He shared about some of the Kiwanis Golden K projects, such as the trailer for the Owatonna High School marching band, the playground equipment in Jaycee Park, food for the weekend pantry and other projects. The recipients for the designated scholarships received a check for $135 from the Kiwanis Golden K to go along with the $865 from the district, which made their scholarship total $1,000. The club and individuals purchased designated scholarships for $10,000. They were supposed to provide $1,000 scholarships forever, but the economic downturn in 2005 caused a lack of funds so they cut back. However, the Kiwanis Golden K passed a resolution to fund the difference so recipients still receive $1,000.

Parents and some grandparents attended the meeting. Twyla Oltman led people in songs accompanied by Bob Blankers on the piano. Harland Holzerland led the group in prayer. Elmer Lamont gave a brief history of how the scholarship program began in 1934 and changes made up to today.



Submitted photo

Pictured from the left are Katherine Segler and Mariah Dant. They were awarded $500 scholarships at the Kiwanis meeting on May 23, 2017.

Crisis Response aids mental health



MARY HARDERS

While Crisis Response for SE MN has been around for a couple of years, many still do not know its purpose or how to use it. Anyone can call 1-844-274-7472 (1-844-CRISIS2) or use TXT4LIFE to speak with a Mental Health Practitioner.

Southeast Minnesota is in the process of hiring a TXT4LIFE Coordinator, at which time we will then be able to promote this method of response with our Crisis Response materials.

If a person needs more assistance than just having someone to talk to, a mobile crisis unit can be dispatched to the individual's location. During the day, one person responds and in the evening, a team of two people respond.

Crisis responders are always consulting with Mental Health Professionals on the phone, before, during, and after a call. Before meeting with an individual, a crisis screening is completed. When a mobile crisis response occurs, a risk assessment is completed then an intervention plan is implemented.

In order to make Crisis Response effective, services are voluntary. Safety planning, coping skill use,

HEALTH
Continued on page 5A

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Commemorative cancel

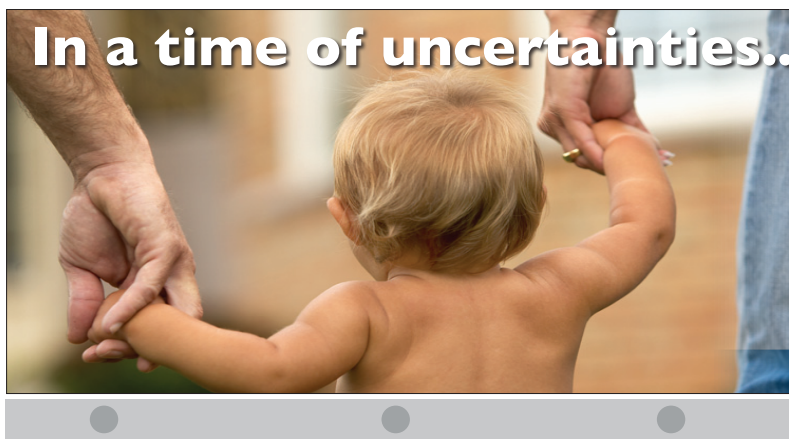


Staff photo by Mark DeLap

Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce member Howard Lestrude was manning his post at the post office Friday where the once in a lifetime postal cancel was taking place. Any stamped envelope you brought in would have a special cancel with the Blooming Prairie 150th logo commemorating its sesquicentennial anniversary. In addition, there was a special spinning wheel set up for those who had letters canceled. BP resident Kelly LaMotte gets ready to spin the wheel for fun and postal prizes

County ditch inspector to retire

Dennis Grunwald, Steele County ditch inspector, is retiring after 30 years of service. Please come wish him well on Thursday, July 13 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Steele County Annex-Highway, 635 Florence Avenue in Owatonna.



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HometownLiving

Community Calendar

Owatonna/Medford

July 4th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
5pm - 6pm Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 2nd Flr Conference Rm, City Hall
7pm - 8pm Owatonna City Council, Council Chambers, City Hall
July 6th:
2pm - 2:30pm The Arthritis Foundation: Medford Senior Exercise Class, Medford Manor
6:30pm - 7:30pm OPL Family Story Time
July 8th:
5pm - 6pm Medford EDA
July 10th:
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
July 11th:
9:30am - 10:30am OPL It's TALE TIME!
7pm - 8pm Steele Co: Co Brd Mtg, Admin Center,
7pm - 8pm Veterans Open Roundtable, Good Shephard Lutheran Church, Owa
July 12th:
4pm - 5pm Medford Veterans Committee Mtg

Ellendale/Hope/Geneva

July 4th:
7pm - 8pm Hope City Council Mtg, Hope City Hall, Council Chambers
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl
July 6th:
5:30pm - 6:40pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Yoga, DAPE Rm
7pm - 8pm NRHEG Zumba, DAPE Rm
July 10th:
6:20pm - 7:40pm NRHEG Yoga, Media Center Ellndl
July 11th:
7pm - 8:20pm NRHEG Karate, ES Gym North Ellndl

Blooming Prairie

July 4th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
July 5th:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time
July 11th:
All day BP Card Club & Luncheon
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Storytime
July 12:
10:30am - 11:30am BPBL Story time

Event Spotlight: Steele County Historical Society's 3rd Annual Gus' Station Breakfast and Car Show

The Steele County Historical Society, in partnership with the Ellendale Heritage Society, invites you to the 3rd Annual Gus' Station Breakfast and Car Show being held on Saturday, July 22, 8:30 AM to noon at the Steele County History Center, 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna, MN.

Classic cars of all ages, new and old, domestics and imports will be on display throughout the facility parking area at the Steele County Historical Society, ensuring there is something for everyone to see.

The car show is a participant voting system, with open class trophies to the top ten vehicles. A dash plaque will be given to the first 75 entries. There is a $5 per vehicle registration fee.

The show will feature several specialty vehicles – SWE original service truck, Al and Harriet Severson tractor, a sprint car and more!

In addition to being able to view all the cars, guests will be allowed to stroll through the Village of Yesteryear and purchase commemorative items in Gus' Station. Or join us for breakfast catered by Superior Catering with egg bake, fresh fruit and cinnamon rolls. The breakfast will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. The cost is $10 per person; children 5 and under eat free with paid adult. Tickets are available at the SCHS, Tri M Graphics and Kottke Jewelers. Admission to the car show is free, however donations are always appreciated. All proceeds go to Gus' Station Restoration and proposed addition of a recognized service bay to be located next to Gus' Station. Built in 1931 on Highway 65 in Ellendale, MN, to serve the burgeoning motor car market, Gus' Station truly served its clientele. Gus would check the oil, the water level in the radiator, the tire pressure and wash your windshield. To school kids in Ellendale, where it sat on the same block as the school, the station served candy and pop to delighted kids during recess and lunchtime, even into the 1980s.

Immediately following the car show, there will be a car run to the Ellendale Muni. Join us for live music, food and drink specials, preferred parking to car show participants.



HAPPENING NOW



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Corporal Jake Peterson of the Blooming Prairie Police Department coaches the Stix of Fury during a recent practice, readying for two 4th of July performances.

LAST YEAR



Archived staff photo

Gracie Heimer, 4, celebrated last year's Fourth by holding a patriotic flag as she waited for the fireworks to begin in Blooming Prairie

Event Spotlight: Mantorville Theatre Company presents "Under the Spell of Love"

The Mantorville Theatre Company is thrilled to present the second play of its 45th Summer Melodrama Season, "Under the Spell of Love." Written and directed by Sandra Hennings Miller, the show opens on Friday, July 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mantorville Opera House, and runs every Friday and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. and every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., through July 23, 2017. This show will also play on the stage at Byron High School on July 27 and 28 at 7:30 pm as part of the Byron Good Neighbor Days celebrations.

Dr. Ulysses Viper has rolled into town advertising DR. VIPERS ELIXIR: THE WONDERS OF THE AGES! To be sure, his fluids have some substantial effect on those who imbibe (oops! we mean ingest) them. Will our local rancher Fuller Moneypockets find himself a bit short? Will he ever find his long-lost son? Will his daughter ever find true love? Join us to find out!

Written and directed by Sandra Hennings Miller of Byron, the show features the acting and singing talents of Doreen Coleman and Harrison Heppelmann of Kasson; Hannah Brumfield, Bob Soland, and Laura Soland of Mantorville; Kane Kline, Rylie Ronnenberg, and Rob Ronnenberg of Byron, Ella Ashlin and Andrea Tieskotter of Rochester; and Connie Brophy of Byron on the piano. Suitable for all members of the family, this show is sure to please!

Adult admission to the show is just $10, and $8 for those entitled to our "Reduced Rate Admission" including MTC Members, Students, and Seniors. Reserve your tickets at (507) 635-5420, or buy tickets online and view our entire schedule at www.mantorvillain.com. And don't forget to like us on Facebook to stay up to date with all the latest Mantorville Theatre Company news!



Event Spotlight: CRWD offers weekly photo contest for summer

As part of its 10th anniversary, Cedar River Watershed District is launching a weekly photo contest throughout the summer to encourage the public to help showcase the local waterways.

CRWD, formed in 2007, is offering weekly prizes for the best submitted photo from the previous week as part of its new "Cedar Scenes" contest. The 16-week photo initiative (June 12 to Oct. 1) aims to get people to take and submit photos showing the Cedar River or one of its tributaries in the watershed district's boundaries.

Each submitted photo – a weekly limit of two photos per person – will be an entry into a grand-prize drawing for a free kayak sponsored by the Austin Runnings store. CRWD will do the drawing in October after the contest.

Submitted images must be the submitter's own photo and must show water from a local waterway. Entries also must include the submitter's name and the photo's location and date. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Photos can be submitted via CRWD's Facebook page – www.facebook.com/cedarriverwd – by posting on the page or tagging CRWD in a personal post. Images also can be emailed to tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org or brought to the CRWD office at 1408 21st Ave. N.W. in Austin behind Runnings.

Weekly winners will be announced on CRWD's website and Facebook page; with prizes picked up at the CRWD office.

The grand prize winner of the kayak will need to be age 18 and older or come with a parent or guardian to get the kayak.



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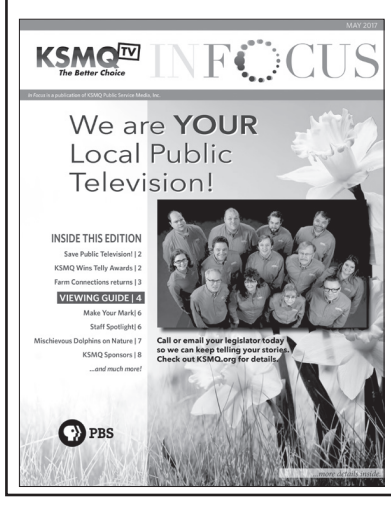
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"The High Street Band"
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$5.00 Cover charge
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JULY 4TH : OPEN BAR / OFF-SALE
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JULY 22: B.O.B. RIDE: "TOYS FOR TOTS"

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Commissioners upset with state tactics

COURTHOUSE: from page 1A

The state's offer would require the county to renovate Courtroom A as well, in order to receive money for other damages caused by the pipe break that occurred on January 10.

Although the offer does allow the county to refurbish Courtroom A for less than the additional $300,000 previously thought necessary, board members felt this was an unneeded tactic by the state. They were open about disagreeing with the state's behavior in the situation, while each commissioner weighed in on the topic.

Timing was an issue for many of the commissioners, Commissioner Greg Krueger summed it up, "I think it was a chicken way out of it."

Krueger added "We've been working on this for a long time. They could have come to the table a long time ago with this and they didn't, and I think that absolutely stinks."

Nonetheless, they couldn't look past that fact that the county will have a completely renovated courthouse for a reduced price.

Commissioner Rick Gnemi decided to make the motion for accepting the proposal. Kruger seconded it under the condition that the state would divvy up the rest of the county's monthly rent of $10,000 for the Owatonna Fire Hall.

The motion passed on a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Jim Abbe opposed. Abbe was the first to point out that the state was using a "strong-arm tactic" that he did not agree with. "This was never part of the deal" Abbe sternly stated during the debate.

It was concluded that Interim County Administrator Janice Fransen and Commissioner James Brady, will look to stay in negotiations with the state if their counter-offer with the fire hall condition doesn't fall through.

Residents must decide whether they support factory farms

FEEDLOT: from page 1A

farming communities," she said.

The Troms are proud to "got the ball rolling" on the issue. "Now it is incumbent upon local citizens to help push corporations out of farm country," Trom Eayrs said, adding she wonders how bad it has to get before people realize the damage that corporate America is inflicting upon rural areas.

"If Minnesotans want to see change regarding factory farms, they will need to take action in the legislature," Trom Eayrs said. "Factory farms are ruining Minnesota with over 4,600 impaired waterways in our beautiful state."

While Trom Eayrs acknowledges that a single lawsuit will not stop factory farms altogether, it can serve as a catalyst for change. "Change will come through education, joining together with others and seeking legislation change," she said.

Trom Eayrs said a few simple actions might be taken to bring an end to factory farms. They include: voting with your fork, eating local and supporting the local butcher, local food co-op and local farmer's market and contacting legislators to tell them to support independent farmers.

The nasty feedlot battle began in 2014 when the Dodge County Board approved a permit for Masching Farms to operate a hog farm on six acres of land. The Troms won the initial lawsuit.

But a short time later the County Board voted to change its rules and created a simpler application procedure.

The Troms sued again and ended up in front of a new judge because the county had the first one removed from the case. The issue went before an Olmsted County judge, who ruled in favor of the county.

Through their fight, the Troms had been urging county officials to address serious public health and environmental concerns related to factory farms.

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Crisis Response provides community awareness

HEALTH: from page 3A

and referral making is essential in order to prevent unnecessary use of services and hospitalizations.

Often times, people experiencing mental health crisis call law enforcement and go to the emergency room.

Unless criteria for a hold or inpatient hospitalization are met, individuals are usually being left in the same circumstances they present with.

In a time of crisis, it is vital to have a service that connects people to the resources available and assists with accessing them.

Crisis Response services are typically covered by insurance companies offered by the State and the grant (provided to every county in the State of Minnesota for mobile mental health units) covers these costs for individuals with private insurance, leaving no cost to the client.

Certification for stabilization services is being added, which will allow for billing of the follow-up services (currently provided as a best practice) and intervention from mental health units, where crisis response services were not initially implemented.

Daytime mobile crisis responses are now available and have been happening in our four county area: Steele, Dodge, Waseca, and Mower Counties. Evening and weekend mobile crisis services have been locally available for several years; there are seven staff who share that role.

As the daytime crisis responder, I have recently been providing community awareness of the program and establishing relationships with collaborative partners.

The first week I began working, I started compiling a list of providers that I thought I should reach out to and meet with for educational and collaborative purposes.

Today, that list contains 257 entities in the four-county region, ranging from law enforcement, schools, clinics and hospitals, to community providers and service organizations.

The dent I have made seems insignificant for 3 months of networking, yet I have already met with so many people.

I have connected with almost all of the law enforcement agencies and was able to present at the Steele County Sheriff's Office deputy training. I met with many of the school counselors in one of the school districts in the four-county area and presented to a large group of students. Most of them said that someone had told them that they "wanted to hurt themselves or commit suicide" at one point in their lives.

Fortunately, most of them also said that they would call the crisis line or use TXT4LIFE if they had concerns about themselves or someone else. I also attended an early morning session where about 20 students from another school district gathered to find ways to address mental health awareness and suicide prevention. My goal is to connect with each of the school districts to share information about mental health and the Crisis Response project.

An opportunity to join in a large community awareness project presented in regards to the mental health response in Waseca County after the flooding. I was able to join the team of community partners that worked to bring Daniel Reidenberg, Psy.D., FAPA, a SAVE speaker, to the Waseca community to talk about "Mental Wellness, Mental Illness, and Suicide Prevention." We were able to gather community resource providers at the event, with tables of information about the services they provide.

I received a call from law enforcement two days after the event in regards to concerns for a community member who had attended the speaker and then reached out to several other people about mental health concerns.

The opportunity to work with the ministerial associations arose and future plans for community education and awareness have been discussed through this avenue. I spoke with employees at many of Mayo Clinic Health Solution facilities and hope to meet with all of them in the region. I have also attended several meetings with the Owatonna Hospital and ER staff in efforts to educate on Crisis Response services and learn about opportunities to collaborate. The addition of stabilization certification will change many aspects of our collaboration for the future.

It has been interesting to hear how different entities see the need for mobile crisis response and witness hope for options in filling the gaps where mental health services are needed. The concern has been apparent when meeting with task forces, collaborative organizations, and service providers throughout the area.

I have learned about new organizations that I never knew existed, as well as different collaborative efforts that address health and wellness in various forms. It is amazing to sit down with such a variety of providers and have conversations about mental health, a topic that, not too long ago, was rarely discussed. While many people struggle to understand diagnosis, symptoms, and different treatment options, the conversations are happening. The easier it is to talk about, hopefully the easier it will be to seek help and address the needs.

Editor's Note: Mary Harders, B.S. is a Daytime Mobile Crisis Responder for Crisis Response of Southeast Minnesota and is employed by South Central Human Relations Center.

Chamber Spotlight

7 reasons to shop farmers' markets

A farmers' market is likely coming to a field or open parking lot near you — if there isn't already one operating nearby. The United States Department of Agriculture says that, between the years of 2008 and 2013, the number of farmers' markets doubled across the country.

Farmers' markets will continue to thrive and expand as people increasingly realize the benefits of supporting local food providers. Buyers who are not yet familiar with farmer's markets can examine the following seven reasons to break the ice.

1. Enjoy fresh, seasonal foods.

Foods at farmers' markets tend to be limited to in-season offerings. Some nutritionists suggest eating seasonally available foods is better for your body, because humans ate seasonal produce for thousands of years before shipping and refrigeration changed how people received the majority of their foods. In addition, many people feel that fresh, seasonal foods taste better than the alternatives.

2. Discover new foods.

There's always something new at a farmers' market, and this can entice shoppers to expand their flavor palates. Explore interesting, locally grown items. Even children may fall in love with colorful fruits or vegetables and their refreshing tastes.

3. Embrace organic and non-GMO offerings.

Many farmers' markets offer foods that are organically grown and are produced without GMOs. Farmers' market retailers also tend to give firsthand accounts of where their foods come from and how they are grown or raised.

4. Indulge in nutritious foods.

The vivid colors and smells emanating from farmers' markets indicate just how fresh and nutritious the offerings tend to be. Farmers who peddle their wares at farmers' markets adhere to careful farming methods to ensure their foods are as nutritious as possible.

5. Learn secrets and recipes.

In addition to fresh produce, farmers' markets may offer baked and other prepared goods. Shopkeepers often mingle with their customers, offering trade secrets and recipe ideas. Additionally, local farm families supported by farmers' markets generally offer supreme customer service to keep shoppers coming back week after week.

6. Turn the trip into a social excursion.

A farmers' market can be an exciting and flavorful social gathering place for families and groups of friends, as well as a great place to meet other members of the community. Sometimes farmers also mingle with local artisans, so the market can be a one-stop-shopping locale for locally produced food and art.

7. Save money.

Farmers' markets may sell organic produce at a cost comparable or even lower than other retailers. That's because local farmers don't have to transport their items as far as retailers whose foods were shipped from far away places.

Any time of the year is perfect for grabbing a tote bag and browsing the wares at a nearby farmers' market, where shoppers are bound to find something fresh, unique and delicious.



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FOUR-POINT STANCE



JOSH ZIMMER

It's a great time to be a fan of Minnesota sports

If you're a fan of Minnesota sports teams, 2017 could be a good year for you.

Heck, the hype surrounding PJ Fleck and the Gophers football program alone could drive the state into a frenzy.

Well, a bigger frenzy is a little stronger choice of words.

First, after a year's worth of rumors, the Timberwolves finally were able to land what I personally believe to be one of the clubs biggest trades ever.

Jimmy Butler.

Jimmy Buckets.

The "Butler."

Jimmy Jordan as a few Bulls fans started to throw out there on social media.

The list of nicknames could go on and on, but one thing is for certain. The Wolves finally have the dynamic scorer they've been searching for.

And don't get me wrong, Andrew Wiggins is one of the game's young guns, but adding Butler with a big man like Karl Anthony-Towns, that could be just enough star-power needed to help build a "super team" in the Twin Cities.

The Twins somehow, someway have found a way to win. While the pitching struggles have been one that continues to be an eye sore for fans all over, they've managed to steal a few games to be in first place before the start of the month.

There's still plenty of baseball left, but it's a great sign right now for Twinkies faithful.

However, the team that managed to make noise that would rival the Wolves was the Minnesota Wild.

For those who are fans of the Wild or the NHL, the league's Expansion Draft for the newly-formed Vegas Golden Knights took place last Wednesday.

Heading into the event, the list of unprotected or exposed players for all 30 clubs were already made public and I must say, kuddos to General Manager Chuck Fletcher for being able to somehow make sure that Eric Staal and young defenseman Matt Dumba were not part of the though process for the Knights.

In fact, when you look at the exposed list for the Wild, it is fairly impressive that they lost just Eric Haula and minor league forward Alex Tuch.

The lone news that's worthy of a faceplam is newly-signed Vikings receiver Michael Floyd being found of breaking the terms of his parole.

It was reported that Floyd failed three self-admistered breathalyzer tests earlier in June. The former Cretin-Derhim Hall star noted that Kombucha tea was the reason behind the failed tests.

Floyd was sentenced to one day in jail and must finished the complete sentence for his house arrest. The Vikings expect him to be ready for camp later in the month.

Despite that small bump, I hope fans have tough skin if the seasons turn sour for the state's professional teams.

Best spring photos



Staff photos by Josh Zimmer

Owatonna's Mason Oland (17) prepares to take a shot during the Huskies' 12-0 win over Mankato High School in late April. The Huskies fell to Northfield in the opening round of the Section 1 playoffs after winning a share of the Big Nine Conference title. The photo was used in the May 2 edition of the Steele County Times.





Left: Elly Strunk throws a pitch to a Vikings batter during the Blossoms 16-0 loss to Hayfield in the Sub-Section 1A championship game in late May. The Photo was used in the May 30 edition of the Times. Right: Blossoms first baseman Brad Staska waits with his teammates at home plate to congratulate Conner Getchell after his two-run home run in the bottom of the third inning against Glenville-Emmon/ Alden-Conger at the BPHS baseball field in May. This photo was used in the May 16 edition of the Times. Below: Medford's Nate Meixner dives back to first base before Maple River's first baseman was able to apply the tag in the Section 2-AA consolation matchup on June 1.





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Medford 4th Quarter Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

12TH GRADE
- Rachel Bluhm
- Rebecca Edel
- Ashley Gilbertson
- Krystal Hanson
- Sydney Langeslag
- Amanda Litsheim
- Danielle Morgan
- Jacob Pleschourt
- Mikayla Spinler
- Anthony Stephens
- William Stransky

11TH GRADE
- Courtney Aldrich
- Cassandra Brase
- Morgan Cammock
- Madelyn Cloutier
- McKenzie Disher
- Ian Gillis
- Amanda Honsey
- Josephine Kubat
- Trenton Lund
- Jenna McCarthy
- Skylar Meyer
- Dakota Panos
- Jasmine Panos
- Logan Rogotzke
- Emily Steffen
- Danielle Stewart
- Grace Wobbrock

10TH GRADE
- Jason Domstrand
- Meredith Gillis
- Taylore Keppers
- Anthony Manderfeld
- Jade Pekarek
- Noah Pirkl
- Sophie Proehl
- Brandon Sisler
- Brianna Sisler

9TH GRADE
- Sviatlana Danilyuk
- Jordan Edel
- Taylor Fette
- Zachary Finholdt
- Kaylin Hanson
- Riley Hill
- Hailee Homeier
- Shawn Johnson
- Madison Klein
- Emma Kniefel
- Morgan Langeslag
- Kiley Nihart
- Payton Powers
- Brendan Rahn
- Jordyn Stadler
- Zachary Wetmore

8TH GRADE
- Braden Barbeau
- Jenna Berg
- Kinsey Cronin
- Isaac Enzenauer
- Garrett Fitzgerald
- Lizbeth Gutierrez
- Madison Jaster
- Ernesto Lazaro
- Brock Merritt
- Mason Nagel
- Luz Peralta
- Brooke Purrier
- Peyton Seiler
- Isabella Steffen
- Tyler Stursa
- Alex Vandereide
- Haley VonRuden
- Hanna VonRuden
- Miya Weber

7TH GRADE
- Jacob Andrews
- Carter Blome
- Logan Buecksler
- Jordan Capello
- Emma Corbin
- Reed Cumberland
- Isabel DeLeon
- Cheyenne Fedder
- Henry Grayson
- Nicole Harfmann
- Piper Hill
- Noah Honsey
- MacKenzie Kellen
- Megan Klein
- Clara Kniefel
- Jacob Kucera
- Samantha Miller
- Julia Niles
- Jack Paulson
- Elizabeth Peterson
- Lainie Rahn
- Scott Scholljegerdes
- Nicole Schrot
- Hannah Schull
- Anna Sobrak
- Jayme Stransky
- Amelia Thompson
- Rosie Tobar
- Ava Jae Westbrock
- Jared Zuniga
- Jeancarlo Zuniga

Regular Honor Roll

12TH GRADE
- Haileigh Benton
- Brooke Crosby
- Marcus DeLeon
- Kori Dodge
- Alicia Esch
- Benjamin Ficht-Babcock
- Andrew Hunt
- Michael Kanne
- Cassandra Larson
- Holly Larson
- Nathan Larson
- Ally Linse
- Amelia Manderfeld
- Nicholas Masso
- Callie Nagel
- Jonathon O'Daffer
- Spencer Peck
- Alison Ryan
- Joshua Schauer
- Asberry Thoreson
- Shelby White
- Christopher Zuniga

11TH GRADE
- Carter Aldrich
- Isabel Brady
- Madison DeMars
- Jason Gedicke
- Alex Gengler
- Brynn Hable
- Beth Ann Hanson
- Colton Havelka
- Logan Keilen
- Kaylee Kern
- Kelsey Kern
- Tristen Kern
- David Klapperich
- Madison Krenske
- Nathan McCarty
- Nathan Meixner
- Gisela Mendoza
- Jonathon Meyer
- Katla Michaelson
- Madelyn Neuhaus
- Kristina Niner
- Bo Noble
- Cole Olson
- Ailee Romnes
- Ellie Romnes
- Dylan Schmit
- Sydney Stephens
- Benjamyn Sutcliffe
- Taylor Theisen
- Cole Volkmann
- Javis VonRuden
- Kayleigh Walock

10TH GRADE
- Zackariah Andrews
- Andria Archibald
- Tanner Barbeau
- Mary Braasch-Turi
- Camisha Chavis
- Connor Davis
- Bailey DuChene
- Warren Garza
- Jacob Gasner
- Ryan Hermanstorfer
- Brett Johnson
- Cody Kosel
- Rachael Luebbe
- Bailey Purrier
- Madison Schletty
- Joseph Schull
- Austin VonRuden

9TH GRADE
- William Chester
- Boden Devoe
- Shelby Ganske
- Yazmin Gonzalez
- Reilly List
- Joshua O'Daffer
- Isabel Reuvers
- Jeremiah Sutcliffe
- William VonRuden
- Michael Winslett

8TH GRADE
- Brayden Beede
- Adam Cammock
- Emily Chadwick
- Roberta Domstrand
- Cole Dusek
- Krista Esch
- Hannah Fessel
- Alissa Freelove
- Giovanni Gonzales
- Johanna Grant
- Kaelan Hermanstorfer
- Gavin Hermes
- Mikayla Janke
- Matthew Knutson
- Blake Lawson
- Jarrett Lisowski
- Sierra Lustig
- Alexander Oatway
- Lily Roehrick
- Keondric Spitzack
- Chloe Van Ryn
- Layla Wenker
- Jeffrey Westergaard
- Gunner White
- Halli Zumbrunnen

7TH GRADE
- Jake Barten
- Tyler Buck
- Caydon Budde
- Jessica Campos
- Payton Caron
- Paige Davis
- Jazmyne Duncan
- Jacob Ernste
- Jackson Hemann
- Johnathan Houston
- Kimberly Jarvi
- Nathan Johnson
- Jordan Klecker
- Lynn Larson
- Hunter Laue
- Desiray Limon
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Area Church Spotlight

Good Shepard Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN

Pastor's corner: Calling all sinners

Why is it some of us go to the doctor's office and we find ourselves hesitant to share with the doctor our symptoms or how long they have been present. The doctor has to play 20-questions or simply guess at what is ailing us.

One friend of mine jokingly says "We might as well go to a veterinarian since they are trained to diagnose patients who do not talk."

Lacking good communication puts our health at risk and increases the chance of misdiagnosis or incorrect treatment. This is serious and can be life threatening.

This can similarly characterize our interactions when gathered with other people of faith. We put on our best clothes to look good or right. The pleasant look on our faces can belie how we truly feel inside. We might answer the person who asks us "How are you" with the habitual "fine."

Sadly, some think their sins are too bad, too serious, and are beyond the reach of God's forgiveness. Still others of us find it difficult to trust others because we felt let down or betrayed in the past. We may be afraid that if another person knew how we truly felt, they might not care. Or worse yet, they may not like us and in the end reject us. But by hiding our sin or not being honest with how we truly feel, we can rob ourselves of the compassion and care other Christians could provide us.

There is yet one risk greater than all the others. Jesus said, "…I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Do we put on an act for God? Do we confess only what we consider the "safe" parts of our sin? Do we act religious, enough to be self-satisfied, ignoring that true health comes only in the redeeming love of God through His Son, Jesus? Dare we tell our doctor-Savior all our symptoms, all our sickness, knowing He promises mercy and forgiveness?

Implicit in what Jesus said is He will accept and forgive the admittedly self-satisfied just as quickly and completely as any other sinner. Jesus came to call sinners.



Mark Roseau
Sr. Pastor
Good Shepard Lutheran Church

Area Church Schedule



Lutheran

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Pastor Stephanie Wood
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Sunday School at 10:15 am

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Sunday Worship 10:45 am

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Heidi Heimgartner, Associate Pastor
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8953 S.W. 37th Ave., Hope
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Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m.

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the Rev. Gregory Schlicker
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Weekly Church Services:
Saturday Evening at 6 p.m. with Holy Communion, Sunday Morning at 10:30 a.m. with Holy Communion offered during the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (Sept. - June)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catholic

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

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

CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS
307 First St. SW., New Richland
The Rev. Raul Silva, Pastor
The Rev. Adam McMillan,
Parochial Vicar
(507) 465-8217

Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF LITOMYSL
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna
The Rev. John Sauer, Pastor
Fr. Jose Morales,
Weekend Presider
(507) 451-1588
www.litomysl.webs.com
Reconciliation: after Mass 1st Sunday
Eucharistic Adoration; 6:45 p.m.
Stations of the cross.
Memorial Day May 29th, At the Litomysl Cemetery - Military Services @ 8:15 a.m. by Ellendale American Legion & VFW; @ 8:30 a.m. (note Time) Mass with Father Sauer (Bring your own Chairs)

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

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

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

Christian

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

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

Full Gospel

Streetfire Ministries

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

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

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

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

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

DESTINY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Owatonna Campus
422 W. North Street, Owatonna
Pastors Sam and Cheri Benson
507-254-8514
www.destinycc.org
Service: 10 a.m. Sunday
SIMPLE CHURCH
Pastor Todd Lundgren
507-451-5661
Sundays 9:30
Meeting in the Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's.
Other gatherings? Please call.

Mennonite

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

Mormon

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

Presbyterian

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

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

UCC

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

Assembly of God

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

Baptist

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
104 First Ave. N.E.,
Blooming Prairie
Pastor Matt Fennell
(507) 583-2673
Services: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sunday

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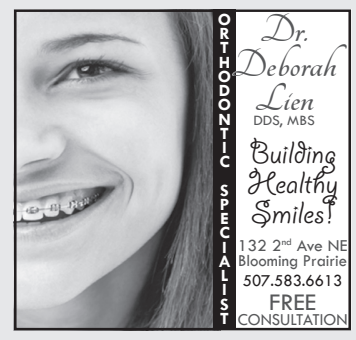
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CommunityLiving

Guest Column

America's common purpose on Independence Day

AMY KLOBUCHAR

Grilling hot dogs and corn on the cob, marching in parades, staying up late to watch fireworks light up the night sky – the Fourth of July always reminds us how united we are. We are united in independence. We are united in freedom. We are united in patriotism, our unwavering love of this nation and the people in it. That's something to celebrate, even if sometimes it's easy to forget – with all the partisanship and division we see in this nation we love. Our founders faced divisions in 1776 – different colonies, different backgrounds, different religions, even different visions for our democracy. But despite those differences, 241 years ago, they came together, signed a declaration, and changed the course of history. They knew that there was more that united them than divided them.

They were driven by a common purpose, and that purpose was freedom. And they worked hard for it, so that they're children and grandchildren would be better off. We're still doing that today. Just look out across Minnesota and around the country, and we see it happening everywhere. We see innovators and business owners thinking up new ways to take on big challenges – like preparing workers for the 21st century economy and fixing roads and bridges. We see men and women in the military risking their lives overseas to protect all of us here at home. We see parents and grandparents doing everything they can to give their kids and grandkids a brighter future. We see people who really care – teachers and nurses and engineers and firefighters and law enforcement officers who work hard every day to strengthen their communities. We see that common purpose. We see America. So, this Independence Day, let's make our own declaration: To respect one another and always remember that there is more that unites us than divides us. We are one nation -- with self-evident truths, with inalienable rights, with liberty, with justice for all. I'll end with this: I was at the Congressional baseball game a few weeks ago, which took place just the day after the terrible shooting at the Republican team's practice in Virginia.

At the game, with nearly 25,000 people in the stands, we saw that spirit of unity. Everyone stood and applauded when David Bailey, one of the Capitol Police officers injured in the shooting, took to the mound to throw out the first pitch. And at the end of the game, the winning team – the Democratic team – handed their trophy to the Republican team. They said, "Put it in Representative Scalise's office."

Instead of two teams, they showed that we are one team. We are America.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July.

Senator Amy Klobuchar represents Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.

Obituaries

Carole Magdelena Dittrich, 83 of Owatonna

Carole Magdelena Dittrich, 83, of Owatonna died peacefully at her home June 28, 2017. Dittrich was born Nov. 8, 1933 in St. Paul, to Michael and Hildegard (Danzl) Schaffer.

Dittrich was raised in St. Paul and graduated from Washington High School in 1951. Following her graduation she worked in the office for a trucking company and spent her free time socializing with her friends.

Dittrich married Eugene J. Dittrich on Sept. 8, 1956, in St. Paul. The family lived in several communities before moving to Owatonna in 1975. With her children grown Dittrich rejoined the workforce and appreciated the many close friendships she made with her co-workers over the years.

Through the years Dittrich enjoyed vacationing with her husband and family, making fond memories spending time with her friends going out for a meal or chatting on the phone, caring for her pets, time spent at the lake, being outdoors in all seasons tending to her yard, gardening, bowling, crocheting, jigsaw puzzles, using her IPad and computer, baking and cooking - making her delicious lasagna, special k bars and chex mix for holiday gatherings.

She especially loved spending time with her family laughing and playing many types of cards and indoor/outdoor games. Dittrich was a doting Grandma and Great Grandma and will be deeply missed by all who loved her.

Dittrich was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for 42 years.

Survivors include her four children, Susan (& Wayne) Kellebrew of Staunton, Illinois, Steven (& Jodie) Dittrich of Owatonna, Shelly (& Mark) Starman of Blooming Prairie, Scott (& DeAnn) Dittrich of Owatonna; six grandchildren, Micheal (& Melissa) Kellebrew, Keli (& Ben) Clark, Codi Dittrich (& Katie Moore), Derek (& Emily) Dittrich, Maria Dittrich, Liliana Dittrich;

She is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Grace & Luke Kellebrew, Xander & Greyson Clark, Aubrey Dittrich, Sawyer & Rowynn Dittrich; a brother & sister-in-law, Ronald & Arlene Schaffer of Scandia, Minnesota; nieces and nephews also survive. Dittrich was preceded in death by her husband, an infant son and her parents.

A funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 10, 2017, with visitation from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Owatonna. Interment will follow in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Steele County Humane Society, Paralyzed Veterans or the donor's choice.



Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute at Owatonna Hospital offering new treatment option



Submitted photo

Derek Schelling, PT, DPT, uses the HawkGrips tool during a physical therapy session.

Daily suffering from chronic injuries, pain and stiffness can severely impact quality of life. A new treatment available through Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute at Owatonna Hospital—Tool Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization (TASTM)—can help relieve those symptoms and return sufferers to the activities they enjoy.

What is TASTM?

It's a non-invasive technique, using stainless steel tools, called HawkGrips, to promote healing of painful tissues or reduce scar tissue throughout the body. Derived from the Chinese medicine technique of Gua Sha, the technique is now used in physical therapy practice. Plus, pain reduction and improved function can be achieved because of the variety of the tool's sizes and treatment edges, ensuring precise treatment for patients of different sizes and age groups.

How does TASTM work?

After a thorough evaluation, a physical therapist works with the patient to decide if the tools would be a positive addition to other physical therapy interventions such as exercise, manual therapy and the use of heat and ice. A typical treatment session involves first identifying areas where there's scar tissue or restriction and then warming up the tissue to prepare for treatment. The physical therapist will then treat with TASTM and end with gentle exercise and stretching to promote proper tissue movement. The technique is performed for a very short period of time—usually five-to-10 minutes—to avoid overworking the tissue.

Who benefits from using HawkGrips?

Anyone—this technique is safe for the general population, as well as many pediatric and geriatric patients. Common conditions treated with TASTM using HawkGrips include but are not limited to: plantar fasciitis, Achilles tendonitis, tendon injuries, lateral epicondylitis—or tennis elbow—and chronic pain disorder. Plus, the new tools have been successful in freeing up chronic scar tissue that is a result of surgery or trauma.

What are the benefits of using HawkGrips?

Using HawkGrips during a typical physical therapy session can help speed up the patient's healing process, so he or she can return to a better quality of life. Patients typically report a warming sensation immediately following the treatment session, with decreased pain and improved flexibility. It's also not uncommon for patients to report a large decrease in the tenderness or trigger points. Side effects are relatively rare. However, bruising from the tools can happen and is a sign that the dysfunctional tissue has been worked through and will self-resolve within two-to-five days.

HawkGrips can:

- prevent surgery
- reduce need for medication
- increase range of motion
- resolve chronic conditions
- enhance athletic performanc

Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute – Owatonna Hospital providers certified to use the HawkGrips tool set include: Derek Schelling, PT, DPT; Jason Jacobs, PT, ATC; and Christa Christianson, PTA.

If you're looking to reduce pain and start enjoying life again, consider speaking to your physical therapist about TASTM and its role in your rehabilitation plan. To learn more, call 507-977-2150 or visit allinahealth.org/owatonna, click on "Services," then "Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute."

Milestones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

July 5
Brenna Peterson
John Hines
Makenna Boehnke

July 6
Micalyn Trihus
Anthony Nelson
Rachel Klemmensen
Breanna Koster
Nick Schiefert
Orene Dennis
Sarah Esplan

July 7
Jill Trotman
Dawson Heuer
Taylor Bruggeman
Derek Levon
Nicole Schabert

July 8
Tim Amberg

July 9
Renee Worke
Liz Heiber

July 10
Max Broten Johnson
Skyler Coughlin
Dorlene Bakke
Ellis Harshbager

July 11
Elle Master
Mark Romeo
Charlie Romeo
Sophia Esplan

Anniversaries

July 6
Bob & Loretta Ingvalson

July 8
Derrick & Wendy Schewe

July 9
Alan & Theda Morton
Jake & Calista Lembke
Jeff & Suzy Kramer

July 10
David & Pam Farr
Tim & Lori Pirkl
Gary & Vivian Polinder

July 11
Gloria & Greg Snider
Kent & Kim Lea
Gina & Cory Hendrickson

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SEMCAC senior menu

July 5
Pork Roast
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Batter Bun
Fresh Fruit

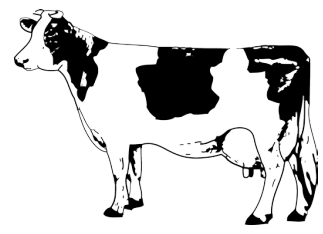
July 6
Beef Tips in Gravy
Over Noodles
Parslied Carrots
Tossed Salad
Wheat Dinner
Roll
Spring Dessert

July 7
Porcupine Meatballs
Alt: Baked Fish
Baked Potato
Peas
Fresh Fruit Cup

July 10
BBQ Pork on Bun
Coleslaw
Pear/Cranberry Sauce
Strawberry Short Cake

July 11
Salisbury Steak
Confetti Rice
Broccoli
Pineapple/Peach Cranberry Mold with Whipped Topping

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Blooming Prairie Times

66 YEARS OF COMMUNTY SERVICE

Plans Completed For Gala Fourth

Permit Changes In Soil Program

Jay Spinler Announces Ruling Allowing Use Of Sorghums

Changes in the conservation program, permitting the use of sorghums as emergency hay, was announced this week as a new ruling received by Jay Spinler, chairman of the Steele county committee on the 1937 agricultural program. A telegram received from Claude Wickard, director of the North Central division, brought the change in ruling.

The telegram reads as follows: "Amendment permitting use of sweet sorghums and sorgo as emergency forage to fill up conserving base approved this week. Also amendment provides that land sown to soil depleting crops in fall of 1936 not cut for hay or grain or in 1937 must be first cultivated or first seeded to soil conserving crops before July One, 1937, in order to classify as other than soil depleting. Counties should be advised immediately."

The term "sown corn used in this message will mean corn which has been sown thickly enough to definitely prevent formation of ears. The state committee interprets the term as applying to corn which has been seeded with a grain drill or which has been planted very thickly with a corn planter so that only a fine-stalked forage will be produced which will be used to take the place of hay or pasture of which the operator may not have a sufficient supply.

With reference to the second amendment outlined in the above message, this is interpreted to mean land that may have been sown in the fall of 1936 to win-

(Please Turn To Page Eight)

Fix Special Term Days For Court

Farmers Elevator Re-elects Heads

Jim Edmonds Will Serve As Manager For 22th Year

Satisfaction with progress of the Farmers Elevator was shown by stockholders at the annual meeting, when directors were re-elected and Jim Edmonds was re-named as manager to serve for the 22th year.

Re-elected on the board of directors to serve for two years were Robert Bagley, Ormaine Peterson and Ted Peterson. Officers of the association are Robert Bagley, president; Ormaine Peterson, vice president; T. P. Peterson, secretary-treasurer.

Net profit from operations during the year amounted to $3,263.-18, and the gross trading profit $6,853.26, as shown by reports given at the meeting. Sales during the year amounted to $167,-566.83. Wheat on hand at the time of the train inventory amounted to $84.33, oats on hand and in transit $1,426.29; barley in transit $736.31; corn on hand and in transit $3,422.09; flax on hand $81.26; feed, $488.75; flour, $32.80 limestone, $1,396.80; clover and seeds, $1,055.62; twine, $128.

Joins Ranks Of Benedicts Sunday

Nordean Rysavy and His Bride Will Reside At Birchdale



Highlight Events For July Fourth

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 7:30 Saturday evening, July 3rd. Novel concessions of all types in full swing. Dancing at mammoth bowery to music by Royal Knights entertainers from Cleveland.



Sunday afternoon. Program begins at 12:30. Band concerts, humorous 4-H playlets Swiss Yodelers, Hjalmar Petersen will speak at 2 o'clock, Marimba band, 4-H club playlets, musical

Promise Biggest Celebration For Fourth Of July

Festivities Start Saturday Night, Sign Up Husky Wrestlers

Concession stands of every conceivable description, melody and mirth, breathtaking fireworks, worthwhile program numbers broadcast by a modern amplifying system, song and spectacle, humor and humanity, surprise features will all add color to the glorious, rousing fourth of July celebration at the Blooming Prairie Country Club. Committee members promise the biggest celebration features for this part of the state.

Festivities and concessions will be in full swing Saturday night, when the celebration whirl will begin, and continue until Monday night, three big nights and two big days. Because of the unusually large number of novel concessions, the stands will be arranged in midway effect, with the large bowery centering the concessions. The bowery will be a roller skating rink during the day and a dance pavilion at night.

Fun in a blend of gaiety, rhythm and excitement will mark the celebration. Peppy musicians the famed Marimba band and the

Visit Scenic Dells On Wedding Trip

Erna Freiert, Earl Dennis United At Double Ceremony

At a double wedding ceremony performed at St. Michael's Lutheran church, Waltham community, Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, two sisters became brides when Miss Erna Freiert and Earl Dennis and Miss Irene Freiert and John Crandall were united in marriage.

Miss Erna Freiert has been a teacher in the village of Waltham and in rural schools the past several years and her sister Miss Irene has operated a beauty parlor at Kenyon the past two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis will reside in Blooming Prairie, where Mr. Dennis has employment as mechanic at the Srsen Auto company garage. He is a son of the late George Dennises. Mr. and Mrs. Crandall will make their home in Kenyon where the groom is engaged in the barber business. The couples left Sunday afternoon for a trip to the Dells in Wisconsin.

Solemnize Pretty Wedding Service

Jurene Jurgenson and De

Stores Close Monday

As the Fourth of July falls on Sunday this year, business places in Blooming Prairie will open Monday morning until 10 o'clock They will remain closed after 10 o'clock for the remainder of the day to permit employees and bosses to celebrate.

150 BLOOMING PRAIRIE

MY BP
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Hometown Living

B Section | www.steeledodgenews.com | Tuesday, July 4, 2017





Staff photos by Howard Lestrud

Left: The light on a new Lions year shines brightly for the Blooming Prairie Lions Club's new slate of officers. Lion H. Peterson, left, led the ceremony by installing new officers including Per Kvalsten as new president. Right: Per Kvalsten was installed as the new president for the Lions year of 2017-18 during special ceremonies on Wednesday, June 28. He accepts the gavel from outgoing president John Fouarge, left.

BP Lions officers sworn in

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

During an impressive installation ceremony on Wednesday, June 28, new officers of the Blooming Prairie Lions Clubs took their oaths of office for 2017-18.

Lion H. Peterson opened the ceremony at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen's Club by calling forward all of the elected officers for 2017-18.

Lion Peterson held a lighted candle and started a flame on each candle held by the respective officers.

Per Kvalsten was installed as the new president for the Lions year of 2017-18. The new Lions year began July 1. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International.

Kvalsten took over the reins of leadership from John Fouarge, who remains on the board as an advisor in his role as past president.

Three vice presidents were named and will climb the ladder toward the presidency. Jerry Mausbach is third vice president, Chris Staloch becomes second vice president and Greg Skillestad will be the first vice president.

Installed again as Lions Club secretary was Paul Fieberger. Treasurer is Waco Vandal.

In charge of membership extension and retention is H. Peterson.

Harlan Hinzmann and Phil Milton will share tail twisting duties. Lion Tamer will be Dean Zilm, assisted by Troy Barth.

During routine business, Lion H. Peterson sent around a signup sheet for the Fourth of July Lions Pancake Breakfast scheduled for July 4 at the Prairie Manor Care Center.

Lion Jerry Ingvalson also asked for more volunteers to work the Gopher 50 Car Race on Saturday, July 8 at the Deer Creek Speedway in Spring Valley.

Best wishes for recovery from surgery were extended to Lions Dick Kruckeberg, Nels Lee and Gary Thorson.

Lion John Dale Worke asked for birthday calendars to be turned in to him by mid-July. He also distributed Viking books to all Lions.

Skateboarders press on despite rain





Staff photo by Seth Bedenbaugh

Left: A young skateboarder waits his turn to try and impress the judges. He was one of three competitors in the 12U skateboard competition. Right: Cole Anderson wraps up his 90-second-freestyle with a couple last second tricks in front of the judges. Anderson's skill proved to be enough as he ended up winning 1st place in the 12U skateboard competition.

By SETH BEDENBAUGH
Staff Intern

On Saturday, June 24, the Owatonna Parks and Recreation held a BMX and skateboard freestyle competition. It was previously set for June 10, but Mother Nature had other plans. The rain made Owatonna Park and Recreation intern, John Thompson, reschedule the day of the event in hopes of landing a perfect day to hit the half-pipes and ramps. Despite the reschedule, the weather on the 24th managed to be enough to render yet another cancellation.

However, this was not before the first event was able to take place. In the 12U skateboard competition, three different kids took the pavement and tried their best in their allotted 90-second-freestyles. Although all three gave their best shot at the trophy, Owatonna native, Cole Anderson, came out on top impressing the judges the most. Anderson showcased his control on the board, as well as some of his favorite tricks and maneuvers on his skateboard. He accredits his skill and knowledge of skateboards to his seven years of experience. Also, Anderson was quick to point out that he couldn't have done it without his close friend, "I would like to thank Blaize Norby; he taught me a lot about skateboarding, and has always inspired me to get better at it."

While he has only been performing tricks for a mere two years, Anderson's skills proved worthy of the highest score; granting him the honor of hoisting the 1st place plaque.

Unfortunately, the rain did not hold off long enough for the contest to run in its entirety. So far, no further plans have been made to reschedule, yet again, to complete the remainder of the event.

Sewing excellence from the very beginning

By MARISSA LARSON
Staff Intern

Door-to-door selling marked the start of a very successful career for 1957 Blooming Prairie High School graduate, Darrell Jensen.

In 1960, he answered a calling to establish his own sewing machine business.

For a solid 10 years, he made his living by knocking on doors and reaching out to possible buyers.

Upon establishing his profile, his business began to bypass others.

Today, his very own B & J Sewing Center is the world's top dealer. He works out of Faribault, but there are other store locations, as well.

Back in 2014, when Jensen was inducted into the Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, he was in utter shock.

"I couldn't believe it. The rest of the association chose me; even my competitors voted for me. I was very pleased, and it made for a very emotional time."

Considering that only about four people are chosen every year, it is very impressive that Jensen earned himself a spot in the Hall.

He takes pride in what he does, stating that the best element of his job is the connections he forms with clients all over the globe.

Because he has been at this for so many years, it comes as no surprise that he often sells to several generations of the same family.

Speaking of family generations, all of Jensen's children work for him, as they carry out his line of work.

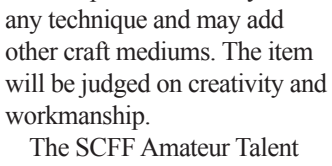
Although business tactics have undergone many changes throughout the years, one thing has remained stable with the B & J Sewing Center. Their outstanding loyalty keeps the customers coming back for more.

Buyers want the best of the best; whether their desired sewing machine costs a couple hundred dollars, or a few thousand doesn't alter the fact that they will be more than satisfied with the optimal service.

Refusing to sit on his laurels, he reaches for the next level by always setting goals higher than ever achieved before.

Free fair needs volunteers

FAIR TALK



Todd Hale

Volunteer help is needed in a couple of areas at the fair. The Muckle Museum needs help with hosts in the museum during fair week. Call the fair office if you can help. This year the museum will be air conditioned. Wells Fargo Auto Museum also needs hosts for fair week. If you can volunteer some time, call Les Abraham at 451-6455.

Many vendors through the fair are in need of workers during the fair. If you would like to work for a vendor, there is an application form to complete which is in the fair office or on the fair website (under forms). Vendors themselves will contact you.

Here's a note from the Hobbies Department at the fair. Use your imagination to create any hand crafted items incorporating the required fabric and beads, which may be picked up at the fair office for $3 a packet. You may use any technique and may add other craft mediums. The item will be judged on creativity and workmanship.

The SCFF Amateur Talent Contest will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:00. Entry forms are now on the fair website under "forms", at the fair office and at the Owatonna People's Press office. They are also in the fair exhibitor's guide booklet.

The 2017 Exhibitor's Guide (previously Premium Book), the color fair brochure and the pocket guides are all available now. Color brochures are available at the fair office and will also be included in the Owatonna People's Press and Steele County Times the week before the fair. Pocket guides are distributed at area liquor stores and at the fair office.

Allina-Owatonna Hospital is sponsoring additional hand sanitizing stations at this year's fair. Look for them throughout the fairgrounds during the week of the fair.

Mega-Ride tickets will go on sale at Hy-Vee in Owatonna on July 15. They are $55 and entitle the wearer to unlimited rides on the Goldstar Midway all during fair week. The tickets should be purchased by 5 p.m. on opening day of the fair.

Dates of the Steele County Free Fair are August 15-20. Check the fair website at www.scff.org. The phone number for the fair office is 507-451-5305. "Scream and Moo with Much to Do!"

HOMETOWNEXTRA
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

BP POLICE ACADEMY

At kids' birthday party
A murder in Blooming Prairie



Graduates of the Blooming Prairie Junior Police Academy pose for a team photo following their graduation. Shown from left to right are: Front Row -- Aden Doocy, Riley Johnson, Gabe Staloch and Colby Johnson. Second Row -- Eliot Gimbel, Evan Westphal and Lance Lembke. The boys are flanked by Officer Dan Peach and Chief Greg Skillestad. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



Blooming Prairie Junior Police Academy cadets survey a crime scene. They followed four clues to crack the case. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Once upon a time. . .there was a junior police academy in Blooming Prairie.

Young members of that police academy helped solve a murder mystery right before their eyes. The occasion was a birthday party for brothers Colby and Riley Johnson and seven of their friends.

A special birthday celebration was staged on a recent Saturday afternoon by Blooming Prairie Police Chief Greg Skillestad and Officer Dan Peach.

The police academy birthday party was actually the brainchild of Chief Skillestad and Officer Peach who offered this idea as an auction item during last September's Blooming Prairie Cancer Group auction.

Davin and Jennifer Johnson, parents of Colby and Riley, actually bought the auction item and had not redeemed it until now. How much did they pay for the birthday party? "I don't recall," said Davin with an honest tone.

BP Elementary School teacher Becky Johnson is waiting in the wings, having won a murder mystery birthday party at the BP Education Foundation's live auction last spring with the BP Police Department.

Lots of preparation went into planning this special party. "I've never heard of any other police department doing something like this," said Skillestad.

"They're here," announced Skillestad as he headed toward the front door of the PD to welcome his new recruits.

New academy recruits were: Colby Johnson, 9; Riley Johnson, 8; Evan Westphal, 8; Aden Doocy, 10; Gabe Staloch, 9; Lance Lembke, 9; Eliot Gimbel, 9 and Mason Johnson, 4 1/2.

The recruits were then shepherded to a conference room where they raised their right hands (one recruit had his left hand raised) and were sworn in as officers. The new officers were then issued hats, badges and hand guns (cap guns) with ammunition.

Blooming Prairie's newest fleet of officers then headed to the indoor shooting range (garage of PD) and were instructed in firing their firearms. "Don't shoot those guns unless you need to," shouted Chief Skillestad.

An echoing sound began as the recruits fired their guns during the training exercise. Seeing and hearing a couple go off before the exercise began, Chief Skillestad pointed out that misfires like this could cause injuries.

Following the indoor range assignment, the young officers went outside to sharpen their focus on targets by using water balloons. This training simulated the use of rubber bulllets. One hundred water balloons were splashed by the recruits.

Next assignment was to practice CPR on a practice manikin. The officers showed an exceptional desire to learn these life-saving tips.

What's next? "Let's get into the squad cars," ordered Officer Peach. All recruits were then taken to Central Park where they went through some obstacle course maneuvers in the rain.

"Hey guys, we have to go," said Chief Skillestad. "We have to go on a call, a murder has been committed," Chief Skillestad told the boys. "Is this for real?" one of the party goers asked. "Yep," Skillestad replied.

With flashing lights on and sirens blazing, the two BP police cars headed to 319 SW 2nd St. where a murder had been allegedly committed.

Chief Skillestad and Officer Peach then coached the young officers on how to assess a crime scene. The young boys were shocked to see a prone body (in a Ghost Buster suit) lying near a tree house.

Four clues were then unveiled:

1) "Now you have a brain freeze."

2) "I told you to pay your bill."

3) "Stop by for a cold one."

4) "You scream, we all scream . . ."

These clues plus information given by residents Jennifer and Billy Walsh led to the boys guessing the suspect may be at the BP Dairy Queen. They were right.

Party organizers Skillestad and Peach (aka police officers) then motored to the BP Dairy Queen where they met up with their chief suspect who came out of the back room, wiping his hands on a towel. "He did it," one of the officers pointed to DQ owner Nick Schiefert. "No, he did it," Schiefert pointed to a young work associate.

Schiefert, not having been told about this police training scenario, happily went along with the party and allowed Evan to handcuff him.

Sounding an end to the party, Skillestad thanked Schiefert for being a good sport. "Hey, let's have a treat," Schiefert said as he made ice cream cones for all of the young officers.

Then, it was back to the police department where the young officers were treated to some crime fighter biscuits (donuts). They were also given official certificates of training for participating in the BP Junior Police Academy.

What was the most fun part of the party? "The mystery," Riley quickly answered. "Eating a donut," smiled Eliot. "He's such a jokester," interjected Skillestad. "Handcuffing the suspect," said Evan.

"This was real cool," said Jennifer Johnson who went through the entire process with her husband and grandma Margaret Johnson.

"I enjoyed it too, and the kids were great cadets," said Skillestad. "It went better than I thought it would," said Peach.



Eliot Gimbel is sworn in as a new junior police officer for the Blooming Prairie Police Department. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



Blooming Prairie Police Officer Dan Peach instructs Eliot Gimbel in CPR. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



Gabe Staloch shows a proper shooting stance during firing range training at the BP Police Department. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)



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Erosion: Treat the problem, not the symptoms

Tame erosion with solutions that work: no-till and cover crops

By KACEY BIRCHMIER

Beauty and the beast. A tale as old as time. This story has nothing to do with love. It's all about erosion and what can be done to transform overworked, abused soil into healthy, productive soil teeming with life.

The situation is grim across the Midwest. Soil is eroding around a rate of 5 tons per acre per year, with severe cases losing closer to 100 tons per acre, says Jerry Hatfield, director of the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment located in Ames, Iowa. These numbers are above the rates of soil restoration, so soil will continue to be lost.

"Erosion rates are dependent upon the year," says Hatfield. "It's all rainfall driven."

Intense weather events in the spring are becoming the norm across the Midwest. There is more precipitation in the spring – a time of year with little or no crop to use that water, says Hatfield.

Since there's no vegetation to use the water or break up the raindrop energy, it leads to increased runoff and erosion, causing concern over how much erosion rates will increase across the Midwest. You battle this beast yearly. As of January 2017, 23.5 million acres were reportedly enrolled in the CRP across the U.S. Voluntary participation has helped to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion.

But is it enough? "You protect land from erosion and reduce the amount of sediment you put into streams with these practices," says Chad Watts, executive director of the Conservation Technology Information Center in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The bottom line: You need less soil disturbance and more residue and cover crops. Tillage is more ingrained in most people than their religion, says Doug Peterson. "Your soil is more than just the medium in which you grow plants," says Watts. "The downfall of many civilizations was when they degraded their soil to the point that it was no longer productive. When soil degrades to the point of no return, that's when civilizations begin to fail. It behooves you to protect your soil."

THE CURSE

The practice of tillage has conservationists exasperated. "There is no agronomic or economic reason for tillage to be justifiable anymore," says Doug Peterson, NRCS Iowa and Missouri regional soil health specialist. "It destroys everything that restores soil function. "The practice of tillage is more ingrained in most people than their religion," he says.

After all, passed down from generation to generation was the thought that tillage was required to make soil function, but that is not the case. Instead, tillage causes a loss in aggregate stability, explains Peterson. Root exudates in the soil act like glue and hold together soil particles. Erosion occurs when one piece of soil breaks loose from another aggregate.

Sediment loss, nutrient loss, and water availability are the main conservation concerns for Hatfield. "We've induced more and more field variability over time," he says. "If you have good root exudates coming from year-round plant roots and a healthy biology, you have a better aggregated soil," says Peterson.

The slake test is a good visual demonstration of what is happening in the field. The slake test consists of two clear containers full of water. A clod of soil from a tilled field is placed in one container, while a clod from a no-till field is placed in the other.

"The tilled soil dissolves rapidly," says Peterson. "In the presence of rain, without the glues or exudates, the soil particles in the aggregates break loose, and they are very susceptible to erosion."

That's not the case for the no-till field, which remains intact. A field with poor soil health doesn't allow for as much water infiltration as a healthy soil. Maintaining soil structure is important to help with infiltration, explains Hatfield.

"It's not how much rain you get in the rain gauge that matters; it's how much you get in the soil. Your job should be determining ways you can capture rain and store it better," says Hatfield.

It's not just a problem with water – there's an issue with oxygen, as well. There is no agronomic or economic reason for tillage to be justifiable anymore, says Doug Peterson. "Those roots growing in the soil are really oxygen-dependent," says Hatfield. Having nonfunctioning soil biology is akin to having COPD. The soil needs to have an oxygen exchange – that's limited in soil without a healthy biology.

IT'S A BEAST

You see these areas with washes get filled in by tillage. The answer to this type of erosion is to manage water better, explains Watts. The ideal system is a continual no-till with cover crops, which builds soil aggregates and allows more air and water movement through the soil. The following three steps will help you manage your soil for the future.

1. Adjust your strategy. Leave residue. Material left on the soil surface is an impediment to water movement. Cover crops or a grass waterway help deflect that water, resulting in more infiltration and less runoff.

Gully erosion, a concentrated flow of water that cuts deep channels, is different from other types of erosion because you notice it right away. Other types don't appear to be a significant problem – yet, looks can be deceiving. Sheet erosion (the uniform removal of soil in thin layers by raindrops and overland flow) and rill erosion (the removal of soil by concentrated water through small channels) are the types that cause the most soil loss.

"If you lose .10 inch of soil a year, you don't notice it," says Watts. "You're losing more than you think. A tenth of an inch over 40 acres adds up – it's just less noticeable." Don't think this is affecting you? Losing the thickness of one sheet of paper across an acre is equivalent to losing 5 tons of soil, says Peterson. If you have perfectly clear water in your field after a rain event, then you didn't have much sheet erosion, he explains.

2. Fix it right. Available programs with cost sharing have made it easier to fix issues, says Watts. Over the years, farmers have done a pretty good job addressing the critical areas with waterways. "For example, if you get a gully, you don't get a lot growing. You're money ahead to fix it and fix it right rather than try to farm with it," he says.

Growers are certainly headed in the right direction. "Even more than 10 years ago, protecting your soil is part of the conversation. As you talk about being sustainable, soil has to be part of that conversation," Watts says. When considering conservation practices, it's key to think of the context of how it fits into your production system. There's a direct tie between conservation and your production system. There are enough options within conservation that you can protect soil while being productive and profitable, says Watts.

3. Treat the problem, not the symptoms. An emphasis has been placed on buffers in past years, but they should be considered the last line of defense.

"If you have water, it's going to move some soil," says Watts. "Some movement is inevitable." Infield management should be the answer instead of relying on capturing soil, nutrients, and water leaving the field.

"Edge-of-field practices (such as buffers) slow down water movement and stop those sediment and nutrient runoffs before they get too far," says Watts. While valuable practices, they only treat symptoms – not the problem – and should only be half of the system. "When you get to the point where you have a big gully, you need to pinpoint why you can't fill it in with tillage," explains Watts. "Look up the hill to see what's happening."

In-field management gives you an opportunity to address the problem. "The beauty is that there is an opportunity to tie conservation practices to production," says Watts. "Cover crops build organic matter, and there are production benefits that go along with building organic matter."

THE BEAUTY OF TRANSFORMATION

The conversation needs to move from no-till to never-till. "Any time you make a tillage pass, you begin to break down aggregates," says Peterson. Water infiltrates the pore spaces in the aggregates, and tillage passes destroy those spaces in the aggregates. Ultimately, this destroys the ability of the water to infiltrate the soil. That's not all it harms. It also slashes the earthworm habitat. "The more active the biology, the more you're going to get out of the system," says Peterson.

Take nutrient cycling, for example. In a tilled environment, only about 30% to 50% of nutrients make it into the plant, says Peterson. However, with no-till, 70% to 90% of nutrients will be accessed by the plant. This may improve yield, and it lowers the risk of nutrient loss.

Producers have installed a lot of practices without understanding that they're treating only symptoms of the problem instead of the root cause, says Peterson.

The goal of a bioreactor is to trap nitrates that leave the field and prevent them from going into a river or stream. Even if it's just $10 to $30 per acre in nitrates leaving the field, that's a $10 to $30 investment going unutilized because the soil couldn't hold the nutrients. It's an investment you can't get back, he says.

"Historically, the problem hasn't been understood. The soil wasn't functioning properly. Those edge-of-field practices may function really well, but it's still costing you," he says. Across the Midwest, soil erodes around a rate of 5 tons per acre per year with severe cases losing closer to 100 tons per acre per year.

Cover crops combined with no-till could be the answer. Cover crops add organic matter to the soil, while no-till builds aggregate stability, he says. "Neither practice is as effective by itself."

Together, the combination can help build healthier soil, resulting in less need for conservation practices that merely treat the symptoms. Watts believes having organic matter and healthy soils will result in a reduction in the amount of tillage.

That's why cover crops are gaining ground. "A lot of people are realizing they can make them work in their system," Hatfield says. "More and more producers are beginning to see the value of that, but they need to figure out how to work it into their systems." This age-old tale may just have a new, sustainable ending.

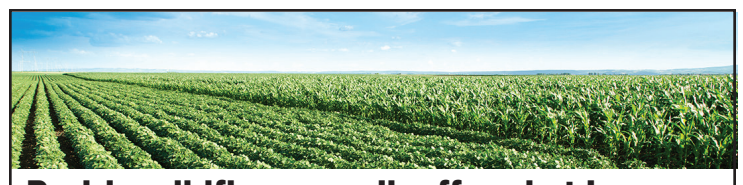


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Prairie wildflower walk offered at Iron Horse Prairie Scientific and Natural Area

Dodge County event scheduled for July 15

Southern Minnesota's tallgrass prairie, wildflowers and birds will be the attraction for a prairie wildflower walk at Dodge County's Iron Horse Prairie Scientific and Natural Area on Saturday, July 15. The event coincides with the city of Hayfield's annual town festival.

SNA staff will share their passion and knowledge of the prairie and wildflowers that once dominated southern Minnesota.

"Iron Horse Prairie SNA is unique, because most of the site is flat ground which was bounded by rail lines," said DNR SNA specialist Brad Bolduan. "The long-abandoned railroad grades kept this triangular tract of prairie from being plowed up for agriculture."

Footwear appropriate for walking is recommended, because there are no trails in the Iron Horse Prairie SNA. The expected two-hour hike will involve a mile of walking on uneven terrain. It will begin at 9:30 a.m., rain or shine.

Visitors are invited to bring cameras and field guides to capture the scenery of the Iron Horse Prairie SNA landscape. They're also urged to dress for the weather and plan ahead. The SNA has no public restrooms or drinking water on site.

Directions to Iron Horse Prairie SNA:

From Hayfield, drive south on Minnesota Highway 56 for one mile, then left (east) on 740th Street for a half mile. Parking is available in the parking lot on the south side of 740th Street.

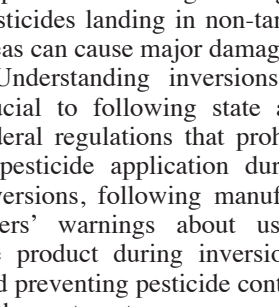
More information on the Iron Horse Prairie SNA and the full schedule of DNR Events is available on the DNR website, mndnr.gov.

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Temperature inversions before you spray

ON THE FARM



Claire LaCanne

Pesticide labels may state, "Do not apply this product during a temperature inversion," or, "Drift potential may be high during a temperature inversion."

Applying chemicals during a temperature inversion can result in long distance and damaging pesticide drift.

What is a temperature inversion? Inversions occur when warm air, which is light, rises upward in the atmosphere while cool air, which is heavy, settles nearer to the ground. With these conditions of warm air above cool air, air does not mix but stays stratified which prevents vertical air motion. This lack of movement is important to consider in relation to pesticide sprays, because spray droplets are then not dispersed, but stay in a concentrated mass and move horizontally as one mass with any subtle airflow, resulting in pesticides landing off-target. Pesticides landing in non-target areas can cause major damage.

Understanding inversions is crucial to following state and federal regulations that prohibit pesticide application during inversions, following manufacturers' warnings about using the product during inversions, and preventing pesticide contact with non-target areas.

Typically, temperature inversions start at dusk and break up with the sunrise because sun warms the air, allowing air to mix. Spraying during a temperature inversion is never recommended, even when using drift-reducing nozzles or drift retardants. Drift-reducing nozzles or drift retardants still produce some small drops less than 200 microns in diameter which are susceptible to drifting. Time of day is important to consider when looking for signs of inversion formation; clear mornings are good, where clear evenings can indicate a temperature inversion. During a clear morning, an inversion that formed the previous evening is dissipating. But, on a clear evening with low wind speeds, an inversion may be forming and growing in height as temperature drops, making it necessary for an applicator to be extremely observant of other temperature inversion indicators.

Here are a few conditions that favor the development of an inversion:

1) Radiation from surface objects into a cloudless or near cloudless sky with 25% or less cloud cover.

2) Light and variable winds with minimal mixing of the lower atmosphere (especially 0 to 3 mph). Remain cautious with winds of 4 to 6 mph.

3) Time of day; begins in the mid to late afternoon especially 3-5 hours before sunset and intensifies throughout the night until dawn and then dissipates approximately 2-3 hours after sunrise.

If you think there is risk for an inversion, it is best to wait so that you are following manufacturer's instructions and following legal restrictions.

For more information about temperature inversions, please consult the video, Temperature inversions: something to consider before spraying, which University of Minnesota Extension Regional Educators Ryan Miller and Dave Nicolai produced. The video can be found online on the Rice County Extension and Steele County Extension webpages under Agriculture Educator ⏵ Downloads or by typing https://youtu.be/jG10vCT1POg More information can also be found in the North Dakota State University publication Air Temperature Inversions: Causes, Characteristics and Potential Effects on Pesticide Spray Drift.

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.

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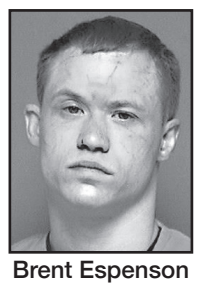
Public Safety

Blotter spotlight: Domestic. On June 26, deputies responded to a domestic involving a female not letting a male leave a home in the 300 block of 3rd Ave. NW in Dodge Center at 3:38 p.m.

Crime brief

Police capture fugitive on a crime spree

By RICK BUSSLER
Publisher


Brent Espenson

A fugitive who has been on a crime spree throughout the region, including Steele County, and on the run from police for weeks has been captured after a manhunt in Wabasha County.

On June 29, Wabasha County sheriff's deputies arrested Brent Espenson, 32, after a five hour manhunt in the woods. He had been wanted for crimes in Steele, Goodhue and Olmsted counties.

Last week's incident in Wabasha County began when deputies responded to daytime burglaries in the Millville area, according to Sgt. Gary Okins of the Steele County Sheriff's Office.

Wabasha County Sheriff Rodney Bartsch said as deputies were questioning a suspect in the Millville burglaries, he jumped into the river in an attempt to evade capture. The fleeing suspect turned out to be Espenson, Bartsch said.

Espenson's recent brushes with the law began in early March in the Rochester area. The Goodhue man had fled state troopers after a traffic stop for tinted windows. When officers took him into custody, he allegedly had methamphetamine in his possession.

He is one of two suspects involved in an alleged kidnapping and assault that sent a man to the hospital in Olmsted County.

Sgt. Okins said Espenson's crime spree came to Steele County on June 15 around 6:45 p.m. when he allegedly ran out of Planet X in the Medford Outlet Center without paying for $500 of clothing. A 24-year-old employee chased Espenson to a waiting car driven by an unknown woman, Okins said, adding both subjects refused to stop at the request of a store employee.

According to Okins, the store employee was dragged approximately 40 yards across the parking lot. The employee was hit by the car after falling from it. The employee was not transported by ambulance, but was treated for his injuries at the Owatonna Clinic.

Espenson is being held at the Goodhue County Adult Detention Center in Red Wing on Goodhue County's warrants. He will then face charges in the other counties.

Police blotter
Steele County

Owatonna Police
June 23

Arrest. Police arrested a motorist following a traffic stop at Southview St. SW and Redwood Place SW at 2 a.m.

Child Protection. At 1:52 p.m., police received a child protection report from the 1000 block of Oak Ave. S.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 2;11 p.m.

Crash. Paramedics and officers responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Linn Ave. SW and 18th St. SW at 6:38 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 100 block of Oakdale St. SW at 9:29 p.m.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 500 block of Bridge St. W. at 10:30 p.m.

Domestic. At 11:14 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 500 block of State Ave. NW. They arrested a subject at the scene.

June 24

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 1000 block of Broadway St. W. at 9:33 a.m.

Domestic. At 12:22 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Pearl St. E.

Animal Bite. Police responded to an animal bite in the 1500 block of Mosher Ave. SW at 7:52 p.m.

Crash. A motor vehicle accident with injuries occurred in the 1000 block of 14th St. NE at 9:18 p.m.

Medical. Paramedics and officers responded to a medical emergency in the 100 block of Landmark Dr. NE at 10:46 p.m. They arrested a subject at the scene.

June 25

Domestic. At 11:06 p.m., officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 block of Lewis Dr. NW. They made an arrest at the scene.

June 26

Trespassing. Police arrested a juvenile for trespassing in the 400 block of Larch Ave. NE at 7:32 a.m.

Fraud. Police took reports of fraud incidents in the 1200 block of Carpenter Place NE at 10:18 a.m., the 100 block of 24th Place NW at 10:30 a.m. and in the 3000 block of Cedar Ave. N. at 2:28 p.m.

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident resulting in property damage occurred in the 200 block of Phelps St. E. at 8 p.m.

Domestic. At 8:03 p.m., police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 1000 block of Grove Ave. S. They arrested a subject at the scene.

Drunkeness. Officers responded to an intoxicated individual at Rose St. E. and Grove Ave. N. at 8:38 p.m. They took him into custody.

Disorderly Conduct. Police responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 200 block of 22nd St. NW at 9:06 p.m.

Arrest. Police made a traffic arrest at Broadway St. E. and Elm Ave. N. at 10:22 p.m.

June 27

Hit and Run. A hit and run accident occurred in the 2200 block of Hartle Ave. SW at 12:16 p.m.

Animal. Police responded to animal call in the 2600 block of Rosewood Lane NW at 6:19 p.m.

Warrant. Police made a warrant arrest in the 200 block of Oak Ave. N. at 6:50 p.m.

Shoplifting. A shoplifting incident occurred in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 9:47 p.m.

Suspicion. At 10:06 p.m., police responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 3700 block of Frontage Rd. W. They arrested a subject at the scene.

June 28

Burglary. Police began a burglary investigation in the 900 block of Hoffman Dr. NW at 9:03 a.m.

Fight. Officers responded to a fight in the 100 block of Main St. E. at 1:42 p.m. They took a subject into custody at the scene.

Shoplifting. Police issued a shoplifting citation in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 3:46 p.m.

Theft. At 4:52 p.m., police issued a theft citation in the 2100 block of Bridge St. W.

Shoplifting. Officer arrested a subject for shoplifting in the 1100 block of Frontage Rd. W. at 7:10 p.m.

Theft. Police made a theft arrest in the 500 block of South St. E. at 7:35 p.m.

Steele County Sheriff
June 23

Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 100 block of Riverview Court in Medford at 9:25 a.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 14000 block of 72nd Ave. SW in Berlin Township at 2:12 p.m.

June 25

Domestic. At 7:58 p.m., deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in the 3700 block of Highway 30 E. in Blooming Prairie Township.

June 28

Search Warrant. Deputies executed a search warrant in the 1700 block of State Ave. NW in Owatonna Township at 12:25 p.m.

Vandalism. Property damage was reported in the 100 block of 5th Ave. W. in Ellendale at 2:47 p.m.

Theft. Deputy took a theft report in the 8000 block of 123rd St. SE in Blooming Prairie Township at 4:16 p.m.

Court news
Steele County

The following cases were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 19 with Judge Karen R. Duncan presiding:

Lonnie H. Bronstad, 42, New Ulm, previously appeared and was convicted of felony DWI-refusal to submit to chemical test. Bronstad was sentenced to $4,081, 14 days in county jail, chemical dependency evaluation, cognitive skill training, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, do not enter liquor establishments, maintain employment, 180 hours of community service and 7 years of supervised probation.

Isaiah H. Coffey, 19, Rochester, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of cocaine or methamphetamine. The defendant was sentenced to $2,081, 121 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, chemical dependency evaluation, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, anger management, Steele Waseca Drug Court and 25 years of supervised probation.

Sylvia M. Lee, 67, East Bethel, previously appeared and was convicted of four counts of felony failure to file taxes. She was sentenced to $181,030.80, 123 days in county jail, do not act in a fiduciary role over others or other entity, obtain approval of all savings and checking accounts, obtain employment, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state and 10 years of supervised probation.

Deanna M. Nicks, 43, Geneva, previously appeared and was convicted of felony theft. The defendant was sentenced to $3,606.58, 180 days in county jail, no possession of firearms, obtain permission to leave the state, no alcohol or controlled substance use, do not enter liquor establishments, cognitive skill training, individual therapy, no contact with victim, no trespassing at Gopher Stop and 5 years of supervised probation.

Joseph R. Whitehead, 33, St. Cloud, previously appeared and was convicted of felony possession of marijuana and misdemeanor DWI. He was sentenced to 21 months in St. Cloud State Prison.

The following misdemeanors and petty misdemeanors were heard in Steele County District Court the week of June 19 – 23:

Blooming Prairie
Police Department

Steven J. Bendlin, 38, Le Sueur, speeding, $121; Hanna M. Bongers, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Brianna J. Mitchell, 25, Shakopee, suspended license, $281.

MN State Patrol
Rochester

Lindsay E. Ahlman, 26, Medford, speeding, $131; Latasha M. Bartlett, 32, Oklahoma City, OK, seat belt, $106; Emmit Benitez, 37, Mason City, IA, speeding, $131; Matthew L. Bennett, 31, Denton, TX, speeding, $141; Leroy F. Bontrager, 34, Doechester, WI, seat belt, $106; Todd A. Evanoff, 52, South St. Paul, speeding, $141; Melissa M. Haberman, 31, Owatonna, seat belt, $106;

Cody A. Hoffman, 24, Blooming Prairie, seat belt, $106; Dylan D. Hohenstein, 19, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Antonio F. Jenkins, 25, Minneapolis, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, $181; Adam N. King, 33, Northfield, following vehicle too closely, $131; Melissa M. Knudson, 25, Hayfield, speeding, $121;

Jamie J. Kujak, 28, Albert Lea, no insurance, $281; Gustavo E. Marinos Julca, 21, Jordan, speeding, $281; Nikole C. Mays, 37, New Hope, no child passenger restraint system, $131;

Todd M. Noble, 49, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Douglas E. Pichner, 62, Owatonna, axle violation, $381; David T. Reinhardt, 64, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Dillon D. Rieger, 24, Johnston, IA, speeding, $131; Fernando Silva Fernando, 23, Austin, revoked license, $281; Thomas J. Stadler, 44, Faribault, speeding, $131; Jerret L. Utpadel, 17, Ellendale, following vehicle too closely, $131; Channing L. Warner, 39, Owatonna, seat belt, $106.

Owatonna Police
Department

Faisal Abdullahi, 27, Shakopee, disorderly conduct, $131; Cody J. Altepeter, 23, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Marisol Barajas, 33, no insurance, no child passenger restraint system and seat belt, $356; Carter A. Broton, 18, Owatonna, reckless driving, open bottle, possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct, $131, 2 days in county jail, no contact with victim, chemical dependency evaluation, domestic abuse evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation; Caleb M. Connolly, 26, Mankato, DWI, $381, 4 days in county jail, attend MADD impact panel, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use and 1 year of supervised probation; Krystal Correa, 20, Owatonna, invalid license, $181;

Laura J. Dominguez, 25, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Christine A. Ferguson, 29, Claremont, suspended license, $281; Tammy R. Fitch, 44, Owatonna, DWI, $381, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel, chemical dependency evaluation and 1 year of supervised probation;

Amina K. Haji, 28, Owatonna, no insurance, $281; Chelsey M. Hansen, 18, Owatonna, texting while driving, $131; Tyler L. Lockman, 29, Owatonna, revoked license, $131 and 5 days in county jail; Dena M. Lundell, 45, Red Wing, damage to property and assault of peace officer, $212, 24 days in county jail, mental health evaluation, 50 hours of community service and 1 year of supervised probation;

Marco A. Mendez, 36, Owatonna, violation of order for protection, stay of adjudication, $81, diversion program and 1 year of supervised probation; Richard A. Miller, 40, no license, $181; Daniel P. Moller, 63, Owatonna, prostitution, $1,081, complete men who use prostitution class, no use of websites providing escort services and 1 year of supervised probation; Julius D. Powell, 26, Owatonna, suspended license, $281; Jeanette M. Raichle, 75, Owatonna, stop sign, $131; Mark E. Risty, 44, Owatonna, seat belt, $106.

Steele County
Sheriff's Office

Jimmy L. Bolden, 33, Carrollton, GA, speeding, $121; Patrick J. Brady, 69, Medford, speeding, $121; Ashley N. Buker, 29, Waseca, speeding, $141;

Tracy A. Callahan, 29, Ellendale, DWI, $381, Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory, no alcohol or controlled substance use, attend MADD impact panel and 1 year of supervised probation; Sandra K. Carter, 67, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Sanitago L. Cavazos, 19, Owatonna, seat belt, $106; Innocent O. Charles, 23, Rochester, speeding, $141; Chance A. Christenson, 19, Owatonna, speeding, $121;

Jonathan R. Fabian, 35, Owatonna, speeding, $121; Desiree J. Gehrke, 22, Waterville, speeding, $221; Ryan G. Good, 16, Owatonna, speeding, $221; Katelyn J. Hanneman, 22, Ellendale, domestic assault, stay of adjudication, $81, diversion program, no possession of firearms, no alcohol or controlled substance use, chemical dependency evaluation, Domestic Violence Inventory and 2 years of supervised probation; Jimmy E. Harrison, 44, Spiro, OK, speeding, $281; Mike Hayze, 32, Minneapolis, no license, $181; Jeffrey E. Hunter, 39, Windom, DWI, $131 and 200 days in county jail; Tammi L. Jewison, 50, Waseca, speeding, $121;

Alexey W. Lattner, 22, Harmony, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia and speeding, $221; Brian T. Maznio, 26, Waterville, speeding, $121; Tracy L. Millner, 32, Austin, seat belt, $106; Gary D. Mosley, 26, Owatonna, revoked license, $281; Akway O. Nygow, 43, Fridley, speeding and no insurance, $331; Shelly M. Olson, 53, Chatfield, speeding, $221; Nathan T. Petricka, 26, Faribault, speeding, $131; Logan J. Ringhofer, 18, Owatonna, minor consumption, $181; Michael P. Willcox, 45, New Richland, speeding, $221; Jill M. Woodside, 29, Albert Lea, speeding, $121; Kristina M. Zimmerman, 44, New Richland, speeding, $221.

Police blotter
Dodge County

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office handled 201 complaints during the week of June 21 – 27. Some of them include:

June 21

Animal. Deputies received an animal complaint from the bike path in Hayfield at 1:53 p.m.

June 22

Suspicion. At 2:12 p.m., a citizen reported a suspicious bottle of bleach in the 60800 block of 221st Ave. in Dodge Center.

Restraining Order. Deputies responded to a restraining order violation in the 500 block of 2nd St. NW in Dodge Center at 8:31 p.m.

Juvenile. Deputies received a complaint of kids jumping out of bushes and scaring people in the 800 block of Hwy. St. W. in Dodge Center at 9:25 p.m.

June 23

Larceny. A Dodge Center resident reported that a subject stole clothes and credit cards from her in the 500 block of 7th Ave. SE at 11:59 a.m.

June 24

Criminal Damage. At 9:43 a.m., deputies received a report that subjects had tore up grass by doing donuts on 4th St. SW in Hayfield.

Civil. Deputies assisted with a civil matter in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE in Hayfield at 5:42 p.m.

Noise. Deputies received a complaint of loud music from the 100 block of Front St. W. in Claremont at 10:14 p.m.

June 25

Civil. At 9:41 a.m., deputies assisted with removing a female party from a residence on 1st St. SE in Hayfield.

Domestic. Deputies received information regarding a past action domestic assault in the 19000 block of County Hwy. 24 in West Concord at 10:28 a.m. They arrested a female subject and transported her to the Steele County Jail.

Fire. Deputies responded to subjects burning illegal materials in the 20100 block of 555th St. in West Concord at 12:25 p.m.

Harassment. At 9:46 p.m., a Hayfield woman reported receiving threatening messages via Facebook.

June 26

Larceny. Deputy took a report of a missing wallet from a car in the 600 block of 4th St. NW in Hayfield at 6:06 a.m.

Tampering. A citizen reported that her vehicle had been tampered with in the 900 block of 3rd Ave. SE in Hayfield at 9:50 a.m.

Burglary. At 5:28 p.m., a Hayfield resident reported that his home had been broken into in the 100 block of 6th Ave. NE.

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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.

- Erika Williams – shoplifting - $500 bail
- Kelly Williams – theft - $500 bail
- Theodore Wilson – DWI, no license - $3,000 bail
- Darryl Winford – DWI - $750 bail
- William Winters – violation of conditions of release – no bail
- Tyler Woodruff – warrant – no bail
- James Woosley – contempt of court - $1,000 bail
- Terry Yanzer – DWI – no bail
- Dionte Younger – false name - $6,000 bail
- Jose Zamarripa – revoked license, no insurance – no bail
- Octavio Zapata – DWI, speeding - $1,000 bail
- Terry Zoller – DWI - $3,000 bail
- Joseph Zulker – dishonored check - $6,000 bail
- Nashid Abdul-Zahir – no insurance - $350 bail
- Veronica Adame – disorderly conduct - $1,000 bail
- Randy Aguilar – DWI – no bail
- Rashid Ahmed – assault - $10,000 bail
- Belen Alaniz – DWI - $12,500 bail
- Omar Alfaro – minor consumption - $500 bail
- Abdisalam Ali – controlled substance - $5,000 bail

John Olson becomes 23rd Steele Waseca Drug Court graduate

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

It has taken 64-year-old John Olson of Owatonna four Driving While Intoxicated convictions to turn his life around.

The big motivator for Olson was the Steele Waseca Drug Court which he embraced, beginning on Feb. 9, 2015. There have been some bumps in the road for Olson but he accomplished a big goal by becoming the 23rd graduate of the Steele Waseca Drug Court.

It was graduation day for Olson on Wednesday, June 28 as family, friends and court officials paid tribute to Olson at the Steele County Administrative Center in Owatonna.

"Drug Court kept me accountable for my actions," remarked Olson as he waited to enter a makeshift courtroom at the Administrative Center.

Olson said he and others in the Drug Court program are trying to better their lives by doing the right things. He said Drug Court has been very helpful and understanding.

Olson was flanked by his two daughters, Robin and Jamie and by two of his four granddaughters. Olson's ex-wife Eileen was present for the graduation and told those in attendance that Olson "is a much better person to be around" because of his recovery actions. Olson also has a son Teddy.

"I'm really proud of my dad; he's a much more positive person and it's because of his commitment of Drug Court," commented daughter Robin while speaking at the graduation ceremony.

Olson chose not to wear the traditional graduate's robe. He accepted a plaque and a souvenir coin from Third District Judge Joseph Bueltel.

Nicole Grams, coordinator of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, provided history of drug courts and said they work in reducing crime, in restoring citizenship and in saving lives.

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 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.

Olson came to the SWDC program after receiving a gross misdemeanor DWI. His only alternative to serving a year in jail was to enroll in Drug Court. He has attended 75 court hearings, exceeded 662 recovery hours, taken more than 268 tests and has totaled 125 days of sobriety.

Grams said Olson's challenge is now to continue to mentor and to stay connected with the recovery community while improving upon relationships with his family.

Participants in Drug Court are healthier because of their involvement in Drug Court, said Grams. She urged Olson to continue telling his story of recovery.

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh, a regular attendee of SWDC graduations, said he has had a lot of interaction with Olson. "Congratulations on your hard work," he told Olson.

"You are an inspiration to all of us," said David Wright, mental health professional for the Drug Court, in addressing comments to Olson.

Judge Bueltel told Olson to embrace his success in the program.

Olson thanked the Drug Court for teaching him to be honest and accountable. He said Alcoholics Anonymous has helped him turn his life around. Olson's sponsor Richard Watts observed, "I am so glad to see John so happy. He had a couple of hiccups on the way but he has been very loyal to Drug Court."

Olson is retired but still busy delivering newspapers for a local publisher.

Prior to Olson's graduation celebrated in the Steele County Administrative Center, Judge Bueltel met with 28 of the SWDC participants. Judge Bueltel reviewed all participants' progression in the program.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Most recent graduate of the Steele Waseca Drug Court, John Olson, is shown with his graduation plaque and with two of his granddaughters, Rylee, 6 and Haylee, 9.

Crossword solution

■	T	S	I	O	G	E	■	S	E	E	R	P	S	■
S	E	M	A	N	E	R	■	S	E	L	E	G	N	A
T	L	■	S	R	E	I	L	A	V	A	C	■	A	I
R	E	S	A	B	■	T	A	R	■	S	A	R	I	L
O	M	E	M	■	N	E	D	A	B	■	R	O	B	A
T	O	T	■	D	A	R	■	H	A	D	■	T	A	M
■	■	A	T	A	D	■	■	■	D	E	T	A	R	O
S	E	R	A	N	■	■	■	■	■	S	I	R	A	S
E	N	E	C	O	E	■	■	■	A	O	N	A	■	■
D	I	C	■	M	E	R	■	N	E	D	■	P	D	A
A	M	A	N	■	D	E	T	A	S	■	S	E	E	G
R	A	L	A	M	■	D	E	M	■	N	E	S	B	I
I	L	■	N	A	T	I	R	A	M	A	S	■	B	A
T	E	N	O	R	A	B	■	E	L	O	P	D	A	T
■	M	E	H	T	N	A	■	S	A	M	A	R	D	■

"ASK A TROOPER"

by Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol



Sgt. Troy Christianson
MN State Patrol

Question: *I was told that the fine for speeding in a construction zone had increased recently. Could you also explain the Zipper Merge for merging into construction zones in Minnesota?*

Answer: A recent work zone crash left two people injured, so this is a great time to remind drivers about the importance of maneuvering through a work zone safely.

During the spring and summer months, construction season is in full swing in Minnesota. Many motorists continue to risk their lives and the lives of others by not slowing down and not paying attention.

• In the past five years (2011 – 2015), 39 people have been killed and more than 3,700 people were injured in work zone crashes.

• In 2015, 10 people were killed in work zone crashes, the most since 2010 (12).

Safety Tips:

• When driving through a work zone, you must slow down. Fines for speeding in a work zone are more than $300.

• Put the distractions away.

• Distracted driving is a leading factor in crashes in Minnesota. A motorist must focus 100 percent of their attention on the road.

• Move over for construction workers and their vehicles. This will provide safety for not only the workers, but the motorists as well.

• Never drive impaired.

• Wear your seatbelt as it can save your life.

• Check out 511mn.org for road closures, detours and traffic incidents.

Zipper Merge

The Minnesota Department of Transportation urges motorists to use both lanes of traffic in a construction zone. Traffic should not merge together until reaching the designated merge area. At that time, vehicles should alternate in a "zipper" fashion into the open lane.

Some drivers slow down and merge too quickly. This can lead to unexpected and dangerous lane changes, serious crashes and road rage.

Some motorists will intentionally drive slow or block the lane that is closing because they believe drivers trying to "beat" the traffic are rude. This is not only dangerous and can lead to a crash or road rage, but it's also illegal. Remember, the driver using the open lane is following the proper way to merge.

Studies show that the "zipper merge" works to keep traffic flowing, especially in heavy traffic, by:

• Reducing fluctuations in speeds between the lanes.

• Reducing the overall length of traffic backup by as much as 40 percent.

• Reducing congestion on freeway interchanges.

• Creating a sense of fairness and equity that all lanes are moving at the same rate.

• You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

SUNNY SKIES AND SPEED: A DANGEROUS COMBINATION

Extra speed enforcement begins on Steele County Roads

Minnesotans who think clear skies, dry conditions and country roads mean higher speeds are less risky need to reconsider that thought. Crash statistics tell a different story, and statewide extra speed enforcement from July 7 – 23 will remind Minnesotans to slow down and stay safe.

The Owatonna Police Department, the Blooming Prairie Police Department, and the Steele County Sheriff's Office will be joining police officers, sheriffs' deputies and troopers from more than 300 agencies statewide to look for speeders. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) coordinates the extra enforcement and education effort. DPS-OTS provides federal funding for law enforcement to work overtime hours conducting increased patrols.

"Driving in the summer in Minnesota is such a joy compared to winter roads but the improved conditions prove more deadly," said Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele. "Clear, dry roads tempt drivers to increase their speeds, and when we add in motorists who are drunk, texting or unbelted, we see the 100 deadliest days over the summer months. Please understand that your decision to speed or drive aggressively can be a dangerous, selfish choice that's not worth the few minutes shaved off your travel time."

You Speed, You Crash

While getting a ticket may be a primary concern for drivers exceeding the speed limit, they should worry about far more dangerous consequences:

• In single-vehicle crashes in 2015, Minnesota statistics show that illegal or unsafe speed was the most common contributing factor.

• During the 100 deadliest days in the past five years (2012-2016), preliminary numbers show that 109 people lost their lives in speed-related crashes.

• Fatal crashes overall tend to occur on rural area roads that permit high speeds and do not have interstate-type safety designs.

• In 2015, the highest numbers of fatal crashes, traffic fatalities, injuries and overall crashes took place on two lane roads (one lane each way).

Slowing Down a Positive Trend

Minnesota statistics show drivers are slowing down and being less aggressive. When comparing the five year periods of 2006 – 2010 and 2011 – 2015:

• There has been a 28 percent reduction in speed-related fatalities.

• There has been a 32 percent decrease in speed-related serious injuries.

More than twice as many speed-related fatal crashes occur on rural roads than major urban roads.

Speeding Dangers

• Greater potential for loss of vehicle control.

• Increased stopping distance.

• Less time for driver response for crash avoidance.

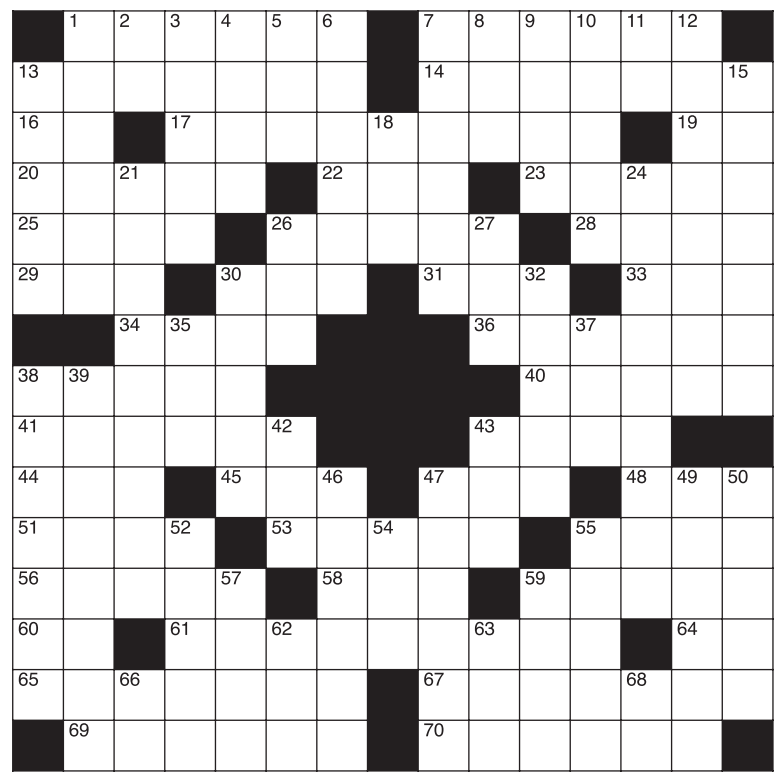
• Increased crash severity leading to more severe injuries and death.

Count to Three

• Motorists should keep a three-second following distance to allow for safe stopping and reaction to other vehicles.

• It takes more than the length of a football field to stop when traveling at 60 miles per hour.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Plays
7. Hymn
13. Larval frog
14. A member of the British order
16. Stomach muscle
17. Helper
19. East of NYC
20. Influential Norwegian playwright
22. School for healing
23. Of the cheekbone
25. Disco rockers The Bee ___
26. Gorged
28. Khoikhoin people
29. Payroll firm
30. A hiding place
31. Georgia rockers
33. Spanish soldier El ___
34. Deerlike water buffalo
36. Second epoch of the Tertiary period
38. Frocks
40. Nostrils
41. Spoke
43. Information
44. Where wrestlers work
45. Dash
47. Cool!
48. Tiny child
51. People of northern Assam
53. Austrian spa town
55. Written reminder
56. Italian monetary units
58. Tell on
59. More abject
60. Farm state
61. Cleveland's hoopsters
64. Famed NY Giant's nickname
65. Los __, big city
67. Rechristens
69. Shopping trips
70. Values self-interest

CLUES DOWN
1. Pressed against lightly
2. Rural delivery
3. Semicircular recesses
4. Groan
5. Donation
6. Mariner
7. One who accepts
8. __ King Cole, musician
9. Streetcar
10. Silk fabric
11. __ route
12. Used to make plastics
13. Swampy coniferous forest
15. Angry speeches
18. A way to soak
21. One who divides
24. Deeply cuts
26. A very large body of water
27. "Raisin in the Sun" actress Ruby
30. Medicated
32. Single unit
35. Parasitic insect's egg
37. House pet
38. African nation
39. Saddle horses
42. Press lightly
43. One of 12 sons of Jacob
46. Cause to suffer
47. Hang 'em up
49. Breakfast dish
50. Wrongful acts
52. NASCAR driver
54. Indian dish
55. Type of giraffe
57. Selling at specially reduced prices
59. Czech city
62. "Orange is the New Black" character
63. Records electric currents
66. Country doctor
68. Chronic, progressive disease (abbr.)

Let's get you movin!

KELLERWILLIAMS PREMIER REALTY

Jennifer Walsh
507-438-6676
email: jenwalsh@kw.com
web: jenwalsh.kw.com



Legal Notices

Foreclosure

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
MORTGAGOR(S): William K. Wagner and Renee M. Wagner, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as nominee for Sterling State Bank, a Minnesota corporation
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by assignment recorded on July 14, 2011 as Document Number A000379020 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $114,098.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 17, 2004
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 18, 2004 as Document Number A319442 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $100,791.90
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Tract I: All that part of the South half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 107 North, Range 21 West, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of said Northeast Quarter; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East, assumed bearing, 333.44 feet along the East line of said Northeast Quarter to the North right of way line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East 273.67 feet along the East line of said Northeast Quarter to the True Point of Beginning; thence South 88 degrees 33 minutes 17 seconds West 213.88 feet; thence North 0 degrees 00 minutes East 88.54 feet; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 15 seconds East 213.81 feet to the East line of said Northeast Quarter; thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes East 84.01 feet to said True Point of Beginning.
Containing 0.42 acre, more or less.
Containing 0.36 acre, more or less excluding highway easement.
Subject to a public highway easement along the East 33 feet of said Northeast Quarter.
And
Tract II: All that part of the South Half of the NE 1/4 of Section 18, T 107 N, R 21 W, Steele County, Minnesota, described by: Commencing at the southeast corner of said NE 1/4; thence N 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, assumed bearing, 333.44 feet along the east line of said NE 1/4 to the north right of way line of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad; thence N 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 273.67 feet along the east line of said NE 1/4; thence S 88 degrees 33 minutes 17 seconds W 213.88 feet; thence N 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds E 44.50 feet to a corner of a parcel recorded as document number 284737 in the Office of the Steele County Recorder, last said corner being the True Point of Beginning; thence N 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds E 44.04 feet to a corner of said parcel; thence S 89 degrees 46 minutes 15 seconds W 115.13 feet to the west line of said parcel; thence S 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds W 52.86 feet to a corner of said parcel; thence N 85 degrees 23 minutes 44 seconds E 115.50 feet to said True Point of Beginning.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1130 92ND AVE SW, OWATONNA, MN 55060-4877
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Sterling State Bank, a Minnesota corporation
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 09-018-1208
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100112065678153632
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.
PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: August 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota
to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.
TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on February 8, 2018.

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

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

Dated: June 14, 2017

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

THE ACADEMY LAW GROUP, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Corbin C. Smith, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(17-0623-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

6/27, 7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF STEELE

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Court File Number: 74-PR-17-1037

Estate of
Charlene Marie Wetzel,

Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on August 14, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Owatonna Fire Hall, 107 W. Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Jurene K. Mortensen, whose address is 558 Hazel Lane, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Karen Duncan
Judge of District Court
6/12/2017

Kim Wobschall
Court Administrator
6/12/2017

Attorney for Petitioner
Kristin K. Haberman
Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A.
202 N. Cedar Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Owatonna, MN, 55060
Attorney License No: 0268045
Telephone: (507) 451-3580
FAX: (507) 451-3532
Email: haberman@owatonnalawyers.com

6/27, 7/4

Foreclosure

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 14, 2004. ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $68,411.00. MORTGAGOR(S): Amalia Rodriguez, a single person, and Enrique Rodriguez, a single person, and Manuel Escandon and Irma Escandon, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: CitiFinancial Services, Inc. SERVICER: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC LENDER: CitiFinancial Services, Inc. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Steele County Minnesota Recorder on April 16, 2004 as Document No.A321028 and re-recorded on August 16, 2004 as Document No. A324791 ASSIGNED TO: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 1, 2016 and recorded on December 12, 2016 as Document No. A000410968 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, in Block 3, Pettit`s Addition to the City of Owatonna, except the South 28 feet 7 inches thereof, and EXCEPTING therefrom the Street and Railroad rights of way, Steele County, Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 516 North Grove Avenue, Owatonna, MN 55060. PROPERTY I.D: 17-104-0314. COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: SEVENTY-THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIX and 02/100 ($73,806.02) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; 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: September 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM. PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff`s Office, in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on March 1, 2018, or the next business day if March 1, 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 FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: June 26, 2017 Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Canadian Pacific Plaza, 120 South Sixth Street, Suite 2050 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 17MN00082-1.
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
A-4625238 07/04/2017, 07/11/2017, 07/18/2017, 07/25/2017, 08/01/2017, 08/08/2017

Estate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MOWER

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 50-PR-17-1404

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

In Re: Estate of
Bonnie L. McFarlane,
Aka Bonnie McFarlane,
Decedent

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Probate of Will and Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar, along with a Will dated October 21, 1983. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Shelby J. Winslow, whose address is 60101 142nd Ave., Claremont, MN 55924, to serve as the personal representative of the decedent's estate.

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. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters testamentary, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT,

Christine C. Zahradnik
Registrar
6/23/2017
2:08 PM

Kristine M. Bartness
Court Administrator

Melanie J. Leth, #311911
Weber, Leth & Woessner, PLC
P.O. Box 130
Dodge Center, MN 55927

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

7/4, 7/11

Estate

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY

Probate No. ESPR016567

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
WILBUR TRUMAN HODNEFIELD,

DOD 04-30-2017
Deceased

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTING CO-EXECUTORS AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF WILBUR HODNEFIELD,
Deceased , who died on or about April 30, 2017.

You are hereby notified that on the 9th day of May, 2017, the Last Will and Testament dated October 26, 2015 of Wilbur Truman Hodnefield, deceased, was admitted to probate in the appointed Co-Executors of his Estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the District Court of this county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that, all persons indebted to the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the state shall file them with the Clerk of the above-named District Court, as provided by law, duly authenticated for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Date this 22nd day of June, 2017

BY THE COURT,

Daniel T. Hodnefield,
Co-Executor
401 Meadowlake St.
Jewell, IA 50130

Jerris Hodnefield,
Co-Executor
133 Third St.
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917

Donald G. Juhl, Attorney
616 J Avenue, P.O. Box 25
Nevada, IA 50201
Phone: 515-382-4292
Attorney for the Co-Executors

7/4, 7/11

BP City

Proposed
City of Blooming Prairie
City Council Meeting
Agenda
July 10, 2017
6:45 P.M.

6:30 PM - Public Hearing: Adoption of Amended Street Reconstruction Plan and the

Intent to Issue General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Presentation of Proposed Wind Farm
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Minutes of April Regular City Council Meeting
Financial Report

Committee/Commission Reports
1. B.P. Public Utilities
2. E.D.A. Commission
3. B.P. Planning & Zoning
4. B.P. Fire Commission
5. B.P. Ambulance Commission
6. B.P. Police Commission

Business
1. Approve Resolution to Adopt an Amended Street Reconstruction Plan and the Intent to Issue General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds
2. 2017A Reclaim & Repave Project Bond Issuance
3. Application to Consume Liquor in the Park – Blooming Prairie Vol. Fire Dept.
4. Application to Consume Liquor in the Park – Kathleen Meyer
5. Application for Exempt Gambling Permit – Blooming Prairie Cancer Group
6. Street Closing – Blooming Prairie Cancer Group Auction
7. Temporary Liquor License – Blooming Prairie Lions
8. Accept Donation – Blooming Prairie Police Bike Patrol

City Administrator's Report
1. 4th of July Review
2. 2017 Seal Coating Project
3. Mosquito Spraying
4. Install Gutters on City Center
5. 2018 Budget Thoughts

City Attorney's Report

Council Members' Reports

Adjourn

This Agenda is Subject to Change

7/4

Blooming Prairie Township Monthly Meeting Change

Blooming Prairie Township will hold its regular monthly meeting July 17th, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
Because of the Independence Day Holiday, we have had to move out meeting out.

Missy Anderson- Clerk
Jerry Wencl- Chairman

7/4

2016 ANNUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
TIF Authority: City of Blooming Prairie

Pine View Acres TIF District 4-1
City of Blooming Prairie

The following information represents the Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts for the Year Ended December 31, 2016

TIF District Name	TIF District 4-1
Current net tax capacity	$ 11,638.00
Original net tax capacity	$ 742.00
Captured net tax capacity	$ 10,896.00
Current principal & interest due	$ 13,704.00
Tax increment received	$ 15,399.00
Tax increment expended	$ 13,445.00
Month & year of first tax increment receipt	Jun-02
Date of required decertification	12/31/27
Increased property tax imposed on other properties as a result of fiscal disparities contribution	0

Additional information regarding the district may be obtained from:
TIF Representive- Michael G Jones City Administrator
138 Hwy 218 South
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(507)-583-7573

Steele County

Steele County Commissioner's Synopsis for 06/13/17
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
• Krueger/Gnemi to approve the agenda.
• Approve the Work Session and Board Minutes of May 23, 2017 and May 30, 2017.
• Approve the Bills with changes.
• Approve Personnel Report.
• Approve the South Central Drug Investigation Unit Joint Powers Agreement.
• Approve the new Steele County Community Corrections Department Logo.
• Authorize two deputies in the Recorder's office to attend the Fidlar education opportunity in October, 2017 in Davenport, IA.
• Accept the Community Services Minutes.
• Accept the Internal Central Services Minutes.
• Approve the quote from Jaguar Telecommunications in the amount of $3, 447 for the fiber connection to the new Steele County Public Works building for Internet/network access.
• Mitch Rasmussen and Fausto Cabral from MnDOT were present to discuss the requirements for the Interim Department Head of the Highway Department and County Engineer position.
• Project Manager Scott Quiring with Amcon Inc. gave the Board an update of the Public Works Complex.
• Glynn/Krueger to approve the Forbearance Agreement with SCCL effective July 1, 2017. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the amendment to CUP #328 for Dan Haberman in Section 22-106-20 of Somerset Township to allow a seasonal wedding and event venue with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the renewal of CUP #294 for Edward Springer in Section 8-105-19 of Blooming Prairie Township for the excavation of sand, gravel, crushing, screening and stockpiling aggregate material with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Upon the vote being taken, four Commissioners voted in favor thereof, Commissioner Brady abstaining.
• Gnemi/Krueger to approve the amendment of CUP #215 for Tracy Holland in Sections 14 & 15 of Berlin Township to allow the expansion of 10 acres in Section 22 of Berlin Township with conditions per the Planning Commission and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
• Gnemi/Glynn to approve Interim Use Permit #2017-03 for Mathy Construction Co in Section 1-106-21 of Lemond Township to place a temporary asphalt plant in the Spinler Quarry with conditions per the Planning Commissioner and to accept the Findings of Fact. Ayes all.
• Representatives from Nextera Energy gave a presentation to the Board on the Wind Energy project which will be located in parts of Havana and Aurora Township in Steele County.
• Bob Goede from MCIT was present to give a member report update for Steele County.
• Glynn/Abbe offered a Resolution to accept WIC Toys from Kristy Bentley and Medical Equipment from Mandy Lander. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Glynn/Krueger offered a Resolution to name Ed Nelson as the Steele County Trail Administrator. Upon the vote being taken, 5 Commissioners voted in favor thereof, none absent and not voting. A copy of the Resolution is on file in the Auditor's office.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the 3.2 On-Sale Liquor License and the Consumption & Display Permit for the Blooming Prairie Country Club. Ayes all.
• Abbe/Gnemi to approve the recruitment of a County Engineer. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve hiring Al Forsberg as the Interim Department Head of the Steele County Highway Department effective June 22, 2017 and to authorize the Chairman and Administrator to sign the Agreement. Ayes all.
• Krueger/Gnemi to approve hiring Kevin Lindquist as the interim Highway Maintenance Supervisor effective June 19, 2017. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve contracting with WSB & Associates to provide a licensed Professional Engineer to oversee and manage the County's construction and maintenance projects for up to 40 hours per week on an as needed basis for up to 18 weeks pending approval of the County Attorney. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Krueger to approve the increase in Danny Hedberg's hourly wage rate from $9.50 per hour to $11.00 per hour. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Krueger to approve delaying the anniversary wage step increases for Community Corrections until 2018 due to their reclassifications effective July 1, 2017. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the recruitment of an Administrative Assistant position in the Steele County Community Corrections Department and authorize the recruitment process for possible vacancies with Community Corrections Probation Officer positions if any of the current choose not to convert to Steele County. Ayes all.
• Gnemi/Krueger to give Al Forsberg authority to approve up to $7,500 to keep projects moving for the Public Works Facility. Ayes all.
• Lynn Holthus was present to give an update on the Courthouse project.
• Gnemi/Glynn to approve the proposal to replace light fixtures at the Courthouse at a net cost of $20,460. Ayes all.
• Abbe/Glynn to proceed with the option for courtroom C at the Courthouse. Ayes all.
• Gnemi/Krueger to authorize using reserves to finance up to $600,000 for Courtroom C. Ayes all.
• Glynn/Krueger approve to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing potential Litigation-Attorney/client privileges, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.05, Subd. 3(b). Ayes all.
• Commissioners came out of Closed Session at 7:52 p.m.
• Glynn/Gnemi to approve the following listing of bills. Ayes all.

LISTING OF BILLS
06/13/17

30th Place LLC	17,236.27
Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc	8,434.49
APG Media of Southern Minnesota LLC	2,021.11
Block Plumbing & Heating Inc	2,433.92
Bluhm/Christine	2,365.00
BRN Lawn & Landscape LLC	2,007.00
Computer Professionals Unlimited Inc	4,589.00
CRK Properties LLC	6,246.83
DLT Solutions	4,150.87
Emergency Automotive Technology Inc	2,780.31
ESRI Inc	6,200.00
Everbridge Inc	24,400.75
Express Services Inc	2,016.00
Fransen HR Consulting LLC	3,658.33
Innovative Office Solutions LLC	3,797.93
Kwik Trip Inc	3,723.45
Local Government Information Systems	35,919.50
Midstates Equipment Supply	24,336.00
MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust	2,310.00
Nuss Truck & Equipment	97,532.09
Owatonna Public Utilities	23,906.82
RDO Equipment Co, Inc	3,088.99
Rocon Incorporated	6,524.50
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc	11,397.98
Steele County Highway Dept	5,443.32
Stonebrooke Engineering Inc	3,895.42
Summit Food Service Management	14,331.24
Veit and Company Inc	8,570.65
Veit and Company Inc	162,842.35
Venture Hydraulics Inc	2,634.00
Waste Management of WI-MN	52,690.54
Willies Painting LLC	18,000.00
181Warrants under $2,000	67,381.54
Total:	**$636,866.20**

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Gnemi to adjourn the Call of the Chair at 7:52 p.m. Ayes all.

7/4

Steele County

Steele County Board of Appeal and Equalization for 6/15/2017
Complete minutes can be viewed on the Steele County Website.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman who then explained the purpose of the meeting.
2. The Oath of Office was then taken.
3. County Assessor William Effertz then gave a presentation on the role of the Board of Appeal & Equalization and an overview of changes made for the 2017 assessment year.
4. The meeting was then open to property owners to ask questions. There were 3 people in attendance and 1 who questioned the increase in value on his property. The Board recommended he meet with the County Assessor.
5. Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Krueger to approve the following changes as recommended by the County Assessor. Ayes all.

PARCEL	OWNER	ORIG VALUE	New VALUE	DOLLAR CHANGE
03-101-0102	BURNES SHORE ACRES COOPERATIVE	0	0	
04-010-3201	BARTCH/MICHAEL & RENEE CRYSTAL JOHNSON	264,300	135,200	*(129,100)*
04-016-4401	BARTSCH/CLIFFORD & DARLENE (JEREMY)	166,000	150,700	*(15,300)*
05-022-1103	GRUBISCH/WILLIAM	15,900	12,000	*(3,900)*
07-008-3101	DORNQUAST/STEVEN & RITA	102,400	94,500	*(7,900)*
07-008-3102	DORNQUAST/STEVEN & RITA	235,900	235,900	-
07-017-4200	WANOUS/ DALTON	165,700	138,400	*(27,300)*
07-018-1102	LEVISAY/MATT	239,200	239,200	-
07-020-3301	DORNQUAST/STEVE & RITA	95,600	95,600	-
07-020-4409	PIEPHO/RICHARD & DEBRA	89,900	62,900	*(27,000)*
07-024-1001	JOHNSON/GLENN & DEBRA MCDERMOTT JOHNSON	505,000	449,400	*(55,600)*
07-033-3102	PRUSHA/RICHARD (SCOTT)	194,500	194,500	-
07-034-4101	MUSSMAN/MICHAEL & JULIE	293,500	293,500	-
07-035-2301	WANOUS/GARY	130,000	116,500	*(13,500)*
08-119-0103	THIELE/ LON & BROOKE	63,000	53,000	*(10,000)*
08-125-0101	CATERPILLAR	2,250,000	1,235,100	*(1,014,900)*
10-009-4301	MASCHE/CHRIS	216,500	183,800	*(32,700)*
10-017-2401	BALZER/REID	195,000	165,000	*(30,000)*
14-036-1050	RAIMANN/RICHARD	2,775,200	2,775,200	-
14-036-1051	RAIMANN/RICHARD	21,200	21,200	-
14-036-1054	RAIMANN/RICHARD	111,100	111,100	-
17-015-4102	SKALICKY/ROBERT	173,400	159,300	*(14,100)*
17-100-0208	RIVER BIRCH LLC	64,000	60,800	*(3,200)*
17-100-0209	RIVER BIRCH LLC	64,000	60,800	*(3,200)*
17-118-0104	JOHNSON, DENNIS	120,000	96,800	*(23,200)*
17-121-0110	JOHNSON, DENNIS & SUSAN	93,000	82,400	*(10,600)*
17-123-0101	JOHNSON, DENNIS	115,000	86,700	*(28,300)*
17-164-0316	KILWINE/DAVID B	106,200	96,100	*(10,100)*
17-291-0407	ODENS/MICHAEL	351,000	296,500	*(54,500)*
17-307-0514	ESCOBAR/ELVA	159,100	132,100	*(27,000)*
17-349-0215	JENSEN/RONALD L	256,200	238,800	*(17,400)*
17-349-0408	BANG/NORMAN	233,800	206,200	*(27,600)*
17-360-0124	OLSON/KENNETH & PEGGY	139,000	119,800	*(19,200)*
17-375-0227	BEER/ANNE MAURINE & WILLIAM LOUIS BEER/TRUSTEES	544,900	518,800	*(26,100)*
17-403-0000	ENDRES/NICK & COROLYN	56,900	47,300	*(9,600)*
17-535-0322	BREMER, THOMAS & BARBARA	272,400	270,000	*(2,400)*
17-555-0204	KRUCKEBERG/KEITH	245,500	226,600	*(18,900)*
17-561-0106	JENSEN/LOIS	144,300	141,800	*(2,500)*
17-632-0105	ADDISON HOLDINGS C/O LANNY UBER	246,900	228,800	*(18,100)*
17-635-0102	PETTMAN, MARK	82,200	82,200	-

6. Glynn/Krueger to recess the Board of Appeal and Equalization until June 27, 2017 at 4:45 p.m. Ayes all.

7/4

BP School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #756
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA 55917
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017
HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGENDA

6:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 12, 2017 Regular School Board Work Session–High School Board Room
7:00 p.m. Monday, July 17, 2017 Open Public Forum–High School Media Center
7:15 p.m. Monday, July 17, 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. School Board Meeting Dates
D. School Board Per Diem
E.Work Sessions
F. Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2018
G. Health & Safety Policy
H. LTFM Ten Year Plan
I. Operating Levy Resolution
J. Resolution Establishing Combined Precincts, Designated Polling Places and Designating Hours Which the Polling Place will Remain Open for Voting
K. Copiers Lease

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Family Education Rights & Privacy Act
B. Committee Reports
C. Enrollment Data
D. Dates to Note

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*Agenda may be subject to changes

7/4

Sen. Sparks concerned by Mayo decision to consolidate care

Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin) announced his concern over Mayo Clinic's decision to consolidate some of its inpatient care services between its Austin and Albert Lea clinics. While he understands the rationale behind consolidating some duplicative care between the two campuses which are 25 miles apart – he's concerned about what it means for jobs – and for more rural residents who will have to drive much further to seek particular kinds of medical care.

"I am very aware of the shortages of health care professionals across the state, but particularly in rural parts of Minnesota. That being said – the Albert Lea facility is the city's largest employer – and this decision by Mayo creates a lot of uncertainty for Albert Lea clinic employees. I want to assure residents in both Austin and Albert Lea that I'll be following this situation closely – because it's vital that area residents have close access to affordable, high quality health care," said Sen. Sparks.

According to Mayo Clinic Health Systems both campuses will continue to offer outpatient care including emergency rooms, primary care, specialty care like orthopedics and cardiology, outpatient surgeries and laboratory, radiology and pharmacy. For people who need major surgeries requiring hospitalization, as well as Intensive Care Unit says and childbirth, patients will be required to visit the Austin campus.

Sen. Sparks was recently named to sit on the Senate Select Committee on Health Care Access and Affordability. He says he's looking forward to using this committee to examine how southern Minnesota can make changes to provide better access to health care and lower costs.



Albert Lea Businessman "All-In" Running for Congress

Colin Minehart officially announced that he is running for the 1st District Congressional seat currently held by Tim Walz.

Minehart was born and raised in Albert Lea and graduated from the University of Minnesota. He married wife Sue, with whom he has two Minnesota college-educated children both living and working in the state.

Over 30 years ago Minehart partnered with his wife and operated three different businesses, selling the last one in 2014.

During that 30-year business run, Minehart also served in leadership roles as a small business advocate for fellow business owners with the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA) and the American Beverage Licensees (ABL) in Washington DC. From 2000 to 2015 Minehart also served as the Executive Director of the MLBA Children's Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Asked about why he was seeking the 1st district seat, Minehart responded, "Just as I joined the MLBA over 30 years ago to give back to an industry I knew I was going to take from, I am now seeking to join the American Congress.

'I want to utilize the skills I have acquired over the past 40 years to give back to America and especially the people of southern Minnesota." He added, "I have reached a point in my life where I truly want to help others, just as many others have help me throughout my entire life".

Minehart mentioned that even though a feeble attempt was made to "drain the swamp" in Washington DC there remains a massive glacier in Washington DC that is very cold and extremely slow-moving.

He said he would be honored and humbled if the people choose him to carry the torch from southern Minnesota and begin the process of coalition building, to ultimately begin the long journey of melting that glacier.

The campaign is in its beginning stage and Minehart said he looked forward to meeting more of the people that live in the 1st district over the next year.



John Wayne Austinson announced candidacy for Minnesota Congressional District 1 for the DFL Party

The former Byron Head Football Coach and Minnesota House Candidate, John W.

Austinson, announced his candidacy for Congressional District 1, to replace Rep.

Tim Walz, at East Silver Lake Park area Wednesday, June15th.

He is seeking the DFL Party endorsement.

John currently lives in Eyota, has been in education and coaching for 26 years, and has a worked many jobs in a servant-leadership work ethic.

John will support and pass legislation that puts the United States & Minnesota on a positive path forward, where together we ensure affordable and accessible healthcare, invests in education, strengthens agriculture, reduce our debt, create proactive immigration reform, safeguard our natural resources, rebuild our transportation infrastructure, simplify the tax codes to grow business, and support our military and emergency personal.

If elected, he will work hard to be an independent voice that helps us walk together in our commonalities that bridges the growing divide between our political ideologies, rural & urban, and business & labor; and that properly represent all members of Southern Minnesota in Congress.

Classifieds

Dodge County Independent
Dodge County ADvantage
Steele County Times

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







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

EMPLOYMENT

FT bus driver position w/benefits in Kasson, CDL license w/ passenger endorsement A+ needed or will help train. If interested call Mike at 507-634-4330. 21tfc

P.C.A./Caregiver. NW Rochester Tues and/or weekend hours available. $12.59/hr weekends, $11.84/hr weekdays. May apply for some or all. Will train. 507-289-2756, 27,28,29c

Farm help wanted. Looking for a reliable person to milk. Must have experience, housing available. Farm located near Rochester, MN. Habla espanol, 507-438-6516. 27p,28p,29nc

Part time bartender/waiter to work flexible hours Mon.-Sun. Must be at least 18 yrs. of age and able to start work at 4p.m. Will train. Pick up application at 505 Frontage Rd NW or send application/resume to Byron American Legion. P.O. Box 687 Byron, MN 55920. 28tfc

TruckMovers Depot is Hiring Full Time Laborer, $14-20/hr, CDL Preferred, not required. Mechanical knowledge a must. Apply in person at 63531 209th Ave Dodge Center or call Daryl at 844-843-4140. 28-29c,30p

WANTED

Farm land to cash rent in or near Canisteo Township. Call Wayne Larsen at 507-202-3411. 26-31c

FOR SALE

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

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

Martha Stewart Patio Set. 6 chairs, table and umbrella. $500 OBO. Call 507-635-5469. 28p,29p,30nc

Sauerkraut shredder, stomper and (2) crocks, Call 507-475-1855 SCT28-30

Tired of paying rent? Own your own home. 2008 Schultz like new, from factory, $38,900. 1997 Liberty completely re-molded. $28,900. Includes all kitchen appliance. Windsor Court. Contact Frank or Terry at 507-634-7868 or 507-696-8325. 29-30c.

FOR RENT

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

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

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

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

1 bdrm apt., Dodge Center, clean building, laundry on site, $550/mo, all utilities & garbage. 507-398-6899 25tfc

Dodge Center, 3 bdrm, 2 bath home, new kitchen cabinets, stove and refrigerator furnished, non-smokers only apply. Large yard and basement. Available now. $995 deposit and $995 rent. 507-374-6747. 29tfn

SERVICES

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

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

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

EMPLOYMENT

KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
seeking high school English teacher. Current Minnesota teaching licensure required. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us; or send application, copy of license and three letters of reference to KMS, Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252.

KMS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
seeking preschool teacher. Current Minnesota license required. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us or send letter of interest, resume, three letters of recommendation to KMS, Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252.

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

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MOTORCYCLES WANTED
Cash paid for old motorcycles sitting in the barn or shed. Non-running, no titles OK! Local buyer always paying more! 320/420-7675

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Any size or condition. Top price paid. 800/363-3097

MOTORCYCLES WANTED
1960S & 1970S - All makes! Running & not-running. Cash paid & trailer pickup. Dan: 612/720-2142

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DISH NETWORK TV
for Less, Not Less TV! Free DVR. Free Install (up to 6 rooms.) $49.99/mo. Plus, Hi-Speed Internet - $14.95/mo. (where available). Call 855/562-4309

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

GARAGE SALE

405 11th Ave NE Kasson, MN 55944. Fri. 4pm-7pm, Sat. 7am-4pm, Sun. 9am-2pm. Clothes for all, misc kitchen, dining table golf clubs, golf balls, college dorm bedding, and more. 29p

61752 251st Ave. Mantorville. Fri. 8-6, Sat. 7-2. Furniture, household, AG dolls, wall quilts, Sony sound system, baskets, baby stuff and more! 29p

1307 1st Ave Cir NE Kasson. Thurs. 6-9, Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-11. Huge sale, kids clothing sz 4T and up, Thomas the Train stuff, Legos, other kids toys, bike, stroller, dishes, adult clothing, household misc. and more. 29p

Riverside Park Every Tuesday 11a.m.-5p.m. May-October Farmers' & Artisans' Market: Artists, crafters, Watkins products, baked goods, flea market & farmers' market vendors, non-profit fundraising groups welcome, $5/wk. vendor fee, 507-635-5554, www.mantorvilletourism.com 29p



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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Nick's Lawn Mowing Service, weekly or vacation, residential or commercial, yard cleanup, mowing and trimming, satisfaction guaranteed, eight yrs. exp., free estimates. 507-696-3849 leave a message. 20tfc

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE.

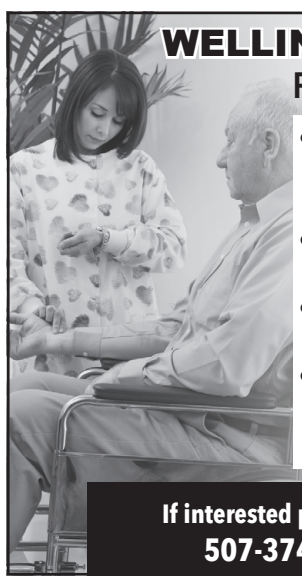
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- Experience preferred but will train
- Applicant must be 18 years old, have a valid drivers license and pass a background check

If interested please contact Janie or Bill Hill at 507-374-2198 or 507-319-5134

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

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

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

FOURTH AVENUE HOMES, Inc.

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

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Would you like to make an early, lasting difference in a child's life?

Come join the Semcac Head Start team in Kasson, working with pre-school children and their parents. Serve as assistant to teacher, with focus on engaging parents in children's learning and family well-being. Immediate opening for full-time position with great benefits.

Applications and more information available at www.semcac.org or by contacting Barb Thompson at Semcac: 507-864-8202 or barb.thompson@semcac.org. Former and current Head Start parents are encouraged to apply.

Application must be postmarked by July 7, 2017.

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Full-time & summer help.
*Experience is great, but we **will** train!*

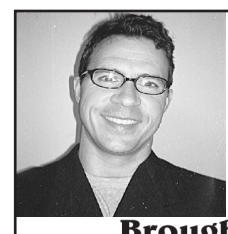
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Immediate openings for Direct Care Staff for 4 bed group home in West Concord. PT A.M., PT P.M. and Float positions available.
Must have current MN driver license and pass background check.
Paid training provided. A.M.'s/ Floats: $10 – $10.50; P.M.'s: $11 - $11.50.
Call Heidi or Karla at 507-527-2456 or apply at 205 Southview Street, West Concord.
EOE

How to find and claim your family's unclaimed money



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've heard that there are free online search tools that can help people look for lost or forgotten money left behind by deceased relatives. Can you refer me? When my father passed away his financial affairs were in such a mess, I'm wondering if there was anything he left behind.
Wondering Daughter

Dear Wondering,

Forgotten or lost money is actually quite common in the United States. According to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators, there is around $42 billion in unclaimed funds sitting in state treasuries and other agencies just waiting to be found.

These unclaimed funds are from accounts that are inactive or whose owners, or their heirs, cannot be located. Unclaimed funds can include things lost or forgotten saving or checking accounts, stocks, utility security deposits, tax refunds, life insurance proceeds, un-cashed dividend checks, contents of safe-deposit boxes and more.

This typically happens because of a change of address (the owner moved), a name change (the owner got married or divorced), or the owner dies and the estate was unaware of the money or the heirs could not be located. By law, companies and financial institutions that can't find the owner or their next of kin within two to five years must turn the property over to the state where it's held indefinitely.

Where to Search

It's very possible that your father, or you, have some unclaimed money out there and you don't even know it. To start your quest go to Unclaimed.org, which has links to all state programs that will let you to do a state benefits search online for free. Or, you can do a multi-state search in 40 states at MissingMoney.com.

Check every state in which your father or you have lived, worked or conducted business.

Also, if you're married, make sure to check under your maiden name as well. Using a first initial and your last name is also encouraged to make sure everything comes up. Every state can tell you immediately if you or your dad have some unclaimed money, as well as how to go about collecting it.

Look Here Too

In addition to state treasuries, here are some other agencies that can help you find unclaimed money.

IRS: Each year thousands of refund checks totaling millions of dollars are returned to the IRS by the post office. To look for lost Federal tax refund checks go to IRS.gov/refunds, or call 800-829-1954.

U.S. Treasury: To find out if there are any savings bonds your dad didn't claim dating back to 1974, go to TreasuryHunt.gov. For older bonds or those still drawing interest use form 1048, which you can download at TreasuryHunt.gov/forms/sav1048.pdf, or call 844-284-2676 to request a form by mail.

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: If your dad worked for a company that went out of business or ended its defined benefit pension plan, you may be entitled to some of his benefits. To look for lost pensions, use the pension-search tool at PBGC.gov/search/unclaimed-pensions, or you can call 800-400-7242 and get help over the phone.

National Association of Insurance Commissioners: To track down a lost or forgotten life insurance policy, the NAIC, an insurance regulatory support organization, offers a national policy locator service at Locator.NAIC.org.

PenChecks Inc. and Millennium Trust Co.: To search for lost or forgotten retirement benefits or 401(k) funds left behind with an old employer, go to UnclaimedRetirementBenefits.com and MTrustCompany.com/unclaimed-retirement-funds.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: To search for unclaimed bank accounts at firms that were shut down between January 1, 1989 and June 28, 1993 go to ClosedBanks.FDIC.gov/funds. State treasuries hold assets from shutdowns after 1993.

Social Security: To find lost Social Security benefits, including the $255 death benefit, call 800-772-1213.

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.

Guest Column

10 Years Ago
Elise Slinger, Editor
July 10th, 2007

Every year Blooming Prairie has an opportunity of hosting foreign exchange students. The community or the people who went to school with them never forget these students. One of these special foreign exchange stud-ies is Carina Pires who arrived last summer and just left back to her home country of Brazil. After talking with her it was clear that she had an amazing time here in Blooming Prairie.

Blooming Prairie and its surrounding areas are known for the beautiful wildflowers that can be seen in the nearby roadside ditches and meadows. However, some of these ditches and fields contain wild parsnip- an invasive plant that leaves those who come in contact with it a burning feeling instead one of beauty. Accord-ing to the DNR, these flowers are a cultivation of farmers. Their numbers in the area have been dramatically increasing the past few years.

20 Years Ago
Elsie Slinger, Publisher
July 8th , 1997

One of the oldest businesses in Minnesota is located in downtown Blooming Prairie, and it continues to thrive is this real community. T.S. Morton's quiet, but strong business presence in town has a long, well-kept-secret- to stay in business this long you have to provide an important service to the community and treat your patrons well. That is how you last 125 years.

Rain showers Thursday night slowed down activity somewhat but the sunshine on July 4 made up for it as Blooming Prairie's Old Fashioned Fourth of July blossomed into another great weekend. Along the parade route, law enforcement estimated some areas of the parade route were 12-people-deep, strengthening the claims of over 35,000 people again were mesmerized by the 190 parade entrants.

50 Years Ago
Victor, Vernon, & Vyrle Krejci, Editors
June 15th, 1967

Miss Margaret Ann Colenberg and Miss Kathleen Herron, both of Blooming Prairie, will be among 123 gradu-ates of St. Mary's School of Nursing at commencement excursuses on Sunday, June 18. Margaret is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joesph Herron. Both girls are graduates of Blooming Prairie High School. The Most Rev. Edward Fitzgerald, Bishop of Winona, will present the diplomas to the graduate nurses.

Betlach Food co. one of Blooming Prairie pioneer business firms, will celebrate with a gigantic three-day sale on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week, June 15-17. The Betlach Food Co. was established in Bloom-ing Prairie in 1892 and has been a familiar name in the business district for the past 75 years. In honor of the firm's diamond anniversary, they are offering their customers an opportunity to participate in an "S. and H. Green Stamp" bonanza.

75 Years Ago
Walter K. Mickelson, Editor and Publisher
July 9th, 1942

Blooming Prairie scrap rubber pile grew this week to a veritable mountain, weighing well over 70,000 pounds, a gain of about 10,000 in the past week. This amount was compiled from figures announced by each service station buying the scrap. The final day for the nationwide drive for scrap rubber is Friday, June 10th. Scrap continues to come in this week but at small amounts, showing we have reached the peak of our drive.

A 27-ton b-24 bomber, powered by four giant motors, roared over Blooming Prairie Tuesday noon, giving civilians an idea of the tremendous size and hitting power of some of this nations big flighting planes. The ship was under the command of Lieutenant Robert Golberg, who flew the fighting fortress to Rochester from Georgia Tuesday morning on a short furlough and cross country flight.

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Steele County Times
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Sanitation & Recycling Services
Pride in service since 2007
Full time driver needed immediately for local Sanitation Company.
- Must possess a valid A or B CDL.
- Job responsibilities would include collection of residential and/or commercial garbage and/or recycling and transporting to designated site.
- Sanitation experience helpful but not required.
- Ability to lift 50-75 pounds and have a good driving record.
- Responsibilities include reading route sheet, follow map and service each customer as identified on the route sheet or as assigned.
- Excellent time management skills along with customer service skills are a must.
- Basic knowledge of truck upkeep a plus.

Contact 507-528-9900 for more information.
skjevelandenterprises@msn.com

Steele County Times Professional Directory

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

Automotive
Koster's CAR KORNER
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Blooming Prairie Cancer Group

Cancer Corner

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

Rain, cool weather does not dampen cancer riders



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

Heather's Army, a team of supporters for Heather, get ready to start the 160-mile Cruise for Cancer Benefit on Saturday, June 24. Shown above are:; Tom Morgan, Gary Lofthus, Julie Morgan, Sue Lofthus, Sara Gordon-Dowd, Tim and Mary Wacek and Carol Fursa.

By HOWARD LESTRUD
Staff Writer

Coolish weather in the low 60s and sometimes a smattering of rain didn't seem to dampen the spirits of about 50 riders in the 7th Annual Cruise for Cancer benefit Saturday.

This fundraising event, sponsored by J & H Liquors of Blooming Prairie and the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group, has traditionally brought in large donations from participants with monies labeled for the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group in its efforts toward finding a cure for this dread disease.

Store owners Nancy and Harvey Farr have been staunch community supporters and use this event to bring more awareness to how cancer has affected many lives of our families and friends.

At $15 a pop, riders registered and participated by either mounting a motorcycle or by finding a comfortable seat in a convertible or other kind of classic automobile. Farr said there was an even split with 20 bikes and 20 cars.

Pam Folkens and Jennifer Milton registered riders in the event. "There's lots of familiar faces," Folkens said as the registration ended at 10:15 a.m.

Prior to jumping on his Harley Davidson Street Glide motorcycle, Eric Johnson, Blooming Prairie, said he chose to ride for a good cause. He said his family and friends have been touched by cancer. "It's fun to be with people supporting a cause," Johnson said.

Farr, who was identified as leader of the pack, has organized all of the seven rides.

Just before 10:30, Farr whistled loudly to bring the group together for a brief safety meeting. He thanked everyone for participating in the ride and urged all riders on bikes and cars to be safe. He said this is the longest ride in the history of the event.

Farr then outlined the stops: Grand Meadow, Skjenke Boom, meal available here; Lanesboro, High Court Pub; Dover, The Hair Shack; Stewartville, Strikers and Blooming Prairie, J & H Liquors.

Karen Fouarge said she awakened early on this particular cool Saturday morning, hoping she and John would be traveling by car. "I walked outside and said, 'I'm cold,'" Karen related. She said she opted for the convertible but John chose the couple's trike.

Farr agreed that the ride was a bit chilly, but said he had ridden in worse conditions like 39-degree temperatures.

Eight travelers by car were wearing shirts for Heather's Army. The group was in support of Heather, the niece of Tom Morgan and daughter-in-law of Gary Lofthus. Morgan and Lofthus were joined by others in Heather's Army: Sue Lofthus, Sara Gordon-Dowd, Tim and Mary Wacek, Carol Fursa and Julie Morgan.

Motorcyclist Ted Slezak of Owatonna said cancer had hit "close to home" with his wife fighting cancer. This motivated him to be part of the ride, he said.

Riders encountered some rain near Dover, but it did not hamper the ride.

Returning to sunshine in Blooming Prairie, riders than consumed some tasty food on a taco bar.

Some of the participants and workers jaunted down the street after eating at J & H and checked out a cancer benefit for Scott Easton. He is fighting brain cancer.

Cruisers had a chance to win door prizes and had the opportunity to purchase meat raffle tickets.

Farr was very pleased with how smoothly the ride went. "It was a fun time and a satisfying moment to help fight cancer," Farr said. The ride netted $1200 for the BP Cancer Group.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

J & H Liquors owner Harvey Farr and daughter Taylor lead an entourage out of Blooming Prairie Saturday, June 24 as part of the cruise for Cancer Benefit. Fifty riders participated.

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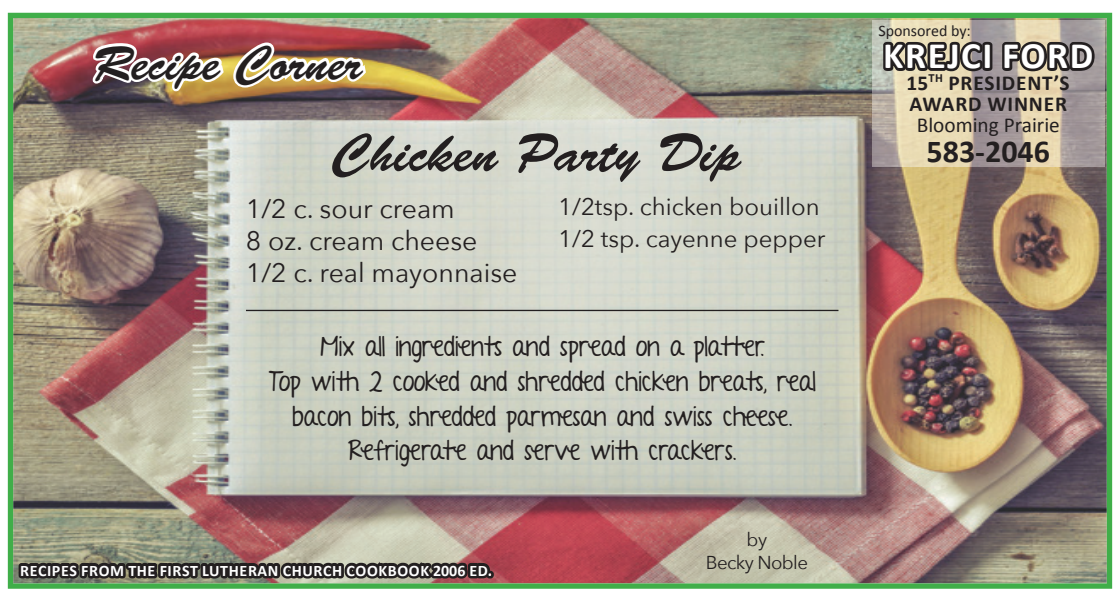
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