

Sheriff's deputies increase patrols around county schools

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

Recent school shootings and other threats against schools across the country are prompting increased security around school buildings in Steele County.

Recognizing that no area is immune from tragedies, Sheriff Lon Thiele has increased patrols around the school facilities in Medford and Ellendale, two communities who contract through the Steele County Sheriff's Office for police protection.

He said there has been no specific threats made in the county, but he doesn't want to take any chances. "We haven't had anything, thank goodness. We want to make sure we don't," Thiele said.

"We have stepped up extra patrol with the events going on around the area and country," Thiele said. "We're looking for more visibility. Presence is power."

Thiele said residents will see more squad cars around the school buildings during the morning hours prior to school and in the afternoon after school. "Our squad cars will be very visible," he said.

Deputies are also being asked to be seen inside the schools and walk the hallways, according to Thiele.

"The new thing now is hear something, say something," Thiele said, noting that in the past many people have been reluctant to come forward with information. "We will check it out and determine if it's bogus or not."

In the Triton School District in Dodge Center, a student has been charged with

allegedly making social media threats of harming people at the school. The case was investigated by the Dodge County Sheriff's Office after it received information regarding suspected threats made by a 16-year-old student, Sheriff Scott Rose said.

The information indicated the student had advised other students both verbally and via Snapchat that they better not come to school on March 2 because he was going to harm people.

After interviewing witnesses, sheriff's deputies found the student at his residence and took him into custody. Rose said it appeared the

student acted alone with the threats.

"We take every threat like this seriously, and applaud those involved in reporting these threats," Rose said. "This incident serves as an important reminder to students and parents to always report threats or behavior like this to the sheriff's office."

There have been other cases in Minnesota schools in recent weeks where people have been charged with making terroristic threats.

On the national level, a 19-year-old allegedly killed 17 and wounded others at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. He is suspected of using an AR-15 assault rifle to carry out the massacre.

Everything seems to be hitting closer and closer to us," Thiele said. "We want to make sure that we are making diligent efforts to keep our children safe."



Deputy Darrin Helget

Sheriff's race heats up with deputy joining campaign

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

The race for Steele County Sheriff is heating up as a long-time deputy has announced he plans to join the campaign.

Deputy Darrin Helget wants to replace his boss, Sheriff Lon Thiele, by running in this fall's election. This will be the first time in eight years that county residents have a choice on the election ballot for sheriff. Thiele ran unopposed in 2014.

Helget said he has considered running for sheriff in the past but decided to make it official after numerous people encouraged him to run. "It is an honor to have people approach me and say they will support me if I run," he said. "These individuals are respected citizens of the county, and I appreciate the confidence they have in me."

He has served as a sheriff's deputy for nearly 20 years. "You really get an understanding of the day-to-day operations and then you begin to have ideas of your own of how to make improvements," Helget said.

If elected as sheriff, Helget said he would work with the county board in making the detention center "more profitable and run more efficiently."

SEE RACE, A3

OUTSTANDING WOMAN

Janet Simon awarded top achievement honor

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

Next year the Owatonna Business Women will be celebrating its 100th year in existence. As an organization its roots date back to 1919. But Friday night, at the annual Woman of Achievement Scholarship Awards and Fundraiser, the focus was on the future.

Scholarships were handed out, and young careerists Lauren Kozelka and Anisha Zak received awards and recognition for their achievements. The scholarships presented at the event included one for continuing education and three for graduating seniors.

The event raises money for these scholarships, providing successful young women within the community a chance to receive a leg up on their education.

There was a silent auction and a raffle, and lots of comradeship, and at the end of the night the Owatonna Business Women presented this year's winner for Woman of Achievement with her award.

The nominees included Beth Fondell, chief financial officer for Owatonna Public Utilities, Jolayne Mohs, director of community engagement at Mohs Contracting, Laura Resler, executive director of the Owatonna Foundation, and lastly the night's winner Janet Simon, who is the program

"I listened to all the other nominees' bios and thought I didn't have a chance."

Janet Simon
Woman of Achievement



Owatonna Business Women's president Jessi Harty, left, presents winner Janet Simon with the award for Woman of Achievement. The award is handed out each year to one woman for outstanding accomplishments in the community.

director at REM Woodvale.

Prior to handing out the award, Judge Karen Duncan read quotes from Facebook praising each nominee and asked past winners within the audience to stand and be recognize. "They didn't stop achieving after they won the award," she said over the affectionate applause of the crowd.

Then it was time to name the night's winner.

Cheri Krejci, of Blooming Prairie, last year's winner, and this year's keynote speaker, was on hand to present the award.

Simon, who said she expected any one of the nominees but her to hear their name called, was humbled to say the least. On stage she thanked her

SEE WOMAN, A6

Farm and Power Show returns to Owatonna



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY SCHOENBECK

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

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

John Losee doesn't have to travel far to display his equipment for visitors coming to the North America Farm and Power Show in Owatonna.

As owner of Northland Farm Systems, Losee has less than a mile to bring his exhibit to the Farm and Power Show, which has become an important part of Northland's marketing efforts.

"We always reach out to new contacts and reaffirm relationships with old customers," Losee said. He

added he likes how the show draws from the entire region.

At this year's show, Northland plans to feature a Dump Box, which is a newer product aimed at hauling silage. Northland will also have skid loaders and round balers on display.

The farm show gets underway Thursday and runs through Saturday at the Four Seasons Centre on the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be 181 companies with 310 booths committed to interacting with nearly 22,000 people, mostly farmers.

SEE FARM, A6

NORTH AMERICA FARM AND POWER SHOW

March 15-16
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

March 17
9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Four Seasons Centre
Steele County Fairgrounds
Owatonna

Help support our community's education



15th Annual BP Education Foundation
Auction - Saturday, March 24, 2018
Silent Auction - 3 p.m., Pizza Cellar
Live Auction - 6 p.m., Cue Company



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AREA DEATHS

Barbara Ann Franke, 78
James Johns, 74

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since 1893*

OUR VIEW

Help support important project for area vets

It's with great excitement and anticipation that we await the arrival of a Veterans Memorial in Blooming Prairie. Within the past few weeks it has been determined that groundbreaking is slated for Memorial Day. The committee hopes to unveil the memorial at a dedication ceremony on Veterans Day in November. The group got a much needed boost recently when Benji Bishop announced his excavating company would donate all of the labor and materials for site preparation of the memorial. Bishop has ties to three grandfathers who served in the military. "This contribution is just one way we can honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans," Bishop said in making his announcement. The donation is valued at \$10,500.

Headed by chairman Tom Peterson, a committee has been working on this project for the past four years. The committee has representation from the various military service branches.

At this point, the group is about 60 percent to its \$250,000 goal. More than 230 pavers have been sold.

It's important for the communities like Blooming Prairie to rally behind this cause. Medford successfully completed a memorial project a few years ago.

Peterson said the memorial is only becoming a reality because of a lot of hard work from many volunteers. One of the committee members, Marilyn Meshke, has donated another quilt to be used for a raffle benefiting the memorial.

Veterans are the biggest heroes in our country. Without them, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we do today. We'll never be able to repay the debt to these incredible veterans, but a memorial is one step in the right direction.

America is beautiful only because of veterans that have sacrificed their lives for everyone else. Let's help push the memorial campaign past its goal. It's the least we can do to remember fallen heroes and those who served our country.

YOUR VIEW

Gleasons forever grateful to community

To-the-Editor:
Growing up in Minnesota, we always knew that Minnesotans had big hearts, especially those from Owatonna, but we didn't know until March 3 just how big those hearts were.

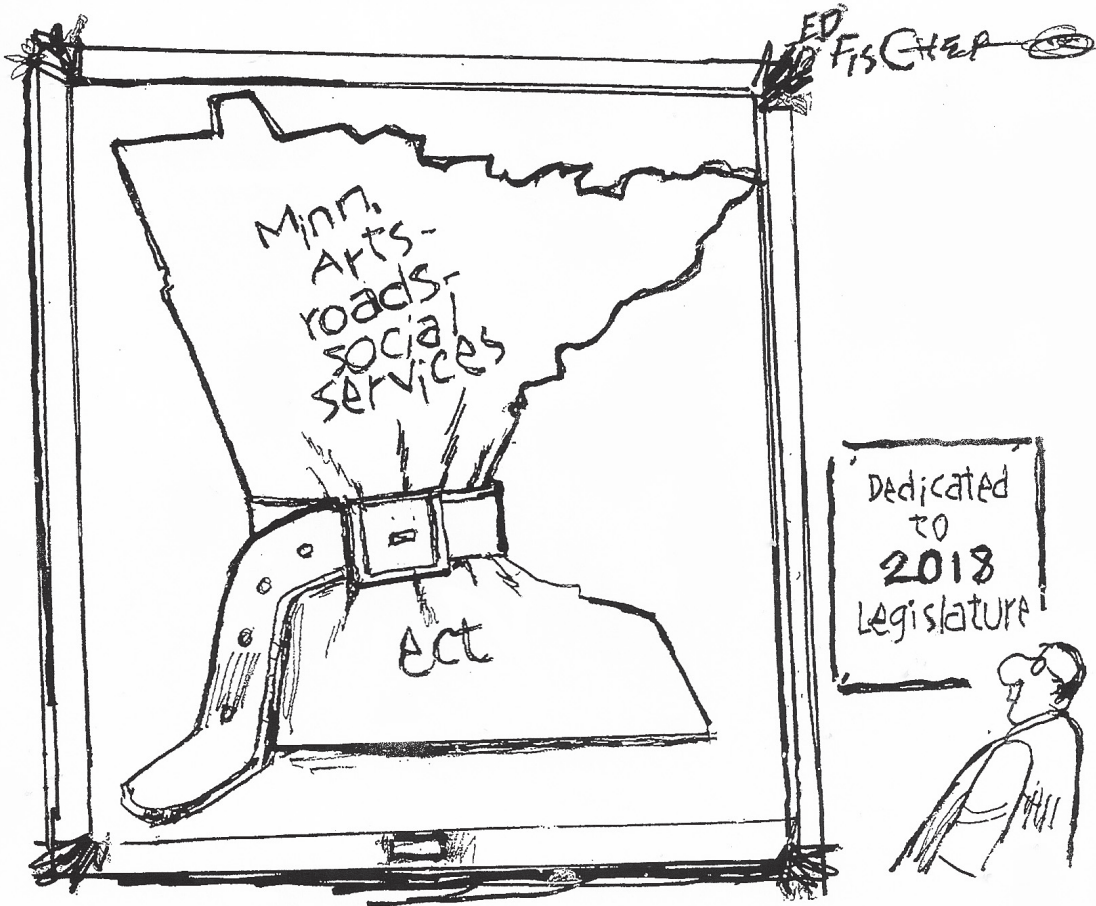
The around 1,300 people who attended Jim Gleason's benefit last Saturday truly showed us all just how much a community can band together in support of someone they care about. We were amazed. It was very special for Jim to see so many people that he knew, and, even if he couldn't come up with the names of those with whom he talked or had difficulty finding the right words to say, Jim hopes that it was communicated to all just how much their support meant to him.

Though Jim's journey has not been easy thus far, it is his relationships and interactions with those whom he loves that gives him the strength to carry on and fight through the tough times. It is these people who make the difficulties bearable – the conversations carried out over coffee, the time spent at church, the meals shared at the VFW, the comradery accompanying a beer (or two), and this benefit have all raised Jim's spirits immensely and have created memories that he will never forget.

Space does not permit us to thank all the many people who contributed to making Jim's benefit such a huge success, but we would like to recognize the efforts of Shelly Noble who conceived of this event and all those who worked alongside her to make it come to fruition. We'd like to thank the Fair Board and all those in the Fair Office for helping to organize everything. We'd like to thank Godfather's Pizza, Tom Thumb Donuts and the KCs for providing the food and drinks, and Retrofit for renting out their space for the event. We'd also like to thank all the people who contributed items for the auction, the volunteers who helped set up and work the event, and all those who chose to spend their Saturday night in support of Jim. Thank you.

Jim couldn't do this without all of you and he is truly humbled by everything that has been done for him. He will be forever grateful.

Team Gleason
Owatonna



Time to enjoy brighter days

It's that time of the year that gives me a little extra spring in my step.

I love every year when March rolls around and Daylight Saving Time goes into effect. Most of the United States began DST at 2 a.m. this past Sunday.

Even though there are still piles of snow dotting the countryside, I feel a refreshing splash of spring hitting me in the face thanks to the simple little act of cranking the clocks ahead by an hour.

In my research, I've found that the main purpose of DST, which is also referred to as Summer Time, is to make better use of daylight. Basically we're moving an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening.

A poll conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation indicated that Americans liked DST because "there is more light in the evenings and they can do more in the evenings."

According to some sources, DST saves energy. Studies done back in 1975 showed that DST trims the entire country's electricity usage by a small but significant amount, about one percent each day, because less electricity is used for lighting and appliances.

The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin in 1784. It became law 100 years ago this month. It was brought back during World War II, and then permanently in 1966, and expanded three times, including 2005, from about six months of the calendar in 1966 to about eight months of today's calendar. There was no federal law regarding DST from 1945-1966.

Popular Science Magazine has pointed out several common myths related to DST. Some of

them include: DST was meant to help farmers, extra daylight makes us healthier and happier, it benefits businesses and standard time is standard. The magazine pointed out that DST stretches over eight months of the year.

Some opponents of DST think it should be adopted as the year-round standard time.

Others have argued that DST is the greatest continuing fraud ever perpetrated on the American people. They cite the energy savings are minimal, DST is bad for your health and time shifts are bad for your productivity. I'm certainly not going to get into that debate right now.

Daylight saving is one of those weird quirks of the Western World. Most countries outside Europe and North America don't take part. By the way, Arizona and Hawaii do not currently recognize DST.

Florida wants to make a full-time switch to daylight saving. I guess the root question is would you rather have a darker morning and brighter evening than you do

today? We can enjoy the extra daylight until the clocks revert back one hour on Nov. 4.

As we debate the value of DST, let's go in hot pursuit of enjoying much brighter days ahead of us in the coming months. It's the least we can do until things get dark again in October.



Hot Pursuit
RICK BUSSLER

GUEST COLUMN

Protecting your children from cyber thieves

During my time in the Minnesota House, I've found some of the best ideas for legislation happens through conversations with constituents.

Some time ago, an Owatonna resident contacted me with his concerns about identity theft. He wanted a means to protect his kids from cyber thieves, but in Minnesota that opportunity did not exist.

This is why I sponsored legislation giving parents the right to obtain a security freeze for their children. It will be debated on the House floor next week.

We hear about cyber theft all the time. We may change passwords often to lower the odds that our personal information will be stolen, but what about our kids? Studies are showing that thieves view them as low-hanging fruit; most parents don't think about monitoring their children's identities, which lessens the likelihood that they'll be caught. Once that child's credit history is shot, think of all the unwanted headaches he or she is going to face after leaving home.

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.

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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 Award

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

It's a family affair

Bruns family helps BP Education Foundation

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It's indeed a family affair. John and Lisa Bruns and their four children are sincerely devoted to making the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation's annual auction a success. The 15th Annual BP Education Foundation auction is set for Saturday, March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company in Blooming Prairie. The silent auction begins at 3 p.m. in the Pizza Cellar and the live auction follows at 6 p.m. in the Cue Company. John has served 15 years on the board and Lisa is in her second year on the board. Lisa teaches kindergarten at the Blooming Prairie Elementary School and John teaches math at Blooming Prairie High School. Daughters Maggie, 15, and Bobbie, 14, are students at the high school. Jack, 11, and Jeffrey, 7, are students at the elementary school.

Lisa's mother, Sue Zwiener, was one of the originators of the auction after being introduced to an education foundation auction in Owatonna at St. Mary's School. Both Lisa and John strongly endorse the efforts of the BP Ed Foundation which, with its funding, allows BP schools to offer programs not in the regular school budget.

Funding from the BP Ed Foundation has allowed the high school math department to send sophomores to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Summit in Rochester for the past eight years. Foundation funds have also helped purchase calculators for students at the high school, Bruns said.

"Look around my kindergarten room and you will see ball chairs, standard chairs, smart boards, CD players, head phones and iPads, all that have been purchased by the Ed Foundation," Lisa remarks.

Lisa humorously told of informing her kindergarteners about the donations and a student asked: "Did they buy the paper on the wall, too?"

As parents, John and Lisa say they like to have their kids have access to technology and to have similar opportunities to other kids. He said the one to one laptop program at the high school would not be possible without BP Ed help.

Ed funds also help support class field trips. The pre-school smart room has been financed the past seven years by the Ed



John and Lisa Bruns and their children are very involved in creating items for the annual Blooming Prairie Education Foundation auction, which will be held on Saturday, March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and the Cue Company. Shown from left are Maggie, Jack, John, Lisa, Jeffrey and Bobbie.

Foundation. At the elementary level, Lisa said the Legos program has been educational to the students because of Ed Foundation funds. At the high school, it's the robotics program that has spurred student interest. Lisa says working with new technology allows kids who may be having trouble with reading and math to have a chance to improve on their other skills. Once again, the Bruns family is donating time and creations by themselves. Lisa is finishing a quilt with the BP water tower at its center. John recruits cross country and girls and boys basketball players to offer help with rock picking and lawn mowing. Basketball theme birthday parties are also sponsored by local athletes. Son Jack, with help from his younger brother Jeffrey, are offering live trapping expertise to those who need help removing varmints from their neighborhoods. Jack and Jeffrey last year teamed together to build a John Deere basket. Maggie and Bobbie will provide some baked goods. Last year, they donated

homemade chocolate chip cookies. "Whenever there is a need, people in Blooming Prairie step up to the plate," John said. Lisa said BP alumni are also very supportive of education upgrades. John and Lisa are also on the bidding side. "I'm in the back and Lisa does the bidding," John said. "Yeah, his eyes open up when he sees our bid numbers," Lisa laughs. Some of the popular auction items are: dinners, food creations, crafts, collectibles and some Awesome Blossom materials. "It takes a village to pull this off," Lisa said. Last year, the BP Ed auction brought in over \$70,000."It's always an exciting time of the year and brings the community together," Lisa said. "There are surprises every year," John added. Most elementary school students by classroom add items for the auctions. Lots of attractive baskets with sports themes and other themes are also featured on the auctions. Grade level quilts are also made by grandparents and feature the kids' signatures. Sandy Jones also adds lots of artwork to various auction items.

RACE: Deputy Helget joing campaign

FROM PAGE A1
Helget said he would also work with deputies to help them decide to stay and work in the department and stop the loss of good talent to other organizations. "I want to help create a positive work environment for every employee in the department," Helget said. "I am also well aware it is my responsibility to give the deputies the tools they need to do their jobs," he added. Safety of both officers and the public would remain a priority for the department under Helget's leadership. He said the key to a lot of this is good solid training and working together. "We cannot serve the public as a stand-alone agency," he said. Helget credits his father with his own wanting to be in public service. His father and aunt served as auditor and treasurer in Brown County. "The best thing about working in county government is the people, the people you work alongside day after day and the people we service," Helget said. He said he is eager to create a new approach to how work is done in Steele County. Helget said, "I look forward to the campaign when I can meet and greet people throughout the county and hear their concerns about the Steele County Sheriff's Office." Besides working as a deputy, Helget is involved in the community through baseball by being a coach, umpire and board member. He and his wife, Mary, have three sons, Greg, Jack and Kevin. Thiele was first elected sheriff in 2010 after taking over the position from interim Sheriff Don Gudmundson, who had been hired by the county to fill out Gary Ringhofer's term. Ringhoefer had retired at the time. The 2010 election brought out five candidates, forcing a primary, which narrowed the field down to two candidates. Thiele announced last month that he would be seeking his third term as sheriff. All 87 sheriffs in Minnesota are up for re-election this fall.

Remember the Petal Tones?

Special belt donated to BP ED Foundation auction

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Most people in the Blooming Prairie area are familiar with a white Ford Sedan traveling the streets early in the morning and in the afternoon. The vehicle is piloted by none other than Kevin Mans, deliverer of two regional daily newspapers. But not too many people know that Mans, a 1984 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School, was a drummer and a member of the Blooming Prairie High School Petal Tones jazz group. The Petal Tones, directed by Kevin's father Lloyd from 1969 to the mid-1980s, played jazz music. The high school still has a jazz group directed by Ross Reishus. Mans has been a regular contributor to the BP Education Foundation, which is holding its 15th annual auctions on Saturday, March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and the Cue Company. Last year, he donated an old Pepsi crate and an antique Coca Cola crate. Mans is donating to the BP Education Foundation an item of memorabilia to the Petal Tones. It is a colorful handmade belt with the Petal Tones and some music symbols printed on it. Mans said he is impressed with how the Ed Foundation is run and how it donates to field trips and to updating technology in the classroom. He also is



Kevin Mans, known to many in the Blooming Prairie Community as the newspaper distribution guy, is a strong supporter of many local causes like the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation Auctions coming on Saturday, March 24 in BP. He is donating a collector's Petal Tones belt.

a proponent of reducing class size. He donates and supports the BP Cancer Group, too. He can be seen bidding for some attractive food items. He said he shared a pecan pie with his father. The pie was made by Doris Rasmussen.

BP Education Foundation funds help students learn

High school student explores use of 3D printer

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

The opportunity to learn computer coding language has been afforded to Blooming Prairie High School junior Riley Millam. He has recently expanded his knowledge about 3D printers. It's just another investment in education made possible by the Blooming Prairie Education

Foundation. After learning how to create coding language, Millam, 17, wrote a program for a spinning top, measuring 10 cm across and 12 cm tall. Funds were recently provided Blooming Prairie schools by the Ed Foundation from excess monies from previous general allocations the past several years. These funds helped purchase two 3D printers, one for the elementary school and the other for the high school. Millam believes his interest in coding may help him find a vocation some day. He hopes to be a software programmer, or a creator of video

games. More funds will be raised by the BP Ed Foundation when it sponsors its 15th annual auction on Saturday, March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company in Blooming Prairie. The silent auction begins at 3 p.m. in the Pizza Cellar and the live auction starts at 6 p.m. at the Cue Company. A poster for the auction, entitled Building Our Future Through Education" features young Max Sorensen working on a Lego project. The photo was taken by Miranda Wadewitz, the poster was designed by Klemmensen Creative and the posters were printed by KIK Graphics. Millam, a member of the BPHS

Robotics Team, has been working on coding for the past three years. "I can talk in computer language utilizing Spanish and French platforms," he says. Aware that the high school had purchased a 3D printer, Millam used an application online to conjugate verbs. He worked with staff members Ali Mach, Chad Gimble and Erik Vigeland. Millam's idea was to make a top. "They showed me the printer and I looked up the coding," Riley said. The programming took about four hours. "I learned by doing and perfected my design," Millam commented. It took eight hours to print the

spinning top. "It isn't the best but it does work after a fashion," Riley said. His second project with the 3D printer focused on creating a mechanical pencil. He said it took about four hours to do the coding and another two hours to print the object. Millam admits he spends much of his time playing video games. He especially likes "Legend of Zelda" and "Fallout." The latter game tells a story about changing history. Riley is also looking for a job and no doubt will try to find a job working with a computer. He participated in robotics competition with his high school team. "It's super fun," Riley says in describing his interest in robotics.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Minnesota Twins center fielder Byron Buxton won a Gold Glove for his stellar defense during the 2017 Major League Baseball season. His signed MLB baseball is one of the many items too be auctioned on Saturday, March 24 at the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation annual auction.

Countdown to BP Ed Foundation Auction

Feed Pepper the Awesome Blossom Pig

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

It has been said that Pepper the Awesome Blossom Pig is hungry and is going around town trying to get fed. In reality, Pepper is a ceramic piggy bank that is making his rounds in downtown Blooming Prairie, collecting money for the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation 15th Annual Auction which is scheduled for Saturday, March 24 at the Pizza Cellar and Cue Company. Pepper was the idea hatched by BP Ed Foundation auction committee members Karen Fouarge and Lori Arndt. Everyone is encouraged to drop some coins in the bank, which is circulating around BP business establishments. On auction night, the piggy bank will be auctioned off with the winning bidder keeping the pig or donating him back to the auction. Auction items are already being accepted and can be dropped off at New York Life Insurance in Blooming Prairie. A couple of early items include a beautiful wooden cabinet built and donated by Butch Anderson and a Major League baseball autographed by Byron Buxton of the Minnesota Twins.

Blooming Prairie Elementary School students will again be donating items for the auction. "I'm always in the auction mode and encourage people to bring in new ideas for auctions," Fouarge said. Over 300 items were donated last year to the live and silent auctions. The March 2017 event netted \$70,000. Other auction totals in recent years include: 2016- \$79,000; 2015- \$75,000 and 2014- \$83,000 (a record). The BP Education Foundation is a non-profit organization created by a group of fiscally conservative community members. Mission of the Foundation is "to enhance the educational opportunities for the students of ISD 756." Funding for the Foundation is possible through the generous contributions of community members, alumni, business and other charitable organizations. The Foundation uses its resources to fill voids in programs by adding to the education experiences of the students of ISD 756. Proceeds from the auctions will be used to fund allocations requested from the BP School District and from teachers. The allocation requests are made twice a year. About 50 are allotted each year. The funds are used to support technology advances, field trips, robotics team at high school, lego project at the elementary school, etc. Julie Noble is current president of the BP Ed Foundation. Fouarge is chair of the auction committee. Other members of the committee are Sue Zwiener, Lori Arndt, Carrie Farr, Pam Hameister, Rachel Klemmensen, Julie Naatz, Judy Bishop, Stacy Salinas, Ann Weedman, Betti Johnson, Becky Noble, Dave and Becky Hoffman, Lori Lysne, Jennifer Walsh and Sue Helgeson.

CONGRATULATIONS

2017-2018
BLOOMING PRAIRIE

Academic Letter Winners

CRITERIA:

- 7th-10th Grade: 3.818 cumulative GPA
- 11th Grade: 3.745 cumulative GPA
- 12th Grade: 3.636 cumulative GPA

SENIORS 3.636 CUMULATIVE GPA

Ethan Arett
McKenna Hein
Jerrin Jax
Mitchell Oswald
Salome Ramirez
Jesse Schewe
Samantha Wurst

JUNIORS 3.745 CUMULATIVE GPA

William Cardenas
Colton Ivers
Riley Millam
Rachael Oswald
Seth Peterson
Payton Simon
Micah White

SOPHOMORES 3.818 CUMULATIVE GPA

Riauna Bishop
Gemini Johnson
Adam Larson
Maya Lembke
Baylee Sorensen
Parker Vaith
Julia Worke

8TH GRADERS 3.818 CUMULATIVE GPA

Bobbie Bruns
Ethan Ehlers
Larisa Judy
David Kartes
Parker Kubicek
Asha Lighthizer
Josie Lorenz
Marquette Millam
Emily Miller
Xavier Rennie
Lauren Schammel
Bradley Simon
Isabelle Sunde
Carson Wacek
Melanie Winzenburg

FRESHMEN 3.818 CUMULATIVE GPA

Ashleigh Alwes
Maggie Bruns
Maren Forystek
Charlie Heimerman
Emily Kubicek
Luke Larkoski
Reese Millam
Megan Oswald
Joseph Pirk
Rachael Riley
Wyatt Voss
Isabella White

7TH GRADERS 3.818 CUMULATIVE GPA

Olivia Anderson
Haven Carlson
Cade Christianson
Micah Donnelly
Trinity Evans
Stirling Hart
Abigail Hefling
Ava Krejci
Sierra Larson
Madison Lea
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Lions Governor visits BP club

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Lions District 5M-2 Gov. Nancy Mathwig of the Arlington Lions Club paid a visit to the Blooming Prairie Lions Club at a regular meeting on March 7 at the BP Servicemen's Club.

Mathwig handed out years of service awards to the following Blooming Prairie Lions: Robert Wolf, 15 years; David Goodnature, 20 years; H. Peterson, 20 years; Nels Lea, 25 years; Ken Behnken, 30 years and Robert Nahvalosky, 44 years.

Gov. Mathwig praised the BP Lions for their work in the community. She said the club members make up the more than 1.4 million members worldwide.

She said leadership, membership, recognition and service are four qualities she is emphasizing during her term as governor.

Mathwig talked about promoting the power of “we.” She said there is no “I” in TEAM.

The Lions, Mathwig said, are global leaders in humanitarian service.

She said hunger, diabetes and pediatric cancer are three areas the Lions of the world are emphasizing.

“Reach for your dream,” Mathwig challenged BP Lions.



Staff photo by Howard Lestrud

District 2 Gov. Nancy Mathwig gives Blooming Prairie her personal pin during her visit to BP last week at the BP Servicemen's Club.

FARM: Show returns to Orwatonna

FROM PAGE A1

Kibble Equipment is another local business that plans to be at the show. Even though Brock Veldman, salesman for Kibble, doesn't see the show as a revenue generating event, he still finds it important to be there.

“The idea is getting us in front of the customers by sharing information and building trust,” Veldman said.

Through Kibbe's display, Veldman plans to focus on new precision equipment and new farming techniques. "We'll be showing how it can impact an individual's farm organization," he said. "We're working hard on customer service where they get the most out of the techniques they have and be as productive as possible."

With the farm economy continuing to struggle, Veldman expects this year to be another challenging year for farmers. "Everybody's tight. It's a challenge to sell anything," he said. "There's not any extra money. Decisions are being made with a lot more scrutiny than in the past," he added.

Veldman said he hopes things change around for farmers, but “I don’t expect any miracles for 2018.” He’s worried it will likely

be another tough year for farmers.

Throughout the years, the show has become known for having the “greatest and latest technology” in the agriculture industry, said Brock Nelson, who is in his first year as the show director for Tradexpos, the Austin-based company that sponsors the show. In addition to the Owatonna show, Tradexpos operates

“The idea is getting us in front of the customers by three other shows around the country, including Wichita, Topeka and Fort Wayne.

sharing information and building trust.”

Brock Veldman
Kibble Equipment Sales

Besides the machinery and equipment exhibits, farmers will have a chance to take in various workshops and seminars. Some of the hot topics include farm

business succession planning, managing nitrogen in crops, cover crops and manure management issues. The University of Minnesota Extension and the Linder Farm Network sponsor the educational sessions.

Nelson said he is keeping things pretty close to last year's plan for the show.

The show, Nelson said, allows farmers to interact with someone in person on how to improve their farm operation. “Our overall goal is to create an event that farmers want to be at,” he said, adding it gives farmers a chance to see the latest emerging technology.

Tradexpos took over the North American Farm and Power Show in 1996 after purchasing it from the Minnesota South Dakota Equipment Dealers Association. The show was originally held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. It has been held in Owatonna since 2003.



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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A collage of various marketing materials created by Usekik. It includes two t-shirts with a large 'U' and 'K' logo, a sign for 'LIVE MUSIC Lees HAPPY HOUR', a sign for 'PANTHER MARCHING BAND', a sign for 'THE LAST KINGS OF THE NORTH', a stack of business cards, a t-shirt with '300' and '15' on it, and a sign for 'USEKIK'. The collage is set against a background of a city skyline at night.

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Could You Have Diabetes?

Dear Savvy Senior,
My brother and his wife, who are ages 60 and 56, were recently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and prediabetes, and neither one had a clue. Could I have it too?
Concerned Sibling

Dear Concerned,
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nearly 115 million Americans have diabetes or prediabetes today, but most of them don't even know they have it. Here's how to know if you're at risk.
The problem with diabetes is that most people don't start thinking about it until they're diagnosed, and that's too late. Diabetes is a disease that develops over decades. Most people have prediabetes for a long time before the disease becomes full-blown type 2 diabetes, and even then it progresses gradually. That leaves a big window in which to stop, slow or reverse the disease.
Diabetes occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough insulin to remove sugar from the bloodstream. Excess blood sugar damages blood vessels and affects circulation, putting you at risk for a host of ailments, from heart attack and stroke to blindness, kidney failure and nerve damage.
Are You At Risk?
If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, your odds of developing diabetes increases.
• Are you over age 45?

- Are you overweight?
- Do you have high blood pressure – 140/90 or higher?
- Do you have a parent or sibling with diabetes?
- Are you sedentary?
- Are you African American, Hispanic/Latino American, Native American, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or Alaska native?
- Did you develop gestational diabetes during pregnancy?

To help you determine your risk of developing diabetes, take the free online quiz at Diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp.
Get Tested
If you find that you're at risk for diabetes, there are three different tests your doctor can give you to diagnosis it. The most common is the "fasting plasma glucose test," which requires an eight-hour fast before you take it. There's also the "oral glucose tolerance test" to see how your body processes sugar, and the "hemoglobin A1C test" that measures your average blood sugar over the past three months. It can be taken anytime regardless of when you ate.
Most private health insurance plans and Medicare cover diabetes tests, however, if you're reluctant to visit your doctor to get tested, an alternative is to go to the drug store, buy a blood glucose meter and test yourself at home.
Some top options, recommended by Consumer Reports, include FreeStyle Freedom Lite, Bayer Contour Next, True Metrix Blood Glucose Meter, OneTouch UltraMini, and the ReliOn (Wal-Mart) Micro, which all cost under \$25.



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If you find that you are prediabetic or diabetic, you need to see your doctor to develop a plan to get it under control.
In many cases lifestyle changes like losing weight, exercising, eating a healthy diet and cutting back on carbohydrates may be all you need to do to get your diabetes under control. For others who need more help, many medications are available.
For more information on diabetes or to find help, join a lifestyle change program recognized by the CDC (see CDC.gov/diabetes/prevention) that offers in-person and online programs in more than 1,400 locations throughout the U.S. Over the course of a year, a coach will help you eat healthy, increase your physical activity and develop new habits.

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

History from the News Archives

10 Years Ago MARCH 4, 2008 DAN EVANS, PUBLISHER

On Saturday the Blooming Prairie FFA & FFA Alumni held their fifth annual Toy Show at the Blooming Prairie High School. Cody Schmeling and Josh Toquam took tickets at the front door during the show.
A Blooming Prairie man involved in a high-speed chase with Austin Police pleaded guilty to charges this past Thursday in Mower County District Court. Eric Fisher, 24, pleaded guilty to single counts of a gross misdemeanor third-degree DWI and felony fleeing police.
The Blooming Prairie Elementary School held its 18th annual Science Fair in the elementary school gym on Monday. The Science Club was started many years ago by Chris Butler and Brenda Sorenson, both elementary school teachers.

20 Years Ago MARCH 10, 1998 ELSIE SLINGER, PUBLISHER

All remember the day last July when a storm swept through Blooming Prairie and left its mark on the city. Trees were uprooted, power lines tipped over and Joe's Repair was leveled from the straight line winds. Joe's has now rebuilt and fully operational once again.
There's going to be tougher enforcement of local law due to changes and more violations. Police Chief Paul Wayne said violators have been shooting off a variety of guns causing extensive damage to city lights and vehicles in the last month. Once caught, they will be charged under felony reckless endangerment.
Lynette Bruggeman gave a demonstration Thursday of how she spins yarn from Cheviot sheep she and her husband, Doug, raise in rural Blooming Prairie. She showed third graders how she spins, cleans, cards and weaves the wool. She also works with Angora goat hair as well as many other animal hair.

50 Years Ago MARCH 7, 1968 VICTOR, VERNON & VRYLE KREJCI, PUBLISHERS

The annual township elections will be held throughout Minnesota next Tuesday, March 12, with annual meetings also scheduled in conjunction with the balloting for officials. In this area little interest has been displayed in the election and as is usually the case, light votes are anticipated by the township clerks.
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Johnson of Blooming Prairie wee among 350 farmers who visited the Purina Research Farm at Gray Summit, Missouri and spent the following day seeing the company's research laboratories and general office.
Plans were announced today for sponsoring a Firearm's Safety Course in Blooming Prairie for youths 12 to 15 years of age. The Civic Progress Club will again sponsor the course, with Ed Wurst and John Dean Olson serving as instructors.

75 Years Ago MARCH 11, 1943 FRANK KREJCI, PUBLISHER

A big Red Cross Rally will take place Sunday at the Community Building. A meeting that will open the 1943 Red Cross drive in this village and Blooming Prairie township will take place here at the Community Building on March 14. Blooming Prairie and the township must raise \$1,150 as its quota.
Adren Roarda, 24, of Hollandale, met instant death Tuesday afternoon when he took hold of high tension power line while helping move a house two miles west and one mile north of Hollandale. The unfortunate man was planning to start farming this spring. He was moving a small house on a road to a new location.

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TILLAGE
Wilrich 42' finisher; Case (DMI) Econ Tiger ripper, 5 shank-disc. leveler-like new; Glenco 9 shank consertill; JD #2210 field cult., 28.5' w/2 bar harrow & rolling basket; DMI Tiger Mate field cult., 44 ½'; NH ST 250 (DMI) 54.5' field cult, harrow; JD #714 disc ripper, 11 shank; McFarlane RD 4035 disc reel, cutting reel; White #271 disc, rock flex; Int. #720 6x plow, on land

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2010 Int. Pro Star semi-trailer, 10 spd; 2009 Int. Pro Star Eagle semi -tractor, ISX cummins, 10 spd; 2018 Wilson Pace Setter grain trailer, 41'x66, Ag hopper, like new; 2015 Timppe grain trl, 42' x 66, Ag hopper, air ride; 2007 Wilson Pace Setter gr. Trl, 43' x 66", air ride; 2008 XL #70SD step deck trl, 10' spread axle; 1994 Kenworth T600 grain tk, Mll cummins. 18' box; 1975 Ford 800 single axle, 16' box, V8 gas; 1999 Featherlite gooseneck livestock trl. 24'; 2002 Interstate 24' deck-over trl, pinto hitch; 2017 American 18' alum. car hauler, beaver tail; 2013 PJ 34' trailer, 10' hyd. beaver tail; Several Ford F450, Ford F350, Ford F800 pickups and service trucks & utility trailers, cars & pickups; 1-bumper hitch camper-1 mini motor home

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Ann Franke, 78



Barbara Ann Franke, 78, received her angel wings on March 7, 2018, at her home, surrounded by her family.

Barb was born Aug. 30, 1939, in Mankato to Emil and Esther (Grothe) Osmundson. She grew up on the family farm in Delavan, where she graduated from high school in 1957. She married her best friend, Gene, on Nov. 23, 1957, in Delavan.

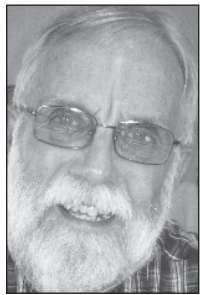
Gene and Barb moved several times before they made their home and life together on their family farm in Hayfield. Farming was their livelihood and how they built their family, and faith guided her life. Her passions in life were her family, her garden, and collecting antiques (especially Red Wing crocks). She always made sure that the farm ran smoothly and that everyone was well fed and loved. She was first and foremost a loving mother and grandmother, a Sunday School teacher, a 4-H leader, and a church board member, among other things.

She is survived by her loving husband, Gene; her children; Jeffrey (Michelle) Franke, Jacksonville, FL; Michael (Linda) Franke, Thomas (Betty Ann) Franke and Barbara (David) Wolf, all of Hayfield, MN; her grandchildren, Alex Petersen, Amber (Brian) Padley, Joshua (Shannon) Franke, Melissa (Jacob) Meyer, Ian Franke, Jared Franke, Beatrice Franke, Heather (Chase) Collins and Joe Franke; and great-grandchildren; Alexys Lundquist, Kaitlyn Lundquist, Gabryel Franke, Jeremyah Franke and Isaac Meyer; and brother, Roland Osmundson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Edward Osmundson, Frank Osmundson, and granddaughter, Ellen Petersen.

The celebration of life service was on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hayfield with Rev. Paul Hauschild officiating. The family wishes to send a special thank you to Mayo Hospice and Comfort Health, especially, Shelly and Brittany. Blessed be her memory. www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com.

James Johns, 74



James “Jim” W. Johns, 74, of Blooming Prairie died Friday, March 9, 2018, at Prairie Manor Care Center in Blooming Prairie. Jim lost a long battle with a brain disease called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP).

Jim graduated in 1961 from Blooming Prairie High School.

After graduation, he enlisted in the US Army. His basic training was in Ft. Carson, Colo., advancing to Ft. Belvior, Va., for heavy-duty equipment mechanic training.

While on leave, he met Joyce Lewison, at Archie’s Drive Inn in Geneva. Instead of going to Germany like Jim thought the orders read, he served in Thule, Greenland from 1961 to 1964. Upon returning home from Greenland, Jim started working at Lindekugel Chevrolet as a parts manager.

Jim and Joyce married on June 26, 1965 at Aurora Lutheran Church by Owatonna. In 1966, Jim and Joyce moved to St. Louis, Mo., where Jim attended and graduated from Bailey Technical School. The couple returned to Blooming Prairie, where Jim worked as a shop foreman at Ed’s Repair Shop in Owatonna.

Jim and Joyce welcomed their first born, Jaclyn Joyce Johns, on Aug. 21, 1970. Jim also worked for Fretheim Excavating in Owatonna and Midwest Diesel in Austin during the 1970s. Jim and Joyce welcomed their second child, James (Jay) William Johns II, on Dec. 5, 1975. From the early 1980s until retirement, Jim operated his own mechanic shop and farmed with his brother-in-law, Richard Lewison, and son, Jay.

Jim was a 45-year member of the American Legion; served as Post 52 commander for two years. Jim was also a member of First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie; he was active in the church choir. Jim served as Township Clerk for Summit Township for many years. He enjoyed collecting and working on his John Deere tractors, going to area tractor pulls, collecting guns, shooting clay pigeons, attending his grandchildren’s school activities, and having morning coffee with his “cronies.”

Jim is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joyce Johns of Blooming Prairie; children, Jaci (Dennis) Hillson of Johnson Creek, Wis., and Jay (Amy Stoen) Johns of Blooming Prairie; grandchildren, Elizabeth Hillson of Austin, Rebecca Hillson of Pleasant Prairie, Wis., Grace Johns of La Crosse, Wis., Michael Hillson of Johnson Creek, Wis., Sarah Johns of Blooming Prairie and Charlie Johns of Blooming Prairie and nieces and nephew, Rossanna Vick, Loni Christianson, Richard “Chip” Cory and Stephanie Cory.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Frances; sister, Kathryn (Bob) LeBeau; father and mother-in-law, Bernard and Ethel Lewison and brother-in-law, Richard Lewison.

Visitation will be held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Tuesday, March 13 from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday one hour prior to the service. A Funeral Service will be held at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Heidi Heimgartner and Pastor Richard Hegal officiating.

Interment will be in the Union Cemetery with military honors by the Blooming Prairie Honor Guard.

The family requests memorials go to Blooming Prairie Honor Guard or First Lutheran Church Choir Fund.

Arrangements are being handled by Michaelson Funeral Homes of Owatonna.

LIBRARY BOOK NOOK

Library beats the boredom



NANCY VAILLANCOURT

As winter winds down (we hope!), people may be dealing with spring fever. Let the Blooming Prairie Branch Library help you beat the boredom and angst as we wait for real spring to arrive. Of course you can always come in to check out books, movies, magazines. You can also use computers, maybe even to book your spring getaway. But we are offering two special game days for our younger friends.

Children in grades 3-6 are invited to our special Boredom Busters group

on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. We have a variety of games set up each week - Jenga (which can get a little loud in the library), Battleship, and Monopoly are some of the favorites. Each week the chess players have a mini-tournament. It’s fun to watch them think ahead and plan their strategies. We have some real players in the group.

Our student library worker, Micah, has organized game nights for high school students. These will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in the City Council room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Micah will bring some of his own favorites - Settlers of Cataan, Simon’s Cat, and Killer Bunnies, but you are welcome to bring your own special games too. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Families and friends of preschoolers, remember to join us on Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. for our Fantastic Frogs Family Fun Night! See you at the library!

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
Pineapple, Radish, Dill

Blooming Prairie
Elementary
School Menu

All meals subject to change
without notice

Prices

Breakfast: Regular \$2.40,
Reduced/Free \$0.00, Adult
\$3.65, Milk (extra or with
sack lunch) \$0.50

Wednesday, March 14
Breakfast: Blueberry Loaf, Cheesestick, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk **Lunch:** Soft Beef Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Hot Ham & Cheese Panini, Black Beans

Thursday, March 15
Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk **Lunch:** Roasted Hot Dog on a Bun, Beef Taco Salad, Golden French Fries, Cookie

Friday, March 16
Breakfast: Grape and Cheese Cup, Graham Crackers, Choice of Cereal, Vegetable Selection, Apple Juice, 1% Milk **Lunch:** Cheese Personal Pizza, Cowboy BBQ Burger

Monday, March 19
Breakfast: Brekkie, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, Vegetable Selection, Canned Fruit, 1% Milk **Lunch:** Chicken Tender Basket, Fish Nugget Basket, Whole Grain Dinner Roll, Kettle Potato Chips, Rice Krispie Treat

Tuesday, March 20
Breakfast: Fruited Yogurt, Choice of Cereal, Graham Crackers, vegetable Selection, Orange Juice, 1% Milk **Lunch:** Breakfast Pizza, Easy Egg Bake, Minted Fruit Salad, Petite Cinnamon Roll

Breakfast: Milk choice of 1% White or Skim is included with breakfast. **Lunch:** Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate. Skim is included with lunch. *Entree Salads are served with Dinner Roll.*

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
Dill, Radish, Pineapple

Blooming Prairie
High School
Lunch Menu

All meals subject to change
without notice

CC = Classic Cafe
DC = Diner Cafe
GG = Grab and Go
CS = Creation Station
PP = Pizza Parlor

Wednesday, March 14
CC: Tex Mex Bowl, Spicy Pinto Beans DC: Corn Dog GG: Chef Salad CS: St. Angelos Pie **Thursday, March 15**
CC: Oven Roasted Chicken, Baked Potato Halves, French Bread, Cookie DC: BBQ Rib Sandwich CS: French Toast Sticks PP: Breakfast Pizza

Friday, March 16
CC: Baja Fish Tacos, Cilantro Lime Rice DC: Maxx Sticks CS: Build Your Own Sub

Monday, March 19
CC: Meatballs and Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Whole Grain Dinner Roll DC: Cheeseburger on Bun GG: Turkey BLT Wrap CS: Chicken Alfredo w/Pasta

Tuesday, March 20
CC: Easy Egg Bake, Cinnamon Roll, Minted Fruit Salad DC: Chicken Patty on Whole Grain Bun CS: Taco Bar PP: Sausage & Pepperoni

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate, Skim is included with lunch. *Entree Salads are Served with Dinner Roll*

For questions or comments, contact Melissa Taylor at 507-583-4426 ext 464 or email mtaylor@blossoms.k12.mn.us

STEELE COUNTY Times

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all the time.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

March 13

Kelli Williamson
Shelby Jean Kasperek
Andrea Farr
Lonnie Lembke
Kelly Peterson
Evie Emanuel
Jessica Jensen

March 14

Lucy Post
Elliot Swenson
John Abbe

March 15

Denny Zwienier
Carol Fristedt
Tony Motl
Adam Iversen

Kelly Njos
Kevin Christey

March 16

Caleb Kubista
Cork Drexler
Ryan Heimerman
Aaron Krejci
Diane Eaker

March 17

Landon Allison
Isabel Lindeman
Erik Anderson
Oliver Konecne
Avalyn Green
Maci Basness
Shari Sahl

March 18

Mary J. Olson
Shannon Spinler
Olivia Trotman
Mary Ramsey

March 20

Dillon Easton
Sandy Christianson
Hunter Borg
Tom Walters
Johnathan Manges

ANNIVERSARIES

March 15

Jerry & Patty
Ingvalson

March 16

Mr. & Mrs. Laverne
Johnson

March 17

John & Barb Stenzel
Chip & Pat Decker

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Wednesday - Turkey	Friday - Beef

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SEMCAC Senior Menu

All meals subject to change

Wednesday, March 14

Baked Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Caul/Peas Blend, Orange/Pear Cup

Thursday, March 15

Vegetable Soup, Smothered Chicken on a Bun, Pear/Cranberry Sauce, Frosted Choc Chip Cake

Friday, March 16

Baked Fish, Alt: Beef Patty, Oven Browned Potatoes, Parslied Carrots, Mandarin Orange Dessert

Monday, March 19

Meatloaf, Alt: Liver and Onions, Parslied Boiled Potatoes, Spinach with Vinegar, Fruit Cup

Tuesday, March 20

Chicken ala King Over Biscuit, Peas, Craisin Coleslaw, Banana

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they talk of

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Maybe you get an itch as fishing opener draws near. Or maybe you start getting excited in the fall when the first snow falls, ready to get out skiing or snowmobiling. What gets you excited?

What gives you an itch to get started as soon as time hints that its season is near?

I love hearing about peoples' "itch" because it's a pretty good indicator of a person's passion. We get a twinkle in our eye - you know that twinkle I'm talking about - when we talk about that thing we're waiting for, that thing we're so excited about. The person who is talking exudes excitement, anticipation.

I love hearing about peoples' "itch" because it's a pretty good indicator of a person's passion. We get a twinkle in our

eye - you know that twinkle I'm talking about - when we talk about that thing we're waiting for, that thing we're so

excited about. The person who is talking exudes excitement, anticipation. It's like God created that person with

that passion to come alive; and I believe God did! Our passions are a part of who God created us to be. We are people with passions - with deep interests, with things/activities that make our hearts come alive. Ask people about what makes them come alive; ask people what they are itching to do.

Those are some of the best conversations to have and a pretty great indicator of God active, alive, encouraging in the world. Share your passion, your itch. And ask someone else about theirs. We can't talk too much about the things that make us come alive.

AREA WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LUTHERAN AURORA LUTHERAN 6329 SE 28th St., Owatonna Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9:00 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 106 Third St. SE., Geneva Pastor Kristen Venne 507-256-4288 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – AFLC 503 Radel Ct., Ellendale Pastor Richard Sliper 507-684-2451 Saturday: 8 a.m. Men's Bible Study Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship; 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/ Confirmation Tues.: 7 p.m. Call to Prayer, open to all churches Wed.: 9:30 a.m. BibleStudy; 3:30 – 5 p.m. Jesus and Me; 6 p.m. Call to Prayer; 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Eve Service: 5 p.m. Dec. 24 FIRST LUTHERAN – ELCA 434 First St. SW., Blooming Prairie Rev. Heidi Heimgartner, 507-583-6621 firstlutheranbp.com Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays Education Hour: 9:30 a.m. Sun. FIRST LUTHERAN – LCMC 8953 SW 37th Ave., Hope Pastor Sandy Miller 507-451-3854 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School, Adult Ed: 10:15 a.m. Sun. GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN – LCMS 2500 7th Ave. NE., Owatonna Rev. Mark Rosenau, Senior Pastor Rev. Greg Schlicker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4125 www.goodshepherd owatonna.com Worship: 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. MOLAND LUTHERAN – ELCA 7618 NE 84th Ave., Kenyon Pastor Nancy Edwardson 507-789-6661 Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. PONTOPPIDAN LUTHERAN – ELCA 9651 SW 75th St., Ellendale Pastor Mike Walerius 507-465-8366 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sun.	REDEEMER LUTHERAN – LCMS 1054 Truman Ave., Owatonna Pastor Kirk Griebel 507-451-2720 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Education Hour: 10:15 a.m. Sun. RED OAK GROVE LUTHERAN – ELCA 30456 Mower-Freeborn Road, Austin Pastor Lindsay Stolen 507-583-2038 or 507-437-3000 www.roglutheran.org Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School (Sept. – May): 10:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 4532 SE 84th Ave., Claremont Pastor Alan Broadwell 507-528-2404 Worship: 6 p.m. Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 28959 630th Ave., Sergeant Pastor Collin Duling 507-567-5568 Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9 a.m. ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 30450 570th Ave., Waltham Pastor Dwight DoBell 507-567-2474 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – LCMS 202 E. Park Ave., Hollandale Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN – ELCA 2781 SW 92nd Ave., Meriden Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN 5881 SE 118th St., Blooming Prairie Pastor Stephanie Wood 507-676-5696 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of the month) TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 609 Lincoln Ave., Owatonna Rev. Todd Buegler, Senior Pastor Rev. Dean Smith, Associate Pastor Rev. Amanda Weinkauff, Associate Pastor 507-451-4520 www.tlcowatonna.org Worship: Saturday: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 6 p.m. Sunday School:	8:15 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – ELCA 104 First St. SE., Hayfield Pastor Paul Hauschild 507-477-2248 www.trinityhayfield.org Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 108 Third Ave. SW., Medford Pastor Mark Biebighauser 507-451-0447 Worship: 8 a.m. & 10:30 Sun. Education Hour: 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sun. TRINITY LUTHERAN – LCMS 57043 300th St., Waltham Pastor Jesse Krusemark 507-567-2272 Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN – ELCA 7126 SW 98th St., Ellendale Pastor Cheryl D. Indehar 507-451-2165 Worship: 8:30 a.m. Sun.	Father John Sauer Fr. Jose Morales, Parochial Vicar 507-451-1588 www.sacredheartowatonna.org Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday; 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Sun. Spanish Mass: 11:45 a.m. Sun. Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m. Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Sat. Adoration: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. Thurs. ST. COLUMBANUS CATHOLIC 114 E. Main St., Blooming Prairie Father Thomas Niehaus 507-583-2784 www.stcolumbanuschurch.com Mass: 10 a.m. Sun. & 8:30 a.m. Friday Reconciliation: 9 a.m. First Friday & Saturday ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC PARISH 512 S. Elm Ave., Owatonna Father Kevin Connolly Deacon Patrick Fagan 507-451-4845 Saturday Mass: 4 p.m. Sunday Mass: 8 & 10 a.m. Reconciliation: 3-3:30 p.m. Sat. Daily Mass: 8 a.m. Tues., Wed. & Fri. (Communion Service 8 a.m. Thursday) Adoration Chapel available Mon. – Fri. 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Key fob required after hours or weekends	OWATONNA UNITED METHODIST 815 E. University, Owatonna Loren Olson, Pastor Linda Boorman, Associate Pastor Joyce Parker, Associate Pastor 507-451-4734 www.owatonnaumc.org Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. Contemporary Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sun. Sunday School/Adult Classes: 10 a.m. Wednesday night service at 6:30 p.m. BRIDGES OF HOPE COMMUNITY 130 W. Bridge St., Owatonna Pastor Keith Haskell 507-215-2249 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Biblestudy: 9 a.m. Sun. Reformers Unanimous Meetings: 7 p.m. Friday CEDAR CREEK 30 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Aaron de Neui 507-477-2255 www.cedarcreekchurch.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. DESTINY CHRISTIAN Owatonna Campus 422 North St., Owatonna Pastors Tyler & Jessica Braucht 507-254-8514 www.destinycc.org Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ELEVATION NORTH 2002 Austin Road, Owatonna Pastor Doug Jones 507-363-3099 www.elevationnorth.blogspot. com Worship (English): 10 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Worship (Spanish): 2 p.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Spanish Evangelism & Prayer: 7 p.m. Friday NEW BEGINNINGS 332 14th St. NE., Owatonna Pastors Scott & Joan Peterson 507-721-1366 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. Gateway Connection: 6 p.m. Sun. SIMPLE CHURCH 4515 NW 22nd Ave., Owatonna (Country Goods building across the freeway from Cabela's) Pastor Todd Lundgren 507-451-5661 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wednesday MENNONITE PRAIRIE MENNONITE 13638 750th St., Blooming Prairie Bishop Dennis Martin 507-583-7532	Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wed. MORMON THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS 404 31st St. NW, Austin Bishop Rick Bremner 507-433-9042 Worship: 9 a.m. Sun. PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATED CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ 800 Havana Road, Owatonna 507-451-1546 www.associatedchurch.org office@associatedchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 a.m. (Fellowship, Church School, and Adult Discussions follow) Wednesday Activities: Sept – May (see website for schedule) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 109 E. Main St., Hayfield Pastor Kirk Johnston 507-477-2631 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST 2373 Seventh Ave. NE, Owatonna Pastor Bob Brauer 507-340-7143 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sat. Bible Study: 11 a.m. Sat. UCC CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 211 Main St. S. Medford Rev. Richard Waters 507-451-4596 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. ASSEMBLY OF GOD VIBRANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD 702 Third St. S., Ellendale Pastor Patrick Stitt 507-684-3421 www.vibrantlifeag.com Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Kids Church: 10:30 a.m. Sun. BAPTIST FIRST BAPTIST 104 First Ave. NE, Blooming Prairie Pastor Matt Fennell 507-583-2673 Worship: 10 a.m. Sun. & 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Sunday School: 9 a.m. Bible Study: 11:30 a.m. Sun.
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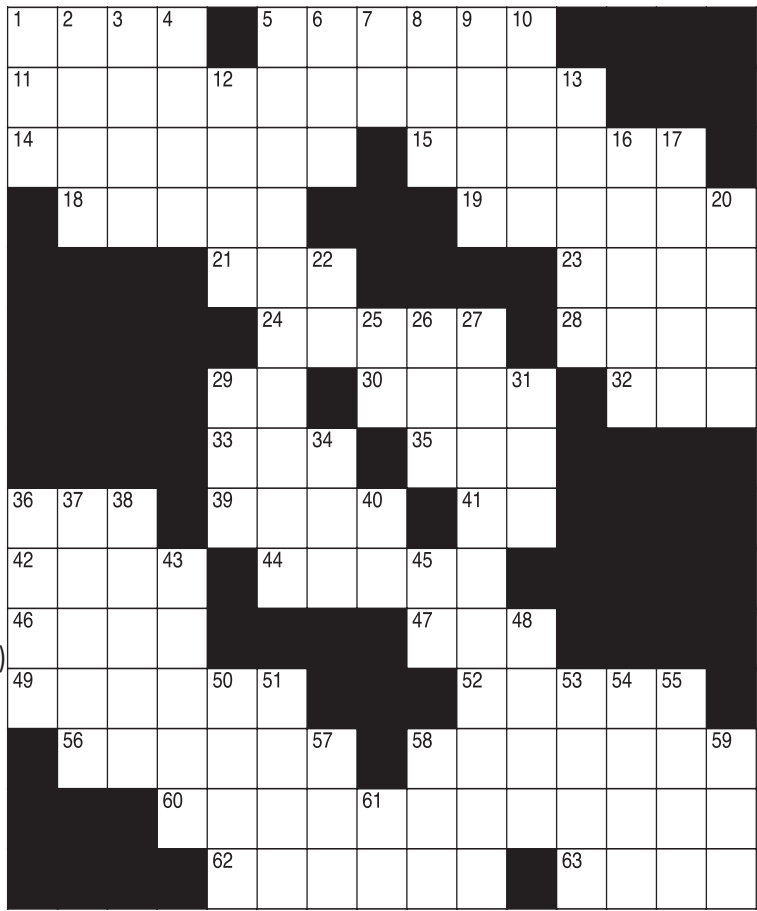
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Emperor of Russia
- 5. Abounding in rocks
- 11. Increase in speed
- 14. Music app
- 15. Not nice
- 18. Tables (Span.)
- 19. Decomposes
- 21. ___ student: learns healing
- 23. Nursemaid
- 24. Joke-teller
- 28. Male parent
- 29. Group of countries (abbr.)
- 30. "Rambling Rose" actor Lukas
- 32. Midway between south and southwest
- 33. Cartoon Network (abbr.)
- 35. Peacock network
- 36. Principal ethnic group of China
- 39. Made of fermented honey and water
- 41. Exclamation of surprise
- 42. Evaluates skill or knowledge
- 44. Stage in ecological succession
- 46. Ethnic group of SE Asia
- 47. Not small
- 49. A cat is one
- 52. Broken piece
- 56. French president
- 58. Artist's workroom
- 60. Ability to apply knowl-



edge and skills
62. Visually stunning
63. Ancient region south of Dead Sea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used to pour beer
- 2. Con game

- 3. Skin disorder
- 4. Communists (slang)
- 5. Subjects to hostility
- 6. A major division of geological time
- 7. Hitting statistic (abbr.)
- 8. British thermal unit
- 9. Influential envoy to

- Woodrow Wilson
- 10. Fits on neck of animal
- 12. Fertile soil
- 13. Type of battery
- 16. Khoikhoi peoples
- 17. Consist of two parts
- 20. Small group of trees
- 22. Execute or perform
- 25. Millihenry
- 26. 007's creator
- 27. Associated with esoteric doctrine
- 29. Electronic countermeasures
- 31. Schenectady County Airport
- 34. No (Scottish)
- 36. Position of leadership
- 37. Statement
- 38. Raccoons belong to this genus
- 40. One who diagnoses
- 43. True mosses
- 45. Blood type
- 48. Albanian
- 50. Emergency response notification system
- 51. College reservists
- 53. Away from wind
- 54. Tough outer layer
- 55. Art __, around 1920
- 57. Born of
- 58. The greatest of all time
- 59. Georgia rockers
- 61. Natural logarithm

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2017 TAX PREP GUIDE

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You may qualify for free tax preparation help from IRS-certified volunteers at locations across Minnesota for your federal and state income tax returns. Qualified taxpayers are age 60 or older, have a disability, speak limited or no English, or have income less than \$54,000 per year.

Most free tax preparation sites are open Feb. 1 - April 15. Visit our website, www.revenue.state.mn.us to find free tax preparation sites near you.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Minnesota law requires that individual income tax return forms and instruction booklets include voter registration forms. Taxpayers that electronically file through Minnesota-certified filing software will see a message prompting eligible voters to register to vote at www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting.

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Anti-liquor protesters were walking Main Street in Blooming Prairie on Saturday night, March 3 as part of the BP Area Chamber Speakeasy Night event. Protesters are also known as Nancy Vaillancourt, Becky Noble and Sandy Jones.

STAFF PHOTO BY HOWARD LESTRUD

Bootlegging relived

Shhhhhh! Don't tell anyone as Speakeasy features prohibition days in BP

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Prohibition history of the 1920s and 1930s was relived in Blooming Prairie on Saturday night, March 3 with the Second Annual Speakeasy Night fundraiser.

The event, which was conceived last

year with the 150th birthday celebration of Blooming Prairie, was sponsored by the BP Area Chamber of Commerce.

"It was so successful the first time around, we decided to do it again," said Becky Noble, executive director of the Chamber. With the success of the 2018 event last Saturday, it is likely the event will be held for a third consecutive year in 2019, said Noble.

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

An estimated 70 dressed-up relics of the past participated in this unique happening. This compared to about 50 visitors last year.

SEE **SPEAKEASY, B2**

Big hearts make big differences

Local volunteers honored with awards from Big Brothers Big Sisters

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota presented several area volunteers with its annual Bigs of the Year award.

The awards are broken up into four categories: Big Sister, Big Brother, Big Couple, and School Site Big. For the last 10 years, BBBS has presented the awards at its annual Evening for Kids' Sake, which was held this year in Waseca.

Michelle Redman, executive director for BBBS, explained that the recipients are decided upon by the staff, and then voted for. Lots of factors go into the selection process, including the length of participation, consistency, and the quantitative difference made, although Redman specifies that each case is different, and that every Big and Little have their own stories to tell.

Covering four counties, Dodge, Steele, Rice, and Waseca, the Southern Minnesota Chapter had a large pool of candidates to choose

from. Among this year's winners are three Owatonna residents, Big Sister Jess Hawkins, and Big Couple Kathy and Nate Oland.

"I think when kids receive mentorship from any organization, they will have a much better chance of success in life."

Nate Oland
Big Brother Mentor

Sister of the year." This demonstrates the positive impact Hawkins has had on her Little.

The Southern Minnesota Big Couple of the Year award was

SEE **HEARTS, B2**

Group aiming to save family farms launches fundraising campaign

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

A citizens group fighting to save family farms has launched a new way to help its cause.

Dodge County Concerned Citizens has begun a gofundme drive to raise funds to save Minnesota family farms.

"We are going to start to get people armed financially so they can fight the industry," said Sonja Trom Eayrs, one of the founding members of DCCC. She noted that this latest effort is a way for family farmers to fight the big ag industry.

Trom Eayrs said money raised during the campaign will help pay for her family's latest lawsuit against Ripley Township and feedlot operators

Timothy and Jennifer Langdon of Cannon Falls. The Langdons are attempting to build the 12th swine facility in a three mile radius by Lowell and Evelyn Trom's farm on the south side of Dodge County. Funds raised would also pay for other lawsuits in Minnesota.

However, Trom Eayrs wants people to look at the big picture of what's happening rather than focusing specifically on their family farm.

"This is part of a much bigger dynamic," she says. "They (big ag) push for these factory farms in rural America. You've got to look at the big picture instead of focusing on a single project," Trom Eayrs said.

She said small farmers like her family need to level the playing field to fight this



industry.

The Trom family has been embroiled in controversy with feedlot operators for more than four years. After extensive legal wrangling, the family lost a lawsuit last year against Dodge County to stop a feedlot by their farm in Westfield Township.

Within the past two weeks, the family has launched another lawsuit involving a feedlot near

their farm in Ripley Township. Officials recently approved a variance and Conditional Use Permit to allow the project of 2,400 hogs to proceed. A building permit has not been issued yet.

"We need your help," Trom Eayrs said. "Saving the Trom family farm and others like it, will help save our environment and our communities."

DCCC was established a few years ago to raise awareness regarding the negative implications of factory farms in Minnesota. It also provides resources to farm families facing installation of a large feedlot near their homes and farms.

For those wishing to contribute to the effort, the gofundme campaign can be accessed at www.gofundme.com/saveMNFarmfamilyfarms.

Leprechaun magic in March

Do you ever have problems getting your children to eat their vegetables? How about you? Are you a good vegetable eater? Well, every March because of St. Patrick's Day, I think about eating green food. It's the "kid" in me, I guess. I love making everything green - from following Dr. Suess' idea for "Green Eggs and Ham" to a favorite lime sherbet dessert.

The greatest challenge with green food on a daily basis, however, seems to start in infancy. For some reason we parents seem to offer sweet potatoes before we're inclined to offer peas, beans or spinach. And what about salads? Parents tell me they're afraid kids will choke if they offer leafy greens.

The truth of the matter is, the sooner a child is introduced to a food; the greater likelihood they will eat it. Our WIC nutrition program encourages children to move right on to vegetables as soon as their swallowing mechanism is established on rice cereal. Children as young as 6 months can experience mashed peas and green beans. It's even better when they see the real green foods on their parent's plates. If children smell the veggies being cooked, see them on your plates, and get to taste the vegetables that mom and dad are eating - perfect!

As for salads, starting with the crunchier greens and encouraging kids to "eat like a bunny," makes salad eating safe and fun. Salads are one of the best ways to introduce kids to a variety of vegetables. Around age 3 as they learn their colors, they can also help their parents prepare a "Rainbow Salad" i.e. Add in something red, something yellow, something orange....you get the idea! Children are also more likely to eat what they help cook. So, even though it's tempting to let them help with baking and stirring a batch of cookies, consider getting them to enjoy being a "Salad Chef" first. It's great creative fun!

If you still are faced with a vegetable battle, maybe you need a little "Leprechaun Magic" help. A WIC mom from Massachusetts shared this in a newsletter a few years ago. "I grew up in Japan. Meals featured vegetables and very little meat. It's different here. My son has always been a picky eater. To get him to eat vegetables, I've had to become a magician. Every week I concoct my "magic vegetable formula" that ends up in almost every food my children eat. I finely chop the vegetables, and cook or microwave them. Then I add my "magic vegetable formula" to meat loaf, spaghetti sauce, eggs, and other foods. Gradually they are developing a taste for vegetables without even knowing it".

WIC has some other tips for "going green" and increasing vegetables in your family meals.

You can rename vegetables giving them fun names like "Yummy Beans," "Minnie Trees," "Red Balloons," or you can shape them into "Caterpillars" or "Pepper Boats." Our WIC office has a lending library of children's cookbooks and the Blooming Prairie Public Library has some great colorful kid's cookbooks too, for more ideas.

Finally as spring nears, we can start thinking about a vegetable garden, or growing a few veggies in containers for children to pick their own. If they see it grow, water it, and harvest it, then they will eat it! WIC has a garden for all our participants to use and we'll show you how.

May the "Luck of the Irish" be with you this month as you set a goal and "eat more greens," or throw in a little "Leprechaun magic" to help.

Maren DeLaitch is a public health nurse in the Women, Infant and Children Nutrition program at Steele County Public Health. To get more information on WIC, please call us at 507-444-7650. Steele Talkin' is a weekly column featuring authors representing various groups and organizations in Steele County.

Board chair's trial delayed

After some last minute legal maneuvering on part of the prosecutor, the criminal trial of the Steele County Board chair has been delayed.

James Brady was set to go on trial last week for a gross misdemeanor of officials not to be interested in contracts. He has been accused of acting in official capacity as a county official when the county board approved the contract. Brady is the co-owner of a gravel pit, which was supplying aggregate for the road project involved.

According to the Waseca County Court Administrator's office, the prosecutor filed a request for a continuance in the case on the day before the trial was set to begin. The judge granted the request. No new date has been scheduled for the trial.

There is a question whether Brady was an official under the law he is accused of breaking.

The Olmsted County Attorney's Office is handling prosecution of the case to avoid a conflict of interest with Steele County.

Judge Carol Hanks of Waseca County is presiding over the case.



Steele Talkin'
MAREN
DELAITSCH

How to check your soil's pulse

We are learning that the biology within soil is important to overall soil health.

Soil chemical and physical properties are important, but the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service defines soil health as “the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.” Because only living things can have health, this concept of “soil health”

demonstrates that we now are regarding the soil as a living ecosystem. There are some easy, inexpensive ways to test the biological activity in your soils, or “check your soil's pulse.” The activity of microorganisms like bacteria and fungi is one



On The Farm
CLAIRE LACANNE

indicator of soil health. You can get a glimpse of biological function with two easy tests you can perform right at home; you can soil your undies, have tea time, or both. Let me explain.

The Soil Conservation Council of Canada started a “Soil Your Undies” campaign which encourages land owners to bury pairs of white cotton underwear and measure their decomposition to get an idea of how biologically active their soils are. Bury new, 100 percent cotton, white briefs in the topsoil of your garden or field and leave them for about two to three months. Retrieve the underwear and wash them in a bucket of water to remove residual soil. If there's not much left of the underpants, you have good biological activity.

Soil organisms break down plant material similarly to how they decompose the cotton fibers, and the more fully intact the briefs are, the less active your soil organisms are. For a direct comparison of two areas, make sure to keep track of each pair of undies by writing an identifier on the waistband, mark the sites with a flag, and be sure to bury all underwear being compared on the same day and for the same amount of time.

You can also bury tea bags in the soil and measure their decomposition. The concept here is similar to the underwear, but it gives insight into the different kinds of activity in your soils. You take one green and one rooibos tea bag (use the same brand) and then weigh the bags and bury them a few inches deep in the soil. Leave them for two to three months, take them out, dry them, and weigh them again. The weight loss indicates how quickly plant material decomposes in your soil. Using the two different types of tea represents two different phases of decomposition – green tea decomposes faster than rooibos tea, and together they give you a picture of the overall function of your soil organisms. To compare two different areas, you'd want to bury both green and rooibos tea bags at one site, and bury another pair of tea bags at another site. Then compare both short and long term decomposition rates between your two sites.

These simple methods of measuring soil biological activity can help you begin to understand your soil's overall health.

Claire LaCanne is the agricultural extension educator for Steele and Rice counties. Her column appears regularly in this newspaper.

HEART: Local volunteers honored

FROM PAGE B1

presented to Kathy and Nate Oland. They were matched with their Little Brady five years ago when he was a kindergartner. At first Kathy and Nate were a little worried Brady might not take to them so easily.

“I was nervous at first,” Nate recalled. “I thought maybe he'd be more receptive to someone closer to his age, but age has become less and less of a factor the more we found out about each other.” Kathy explained that Nate and Brady enjoy lots of activities together, including fishing and archery. “Brady is a typical boy, he would rather be outside doing something than inside just sitting around,” Nate says.

When they were first matched, Kathy and Nate still had all their children at home, which helped to bridge the generational gap. “We were more of a family of bigs, really,” Kathy said, “and I think our daughter misses Brady since she's gone off to college.”

According to Kathy, Brady's parents were young when they had him, which at first was a struggle, but now she feels they do a great job. “I'm probably old enough to be Brady's mother's mother,” she quipped, “but I think every child should have more than one adult looking out for them.”

Both Kathy and Nate have found the program to be rewarding. “It's very rewarding, we've seen Brady grow, and change in a positive way,” Kathy explained, to which Nate agreed.

“The program gives you the opportunity to have another person in your life that you can

have a special relationship with,” Nate said. “It fills a void for both of us, me and him. For instance, I do stuff with him I used to do with my kids now that they're getting older.”

According to Redman, the program definitely encourages couples to get involved. “Although Nate and Kathy weren't empty nesters, I'd say it's an awesome way for people who've seen their own kids leave home to participate,” Redman said. “It can be more flexible with two people as well.”

Kathy and Nate cherish the time they've spent with Brady. “We've really enjoyed it,” Kathy says, “we always tell people how great the experience is.”

“It's definitely not that big of a commitment,” Nate said. “Events are free and fun, and they ask you to be with your Little once every two weeks.” He feels that everyone in the program is supportive and so are the people involved. “Everyone I talk to says they get a lot out of it,” he added.

Redman agrees. “I hear that on a daily basis,” she said. “It's an equal opportunity for both Bigs and Littles to learn about each other and grow.”

“I think when kids receive mentorship, from any organization, they will have a much better chance of success in life,” Nate concluded.

It's this aspect of positive mentorship which has become the crux the program has been built on. “Mentorship is so important, it builds self-confidence and fosters success,” Redman explains.

With their son, Nathan, graduating soon, Kathy and Nate



Submitted photo

Nate and Kathy Oland of Owatonna with their Little Brady and their son Nathan. The Olands were given the Big Couple of the Year award Saturday night in Waseca during the annual awards ceremony of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

hope to continue to be a positive presence in Brady's life. “That is our plan,” Kathy says, “as long as he'll want us around.”

They both see the impact participating in the program has brought to them and their Little. “We have received way more out of it than we've put into it, and I think if people understood what can come from it, more people

would do it,” Nate said.

Other winners at the BBBS ceremony included Lauren Isaacson of Faribault as School Site Big of the Year, and Peter van Sluis of Faribault as Big Brother of the Year.

Those who are interested in learning more about the program should visit www.bbbsofsouthernmn.org.

BP prohibition post script

Bootlegging days action whisked away

Editor's Note: The clocks were turned back for one brief night in Blooming Prairie. History of the prohibition era came forth in a BP Area Chamber of Commerce Speakeasy Night Saturday, March 3. Local prohibition historian Steve Wencl provided a look into history at his location, The Cue Company (second floor).

BY STEVE WENCL
BP PROHIBITION HISTORIAN

In June of 1932, 45 individuals in five states were indicted for alleged liquor conspiracy.

Three of those indicted were from Blooming Prairie, Albert Wanous, Albert Cole and Stub Jacobson (aka John H. Anderson).

This should have been a serious blow to bootlegging in the local area, but it doesn't look like it had much effect on activity.

The big still west of Blooming Prairie operated normally until the fake raid on Dec. 5, 1932.

After Dec. 8, 1932, there is no further mention of the big still in later legal proceedings. It seems like the

previous three years of activity didn't take place.

All the alcohol produced, all the truck and car traffic to and from Blooming Prairie, disappeared along with all the thirsty customers.

U.S. Attorney Stanley Ryan on Oct. 22, 1933, declined to reveal the nature of the conspiracy two days prior to the case being heard in federal court in La Crosse, Wis.

There was no trial.

On Oct. 24, 1933, 22 individuals entered guilty pleas after being charged with conspiracy to violate the national prohibition act by shipping liquor from Illinois and Wisconsin to Minnesota and South Dakota.

They received fines from \$1,250 to \$200 and probation for four years of activity.

By this time, Albert Cole had died. Albert Wanous and Stub Jacobson were not among those who had pled guilty.

At this time, there is no further mention of this case, thus it is not known what they were accused of doing. There is also no mention of any sentences that were given to bootlegging offenders.

Steve Wencl is a prohibition historian from the Blooming Prairie area. He has conducted extensive research on the subject.

SPEAKEASY: Bootlegging

FROM PAGE B1

Lowell Holland, dressed in a white shirt, slacks and black-tipped shoes, was judged the best-dressed man for the night. Tracy Graves won best-dressed woman honors, appearing in a navy blue flapper dress.

Protesters were even walking Main Street near Highway 218 and carrying the message of "Do not drink."

The message carriers, dressed in appropriate clothing of the past, were none other than Sandy Jones, Becky Noble and Nancy Vaillancourt.

Three locations were chosen for the Speakeasy tour. Last year, participants visited three locations and moved on at random.

This year, organizers had guests enter the first stop, KIK Graphics basement, stay there from 7 to 8:30 and then move to the second stop, Eaton Miller's professional building on Main Street. The last stop was at the Cue Company from 9:45 to 11 p.m.

Special permits for the event were issued to the three building locations.

Each establishment had a guard at the door to screen entrants. Howard Lestrud stood guard at KIK Graphics, Caleb Ostrander guarded the Miller building and Jay Iverson led visitors to the Cue Company lower level.

An unannounced raid took place late in the visit to the KIK Graphics site. Bryce Schlichter and Tyler Blaedorn led the raid.

Each site had a password and it was printed on the back of the Speakeasy ticket.

Tickets were sold at \$25 each and they gained the holder admission to three different speakeasies.

Each site also had a special beverage for visitors and games were provided, for example, roulette, craps and Black Jack.

Photo booths were also provided at each site. "I would say over 90 percent of our visitors were dressed in special costumes," Noble said.

Steve Wencl, one of the best historians on the prohibition era in Blooming Prairie, explained the history for those guests who wandered by his display area at The Cue Company.

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Eagles Fundraiser to combine efforts with local playground project

BY CHRIS BALDWIN
STAFF WRITER

The Owatonna Eagles Club will hold its sixth annual Mike Hansen Memorial Washer Board Tournament this Saturday. The event draws in participation from the community and raises funds for the Owatonna Parks and Rec Scholarship Program. This year's tournament will also combine its efforts with a recent project focused on building an inclusive playground and miracle field at Manthey Park.

Wes Jones, gambling manager at the Owatonna Eagles Club, described the origin of the event. "We hatched up the idea after my good friend Mike Hansen passed away six and a half years ago." Hansen had been coaching his triplets at a boy's hockey game when he suddenly had a heart attack. Jones knew they needed to do something in his honor.

The tournament started in 2012, back then they had 20 doubles teams and 20 singles teams. The first few years the proceeds were donated to the Owatonna hockey program but since have gone to support Owatonna Parks and Rec's Scholarship fund.

This year they're expecting a good showing. "We have around 54 doubles teams and 32 singles teams so far for this year's event," Jones said, adding he's hoping for a packed house on St. Patrick's Day.

Jones was grateful for all the support from the Eagles Club. "They're awesome supporters of what we do, and it's a great venue," he said.

He described the event as "a good day of fellowship and fun, and if we can do something to help people out, that's great too." Jones said that the idea to combine their efforts with a concurrent silent auction benefitting We All Play, a local project aimed at funding a playground and miracle field at Manthey, was "a great tie-in." He thinks people will definitely take the time to bid on a few choice items.

Tim Truelson, assistant recreation director for Owatonna Parks and Recreation, thinks the event will bring more publicity to the We All Play project. "Hopefully this will help get some

exposure out there," he said.

"Everybody I talk to really gets behind this," Truelson said of the proposed project. "It's something that gives everyone a chance to play."

The project seeks to develop funds through events like this one as well as using grants in order to build and maintain a miracle field and inclusive playground with the express purpose of providing a safe place for children and adults with disabilities to play.

Utilizing modern material which will allow for a safer playground for all children, the project would also provide those with disabilities a chance to try out America's favorite pastime: baseball.

"Bringing this accessibility to the area and watching them cross home plate with their hands up will be awesome."

Missy Ahrens
We All Play Organizer

Missy Ahrens and Amanda Gislason, the two women spearheading the project, are excited to see the expressions on the kids' faces when they see the park.

"Bringing this accessibility to the area and watching them cross home plate with their hands up will be awesome," Ahrens said. "I am excited for everyone to experience it."

Ahrens knows how important such inclusive play can be. In the past she has driven to Rochester and Lakeville in order to provide her daughter with the opportunity to experience playgrounds like this one as well as a miracle baseball field.

"I said I would do whatever it takes to give her the opportunity to play baseball, and if that means driving to Rochester I'll do it," Ahrens said. But she also understands that many parents don't have the time to travel for these amenities. "Having that right here will be great," she said. "It will give all

kids the opportunity to experience these activities," she added.

The idea first came from Amanda Gislason, who along with her husband Andrew, stumbled across an inclusive playground in Utah. She said that "watching my son be able to play with all the kids and on all the equipment was incredible." When her son was born, Amanda made a promise that she would try to give him as normal of a life as she could.

She sees the project as inclusive not only for the kids, but also their parents and grandparents. "The playground is set up for both able-bodied and disabled people, and that includes older grandparents who have trouble getting around, or those in a wheelchair. It's really for everybody."

Ahrens and Gislason say they have been blown away by the community support. They said that Owatonna Parks and Rec jumped right on the idea, and have been working closely with them on it since.

"We've just started the fundraiser part, but we've already gotten nearly \$100,000 without any formal fundraising events," Gislason said.

The goal is around \$800,000, but with help from community organizations such as the Eagles Club, Ahrens and Gislason see their path getting a little wider. "We definitely have a road in front of us," Ahrens said, "but as we get the word out there we hope we will find the funds as we go."

Truelson thinks that if all goes right they should be able to break ground in the Fall of 2019 or the Spring of 2020. "By summer we could be halfway there," he said optimistically.

He is proud of the work Ahrens and Gislason have accomplished so far. "They're all in on this, and doing an excellent job, I think they're taking their passion to another level," Truelson said.

The plan is for the park and its corresponding field to become a destination within Southern Minnesota where all kids can come to experience the activities so many of us take for granted.

"Play is huge," Ahrens said, "and a park like this one will foster relationships and understanding and build friendships between all kids."

Those who wish to learn more about the project can visit www.weallplayowatonna.com.

Want to love your city?

By SHIRLEY SCHULTZ
Want to love your city? According to a Gallop, when 28 communities were polled, all respondents said they wanted three things:

1. I want to love my downtown
2. A welcoming place where they want to be and could see themselves spending time
3. A downtown that is beautiful and has a sense of place

How do we accomplish this? How can we show our love for our downtown Owatonna? Preservation, Promotion and Design all contribute to the sense of place and beauty.

Design includes beautification. Flowers and blooms are contributing players. Planters, baskets and their blooms help create a place where people can see themselves hanging out, shopping, eating, working and playing. A place they feel welcomed. Our downtown reflects our economic health and community pride. It is a factor in recruiting and retaining our millennials.

Hanging flower baskets along with keeping planters brimming with blooms needs your financial support. The goal is 125 baskets in Owatonna this year. The program is funded entirely through individual and business donations. One hundred percent of your donation goes to the flowers, watering and maintenance. Your donation determines the number of flowers planted. It takes approximately \$100 per basket each year to purchase the locally grown flower baskets and to provide for the cost of daily watering and maintenance for four months. Planters run \$200. The program is in need of funds to purchase flowers and sustain the watering through the summer and homecoming.

The Flower Basket program is run by volunteers and exists because of the good will and donations from individuals and businesses. All of your donation is for flowers and watering. Tax deductible donations, gifts and memorials come from individuals, businesses and non-profits, from folks that love Owatonna or love flowers.

The baskets and planters are made possible through partnerships with City of Owatonna Economic Development Authority, Cedar Valley Services; Souba Greenhouse and Garden Center, Owatonna Chamber-Foundation along with in-kind services from Owatonna Public Utilities, Owatonna Park & Recreation, Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, and MainStreet.



Submitted Photo

The Owatonna Area Chamber and Owatonna MainStreet plan to beautify Owatonna once again this year with hanging baskets around the downtown area. The organizations are looking for cash donations as well as volunteers.

Please give Owatonna a little love and help make downtown welcoming and beautiful. Make a tax deductible donation today. No amount is too big or small. Sponsorship forms & information are online at owatonna.org. If making a memorial, gift or donation by check please makes it payable to the: Owatonna Chamber Foundation - Flower Basket Program. Contributions may be sent to: Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, 320 Hoffman Dr., Owatonna, MN 55060.

Calling early risers, we are looking for help with weekend and holiday basket watering. If you are interested please contact me at the MainStreet office in the Chamber.

Shirley Schultz is with the Owatonna Area Chamber and Owatonna MainStreet. She may be reached at 507-451-7970.

Fire destroys machine shed

BY RICK BUSSLER
PUBLISHER

An early morning fire destroyed a large machine shed on a farm outside of Blooming Prairie.

Firefighters responded to the blaze at the Joel Olsen residence at 33330 875th Avenue just into Freeborn County around 4 a.m. Friday. When members of the fire department arrived, they found the machine shed engulfed in flames.

The homeowner awoke to "some popping and cracking" coming from the machine shed, which was located about 15 feet away from the house, according to fire chief Dean Naatz. "They heard the noise and saw it was on fire," he said.

By the time Olsen went to investigate further, the roof had already fallen in, and they could see into the building, Naatz said.

The machine shed contained a tractor, skid loader, TMI mixer, lawn mower, vehicles, tools and many large corn stalk bales. In addition, two pet goats perished in

the fire, Naatz said.

Fire departments from Blooming Prairie, Ellendale and Geneva fought the fire and remained on the scene until about 12 p.m. Naatz said one of the major reasons they had to stay on the scene so long was because of the smoldering corn stalk bales. He said firefighters assisted in breaking down the bales, spreading them out and watering them down.

Naatz estimated damage of the fire at \$250,000. Because of the large loss involved, the state fire marshal will be investigating the cause.

The house received some minor damage to the siding of the garage from the heat of the fire, Naatz said. He added there wasn't much wind at the time, which kept the house from becoming more damaged.

No one was injured.

In addition to the area fire departments, Blooming Prairie Police and Ambulance and Freeborn County Sheriff's Office assisted at the scene.

NRHEG



of the Week



JOEY

Sponsored by:



NRHEG Elementary- Ellendale

This week's Panther of the Week is Joey Rossing. Joey resides in Ellendale with her parents, Joe and Carrie Rossing. She is in Mrs. Klukow's first grade class.

Joey is a great example to other students. She's always willing to help others and comes to class everyday ready to learn. Joey is a joy to be around and makes everyone around her happier.

Joey loves the movie Smurfs, her favorite book is One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, and her favorite food is spaghetti. She also loves swimming and reading.

Keep up the great work Joey!

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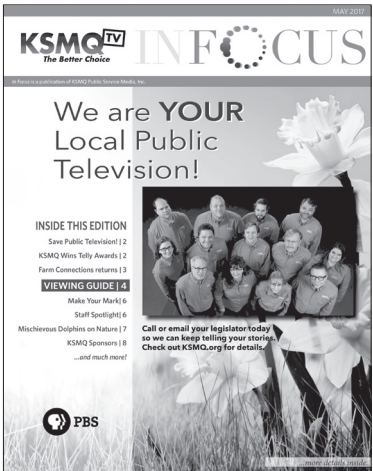
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BASKETBALL

Panthers make Buccaneers walk the plank



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN MERTENS, FARIBAUT COUNTY REGISTER, BLUE EARTH

Left: NRHEG's Benji Lunberg defender a Blue Earth handler as he attempts to drive to the basket on Thursday in Mankato. Right: NRHEG's Nathaniel Techau attempts to block in the Panthers' 49-47 victory over Blue Earth on Thursday.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva boys' basketball earned a spot in the 2AA Section Championship game by defeating the Blue Earth Buccaneers, 49-47, on Thursday in Mankato.

"This game was close all night long," NRHEG coach Pat Churchill said. "A couple of times in the second half we would get up five

points and I thought we were going to put a little distance between us and then Blue Earth would hit a big shot and get back in the game."

The Buccaneers made a valiant effort compared to last time they played the Panthers. When NRHEG routed Blue Earth 61-29 on Monday, Feb. 19.

Churchill said he was impressed with Blue Earth resiliency and determination.

"They kept switching from 2-3 [zone], to 1-3-1 [zone] to man for a bit and we didn't attack them very well," he said. "I thought we held the ball

and didn't get it the ball in the paint very much and settled for jumpers most of the night."

With just under a 1:30 left in the game Jerret Utpadahl hit a driving shot put the Panthers up by five points, but Blue Earth's Grant Strukel hit a 3-pointer from the volleyball line to cut it back to two. NRHEG turned it over and Caelan Sanders drive to the middle and hit a 5-footer to tie the game with 30 seconds left.

Churchill put the game in senior guard Benji Lundberg hands with 10 seconds remaining.

He drove between the 1-3-1 and found Brady

Agrimson who got fouled with 2.5 seconds left in the game.

Agrimson calmy nailed both free throws to put the Panthers up 49-47.

Blue Earth had one more chance but the ball got intercepted and NRHEG held on for the slim victory.

The Panthers face Maple River (17-9) at Minnesota State-Mankato on Monday at 8 p.m. for the Section 2AA Championship.

RP ends Blossom season

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The No. 1 seeded Rushford-Peterson Trojans used a well-balanced attack and a dominating defense to defeat the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms, 56-33, at Rochester on Tuesday, March 6. The quarterfinal contest at the Mayo Civic Center left the Blossoms with a final overall record of 13-12 and 6-6 in the Gopher Conference.

"In some ways we were a little overwhelmed by the venue and RP's reputation," BP coach Nate Piller said. "We gave a good effort, but unfortunately we didn't play our best by a long way."

The Trojans pulled away early and held a 25-14 edge at the break. The second half continued the winner's dominance, as BP fell further and further behind. Landon Skalet led all scorers in the game with 17 points for the Trojans. Dawson Dahl counted 11 and Luke O'Hare and Ben Ansell added 10 each. Karson Vigeland was the only scorer in double figures for BP. He managed 15 points and Jake Ressler counted seven points for the undermanned Blossoms.

"We got behind early," Piller said. "That's a tough spot to be in against the Trojans. They don't give many opportunities to close the gap, as it is difficult to find flaws against them. They are methodical in all phases of the game."

Even with the loss the Blossoms showed improvement over this past year's team going from a 10-16 record to this year's 13-12. The team loses six seniors, but three starters return next season to bolster the squad.

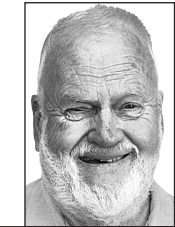


Blooming Prairie's Gabe Hagen goes up for a shot against Tri-County United earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

WINTER SPORTS WIND DOWN

This past week saw the end of winter sports for the Awesome Blossoms with the loss by the basketball boys in the section tournament. While fans still bask in the glow of the success by the wrestlers, they and the basketball squads are stowing equipment and taking a few days to recuperate from the rigors of a long season.



Outside
the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

That brings a reminder that it is time for compiling preview articles to be included in the spring sports tab of the Times. With the continued cooperation of coaches that tab will be published in the April 3 edition of the paper. I hope fans look forward to that annual information added to the Times. Our staff will be busy getting that information in the next three weeks.

SPEAKEASY LIVES AGAIN.

I mentioned this past week that the second annual speakeasy celebration entertained a large attendance. Since then, I have heard several other additional comments describing the fun those attending had at the event. The chance for costumes of the 20's, the mystery of finding the locations and the socializing that resulted at the event proved the occasion very enjoyable. Here's to a third one next year.

BRACKET PREDICTIONS

For the next couple of weeks in the hiatus between sports seasons, the most popular pastime of almost everyone will be the NCAA basketball tournament and the bracket predictions that ensue. This year there are no true favorites for the ultimate championship and the winner of the title will be anyone's guess.

Next to the Super Bowl and the Olympic games, The NCAA tournament is the most popular and most watched event in the country and sports fans gravitate to predicting the outcome in staggering numbers. My brothers and I always have our own friendly wager on the tourney and I have to finish my picks in the next day or so. Good luck to everyone who partakes of that annual ritual of betting on the winner from the myriad entries that the event generates. It will hold TV viewers' attention for days.

SCHOOL OF ROCK

"School of Rock," a movie released in 2003 became a very popular movie and was the highest gross profit musical comedy until "Pitch Perfect" took over the No .1 spot just a few years ago. The stage version of the show is currently playing at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis, and I, as well as several other theater fans in the area had the opportunity to see the play over the weekend. It is a real energetic production.

For the uninitiated about the story, it features a young man who has been kicked out of a band and who becomes a substitute teacher at a prep school. Discovering that his fifth grade students have a lot of musical ability, he forms a rock and roll band that enters a music contest to earn some money. He also hopes it will give him enough so that he can pay his rent.

The music, which was written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, is lively and representative of his style, and the rock band is actually composed of middle school students. It was a thoroughly enjoyable musical, with exuberant dancing by the young students and one popular with all age groups. By the way, Jack Black and Joan Cusack starred in the 2003 movie.

ED FOUNDATION AUCTION

We are now just a week and a half away from the annual Ed Foundation auction, and volunteers and residents are already making plans for the big event. I continue to marvel at the success and the spirit of community support that the foundation perpetuates. When an organization can raise over \$70,000 in just one evening that is surely a remarkable occasion.

I know that there are several items of great value that will be offered for bids, and the auction is eagerly awaited. Mark the date March 24 on the calendar and make plans to attend right now. It is an event not to be missed, and it will be wall-to-wall people at the Pizza Cellar/Cue Company on that Saturday evening.

Practices for the spring sports have now begun and the staff at the Times is busy collecting preview information for the annual spring sports tab. Look ahead to that interesting publication. One can truly think spring now, and we'll talk again.

FLOOR HOCKEY

Huskies fall short of state

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The Owatonna adapted floor hockey team's season came to end on Wednesday, March 7 in a heartbreaking 8-7 overtime loss to Mounds Views/Irondale/Roseville in the section championship.

Owatonna coach John Scheil said the Huskies made tremendous strides this season after a slow start.

"In my four seasons, this is most we have grown as a team over the course of a season," he said. "It was a little slow going at first and it took us quite a while to get back into the flow of the game, but all the players worked extremely hard.

"They came out today and played some pretty good hockey," Scheil continued. "They should all hold their heads high. I'm super proud of each and every one of them."

Taylor Hagen led the Huskies with three goals, and Harrison Utoft and Zach Sencer added two each.

Scheil said he will never forget this team and the senior in particular hold a special place in heart.

"I'm going to remember the seniors: Taylor Hagen, Zach Sencer and Sam Mullenbach," he said. "They have been with me since they were freshmen, so they're so of the peoples I have got to know the most over the last four years of coaching. That have been super leaders that we will truly miss in the future. They're just awesome people and great athletes."

BASKETBALL



Owatonna's Alex Racihle dives to floor for a loose ball on Saturday against the Rochester John Marshall Rocket at the Mayo Civic Center.

Huskies lose close section semifinal to powerhouse Rockets

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

The third time was not the charm for the Owatonna boys' basketball team as they fell 68-66 to Rochester John Marshall (26-2) in the Section 1AAAA semifinals at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester on Saturday.

However, the Huskies (21-7) played much better on both ends of the court than they had in their two previous lopsided losses to the Rockets this season.

"I was very pleased with our effort," Owatonna coach Josh Williams said. "I thought we competed for a full 36 minutes on both ends of floor—Offensively, defensively and on the boards."

Williams said he was most pleased with the way the Huskies found ways to make plays on the offensive end of the court.

"We spent a couple of days putting some new things to get ready for this game so [John Marshall] didn't know exactly some of the sets we were going to run and some of the other things that we were going to do," he said. "After having only two days of practice the guys really came out and were executing and making plays. Whether that was different guys making perimeter shots or making some plays inside. Our guys came out and gave us the effort we needed. It just came down to them having a great player and making few more plays than we did."

That great player was John Marshall's Matthew Hurt, who's ranked the No. 5 player in the country for the Class of 2019 according to ESPN.com.

Hurt finished with a game-high 37 points and no matter what the Huskies did, was one step ahead.

"We came into the game playing about three different defenses," Williams said. ""We started the game with the triangle-and-two, then we kind of switched between that and a diamond-and-one and we played some man when we needed to. We were just trying to keep them off balance a little bit.

"We were wanting to have other guys make some shots and plays and try not to let Matthew [Hurt] and [Eric] Stai get going and make so many play, but they did," he continued. "We probably could have a little better getting out to their shooter, but their third, fourth and fifth options offensively made shots and that's a credit to them. We could have been a little better on that end, but it's one of those things where you have to pick your poison as to what you're going to do to defend Hurt and everybody else."

The Rockets led the Huskies 40-35 at halftime, but extended their lead to 49-38 early in the second half.

Owatonna never faltered and battled back within four points with just less than seven minutes remaining in the game.

"It's a gritty bunch of guys" Williams said. "You're talking about competitions who have won a state title, so they have been in this situation before



Owatonna's Andrew Jackson drives to basket in the semifinals of the 1AAAA Section Tournament.

in terms of an intense playoff atmosphere. I was never considered that our guys would throw in the towel."

The Rockets push their advantage back to double digits with about three and half minutes to go, and one final run by the Huskies came up short as Abe Havelka buried a deep fadeaway 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded.

"That's credit to them as competitors for coming out and competing for 36 minutes and trying to make plays," Williams said. "We made plays, we just didn't make enough of them. Whether that was us being one short on making a play or John Marshall doing just enough."

John Marshall shot 45 percent, while Owatonna managed to shoot just 35 percent.

Senior Andrew Jackson led the Huskies in scoring with 17. The 6-foot-5-inch center nailed three 3-pointer and spent much of the evening guarding Hurt.

"In the first two games Hurt just kind of hung around the basket," Williams said. "We had to make him come out and cover our guys. [Jackson] is good shooter. For most of the season, our offense just kept him around the basket for obvious reasons. This was just a game where it's tough to keep [Jackson] around the basket because it keeps Matthew Hurt around the basket.

"I told [Jackson], if you open. knock it down," Williams said. "You're going to have draw out by making some shots. To [Jackson's] credit he made some shot and

played a great game."

Owatonna shot 12-of-19 from the free throw line and forced 21 turnovers while committing just nine. The Huskies and Rockets each had 30 rebounds in the game.

The game marked the end of the high school careers of seniors Jackson, Havelka, Dalton Kubista, Nolan Mayo and Alex Raichle.

It was Owatonna's first appearance in the section semifinals since 2014. John Marshall will take on Lakeville North (24-4) in the sectional final at the Mayo Civic Auditorium on Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m.

Williams said this group of seniors are special for many

reason including being one of the most athletic groups that he's ever coached and has ever come through Owatonna.

"Beyond that part of it, these kids are great student-athletes that we as coaches have had the chance to develop great relationship with," he said. "They're just great young men that do everything the right way.

"They make great decisions off the court, get good grades, they work hard and compete and they're a fun group to coach," he continued. "They get done in pretty much every aspect of their lives, whether it's on the court, field or classroom. Pretty special group of young men."

LADIES BOWLING LEAGUE

RESULTS WEEK TWENTY-TWO
MAR. 7, 2018

Team Standings	Won	Lost
1. Kosters' Kar Corner	30.5	5.5
2. F & M Bank	24	12
3. Bunkie's Lanes & Grill	20	16
4. Epic Contracting	13	23
5. B to Z Hardware	10.5	25.5
6. J & H/Dairy Queen	10	26
High Team Game –Scratch		
F & M Bank	625	
High Team Game- Handicap		
Bunkie's Lanes & Grill	611	
High Team Series- Scratch		
F & M Bank	1732	
High team Series- Handicap		
B to Z Hardware	1627	
High Game Individual		
1. Amy Snider	198	
2. Maren Herdina	192	
High Series Individual		
1. Maren Herdina	500	
2. Amy Snider	482	

BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- MARCH 12 – 18**
Daffodil Days, A Touch of Charm

MARCH 14
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
4:30 p.m. – Economic Development Authority Meeting
5 – 7 p.m. – March into Spring, A Touch of Charm & J&H Off-Sale

MARCH 15
6:30 p.m. – Family Fun Night, BP Library
7 p.m. – BP Cancer Group Ham Bingo, Pizza Cellar

MARCH 17
5 p.m. - St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Servicemen's Club
- MARCH 18**
8 a.m. – Noon - Loaded Blooded Mary's & Brunch, Servicemen's Club

MARCH 19
6:30 p.m. – Friends of the Library Meeting, BP Library

MARCH 20
10:30 a.m. – Storytime, BP Library
5:30 p.m. – Ambulance Commission Meeting

MARCH 24
Education Foundation Auction

MARCH 31
Women of Today Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Dr. Deborah J. Lien
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST

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ELLENDALE/GENEVA/HOPE

- MARCH 16**
5:30 p.m. – Community Ed (Bingo), Ellendale Cafeteria

MARCH 19
5 p.m. – 9 p.m. – 55+ Driver Improvement Renewal Course, NRHEG High School
- MARCH 20**
6:15 p.m. – Community Ed, Ellendale Elementary Smart Room
6:15 p.m. – ECFE Classes, NRHEG Preschool Room
6:30 p.m. – Karate, Ellendale Elementary Gym North



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OWATONNA/MEDFORD

- MARCH 14**
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Red Cross Blood Donative Drive, Medford School
5 p.m. – Medford Economic Development Authority Meeting

MARCH 15
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons Centre
Noon – 1 p.m. – Business Boot Camp, Owatonna Library
6:30 p.m. – Family Storytime, Owatonna Library
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – HERstory-Voting Rights: Yesterday and Today, History Center

MARCH 16
7:30 a.m. – Steele County Public Works Policy Committee Meeting
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons Centre
6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. – Romantica, History Center

MARCH 17
9 a.m. - Mike Hansen Memorial Washer Board Tournament, Owatonna Eagles
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – North American Farm & Power Show, Four Seasons Centre
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. – Prom and Grad Party Expo, Tri M
- Graphics
3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – We All Play Silent Auction, Owatonna Eagles
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. – St. Patrick's Day Dinner Show, Owatonna Elks Club
6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. – Romantica, History Center

MARCH 18
2 p.m. – 6 p.m. – Suits and Sneakers Basketball Fundraiser, Owatonna High School
2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Family Freedom Festival, Owatonna VFW

MARCH 19
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Park & Rec Board Meeting, Senior Place
6 p.m. – Sons of Norway Meeting, Owatonna Elks
7 p.m. – Owatonna City Council Meeting, City Admin Building
7 p.m. – Medford Planning & Zoning Meeting

MARCH 20
8 a.m. – Steele County Land Use/Records Policy Committee Meeting
9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – It's Tale Time, Owatonna Library
4:30 p.m. – Owatonna Library Board Meeting, Owatonna Library

Miss Pre-Teen sought for Steele County

Young girls between the ages of 10 to 12 years in Steele County are being sought for the title of “2018 Miss Pre-Teen Steele County.”

Miss Pre-Teen Steele County will represent her county at the Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota pageant, which will be held at the Wellstone Center, April 28 in St. Paul.

The young lady chosen as Miss Pre-Teen Steele County “will become an ambassador from the Steele County area and will receive an official title and sash.

Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota will receive a prize package and chance to represent Minnesota at the Miss Pre-Teen International pageant held in Charleston, West Virginia in July.

The American Heart Association’s “Go for Red for Women” is the official charity of the Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota Pageant.

Pre-Teens will compete in personal interview, on-stage interview, fun fashion wear and evening wear. There is no talent, fitness or swimsuit competition.

Young Pre-Teen ladies living in Steele County interested in applying should go on line to: www.misspreteenminnesota.com, write for bio-form to: Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota International Pageant, P.O. Box 240537, Apple Valley, MN, 55124-0537, call 952-432-6758 for information, or email at pagunltd@frontiernet.net.

The current reigning 2017 Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota is Rebeka Mihalik of Waterville. As Miss Pre-Teen Minnesota, Mihalik speaks out on bullying. For more information go to: www.stompoutbullying.org.

The entry deadline is March 31.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- CELEBRATE RED CROSS MONTH BY GIVING BLOOD IN MARCH**
- During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to join in its lifesaving mission by giving blood.
- Since 1943, every U.S. president has designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world. Red Cross Month is a celebration of supporters, who are the face of the Red Cross in their communities and bring hope to people facing emergencies.
- The Red Cross depends on blood donor heroes across the nation to collect enough blood to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide. Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed to help those rely on blood products.
- Make an appointment to become a hero to patients in need by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
- Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:
- Albert Lea – 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. March 22, National Guard Armory
 - Austin – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 22, Primrose Retirement Communities
 - Austin – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 23, Mayo Clinic
 - Medford – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 14, Medford School
 - Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. March 27, Buffalo Wild Wings
 - Owatonna – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. March 30, Lowe's
- ROMANTICA RETURNS FOR ST. PATTY'S DAY**
- “Beannachtam na Feile Padraig!” Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with SCHS and Minneapolis’ Romantica led by Irishman Ben Kyle. Romantica will be performing at the Steele County History Center on St. Patrick’s Day, Saturday, March 17, 7 p.m., 1700 Austin Road, Owatonna. Listeners will enjoy the relaxed atmosphere and the artists’ storytelling.
- “It feels like a resurrection,” frontman/songwriter Ben Kyle says of Shadowlands, Romantica’s fourth album and first new release in seven years. Shadowlands was released on Last Chance Records in the US and At The Helm Records in the UK in February 2017.
- Tickets are available at the Steele County History Center or can be purchased online at www.steelehistorymuseum.org. Available in advance or at the door, space is limited, SCHS member \$15 per person,

Dairy banquet coming to Owatonna

The 2018 Steele County Dairy Banquet is Saturday, March 24, at the VFW Club in Owatonna.

Social hour will be at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15 p.m. followed by the program.

The highlight of the evening will be recognition of the 2018 Dairy Royalty. Tickets are \$12 and can be reserved by contacting Mary Schroeder at 507-213-9394.

Open house coming to NRHEG Elementary

An open house is set for youngsters entering NRHEG School.

A Kindergarten/Bridges Orientation/Open House for NRHEG Elementary School in Ellendale will take place Monday, March 26 at 4:30 p.m. The orientation will begin in the NRHEG Elementary School music room and will last approximately an hour.

Please bring your child with you to the orientation. Both our Bridges (a kindergarten alternative program) and Kindergarten programs will be highlighted at this orientation.

If you have questions, please call Jean Greenwood, administrative assistant in the school office at 507-684-3181.

- By utilizing the most up-to-date research in the field, participants will be provided the latest information in regards to driver safety, new laws and vehicle technology.
- Persons age 55 and older who complete the course qualify for 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years, according to Minnesota law. First time participants must complete the initial eight hours of training and a four-hour refresher class every three years to maintain the 10 percent discount. The eight hour course costs \$26 and the four-hour refresher course is \$22.
- For more information or to register, visit www.mnsafetycenter.org or call 1(888) 234-1294.
- Classes in the area include: Four-Hour Refresher Course: 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. March 19, NRHEG High School
Eight-Hour First Time Course: 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. March 27 & 29, Blooming Prairie High School
- SONS OF NORWAY ANNOUNCES MEETING**
- The Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway will meet on Monday, March 19. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. for a cost of \$7 at the Owatonna Elks Lodge, 126 East Vine Street.
- The program (rescheduled from January) is “Carving in the Nordic Style” with Clayton Johnson. Johnson spent over seven years carving a scale model of the Swedish warship Vasa which has been called “the most accurate in the world” by the director of the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. He will share information about the intricate Nordic carvings he creates.
- If you would like more information on the Nortonna Lodge of the Sons of Norway, contact Cindy or Paul Hokanson at 507-451-9301.
- EXPLORE EMIGRATION THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY AT VESTERHEIM MUSEUM EVENT**
- Why do some people leave their homes in search of a better life? Join Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Owatonna to explore that question through the stunning black and white photography of Norwegian Knud Knudsen from the late 1800s.
- This program and luncheon is on March 24 from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Steele County Historical Society. It will include the program “Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen” by Chris Johnson, Vesterheim’s President/CEO. Everyone is welcome.
- Tickets are \$30 for museum members and \$35 for non-members. Reservations are required by March 16 and can be made by contacting Vesterheim’s Development Events Coordinator Karla Brown at 563-382-9681, x107, or kbrown@vesterheim.org.
- The program is connected to the exhibit “Rocks and Hard Places—Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen” on view at Vesterheim now through September 23. Considered one of Norway's most important photographers, Knudsen (1832-1915) was born in Odda, Hardanger, and he established one of the first photography businesses in the city of Bergen in 1864. Despite the idyllic landscape, Knudsen’s work vividly shows why the ever-present threat of rockslides and avalanches, lack of arable land, lack of economic opportunity, and savage beauty of life on the fjord led to some of the highest rates of emigration per capita in Norway. The exhibition is sponsored by Gerald and Mary Jo Boman, The Broadway Group in memory of Eva Alsaker, David and Kirsten Heine, The Family Care Clinic, and The Perfect Edge, with additional support.
- Through 33,000 objects and 12 historic buildings, Vesterheim, the national Norwegian-American museum and heritage center in Decorah, Iowa, shares the most comprehensive collection of Norwegian-American artifacts in the world and is a national center for folk-art classes. For complete schedules of events, exhibitions, and classes, and more information about ways to donate, check out Vesterheim online at vesterheim.org.

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2018 EVENTS

- **APRIL 7:** Customer appreciation day “32” years of business
- **JUNE 23:** Cruise for Cancer ride
- **JULY 3:** Street dance (21 and over only)
- **JULY 4:** Open 9 a.m. to close
- **JULY 21:** B.O.B. ride: “Toys for Tots”

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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:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 26, 2010

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$121,042.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Joel R. Garten and Denise M. Karlen-Garten, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 2, 2010 as Document Number A000369164 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 9, Block 1, Willowbrook Addition No. 2, Steele County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 630 LEE ST NE, OWATONNA, MN 55060-6221

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$114,153.79

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-500-0109

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 27, 2018 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 September 27, 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: February 1, 2018

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 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (18-0067-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/6, 2/13, 2/20
2/27, 3/6, 3/13

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108511

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 11, 2014

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$123,469.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jarad Sikel and Caitlin Sikel, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 100867100130181025

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Amer-

ican Mortgage & Equity Consultants, Inc.

SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed April 15, 2014, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000396488

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing on South line of Vine St., 8 rods East of East line of Maple St., & running South parallel with Maple St. 8 rods; thence East 4 rods; North 8 rods; West 4 rods to beginning (Located in Lot 1 in NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Sec. 10-107-20)

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 415 E Vine St, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-010-3108

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$119,522.82

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 29, 2018, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September 29, 2018, or the next business day if September 29, 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 FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: February 2, 2018

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

2/6, 2/13, 2/20
2/27, 3/6, 3/13

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the mortgage dated October 27, 2011, executed by Garrett P. Crosby and Darla Crosby, husband and wife, as mortgagors, to TCF National Bank, a national banking association, as mortgagee, recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota, on January 10, 2012, as Document No. A000382304, which mortgage conveyed and mortgaged the following described property, situated in the County of Steele and State of Minnesota, which property has a street address of 405 2nd Avenue Southeast, Medford, Minnesota 55049, and tax identification number 161013601:

Lots 1 and 2, except the West 100 feet, and Lots 7 and 8, except the East 75 feet, in Block 36, in Johnson and Company's Addition to the Village of Medford, Steele County, Minnesota

That the original principal amount secured by said mortgage was \$104,800.00; that there has been compliance with any condition precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by said mortgage and foreclosure of said mortgage required by said mortgage, any note secured thereby, or any statute; that no action or proceeding to recover the debt remaining se-

cured by said mortgage is pending, or any part thereof; that there is claimed to be due upon said mortgage and is due thereon at the date of this notice, the sum of \$99,587.15 in principal and interest.

That as a result of the aforesaid default, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by the sale of the above described premises with appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Steele County, Minnesota, at the Sheriff's office in the Law Enforcement Center, 204 East Pearl Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, on April 6, 2018, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, to pay the amount then due on said mortgage, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorneys' fees as allowed by law, in accordance with the provisions of said mortgage. The time allowed by law for redemption by the mortgagors, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: Darla Crosby.

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.

If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on October 8, 2018, unless the foreclosure is postponed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §580.07, or the redemption period is reduced to five (5) weeks under Minn. Stat. §582.032.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT BY A DEBT COLLECTOR. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

TCF National Bank

DATED: February 13, 2018

FOLEY & MANSFIELD, P.L.L.P.

By: Karl K. Heinzerling Atty. No. 142475 Attorneys for Mortgagee 250 Marquette Avenue, Suite 1200 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

2/13, 2/20, 2/27
3/6, 3/13, 3/20

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:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 31, 2010

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$176,912.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Ronald D. Mead and Michelle J. Mead a/k/a Michelle J. Zolnosky, husband and wife

MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 3, 2010 as Document Number A000373333 in the Office of the County Recorder of Steele County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Northwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 105, Range 21, Steele County, Minnesota, running thence North 89 degrees 53' East (assumed bearing) along the North line of the Northeast Quarter 318.0 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00' West 548.0 feet, thence South 89 degrees 53' West 318.0 feet to the West line of Northeast Quarter, thence North 0 degrees 00' East along West line 548.0 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 4.0 acres more or less Subject to existing public road rights of way on the North. Assessor's Parcel Number: 03-001-1401.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 4683 108TH ST SW, ELLENDALE, MN 56026-2015

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$111,406.41

TRANSACTION AGENT: None

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 03-001-1401

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: None

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be

sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 10, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Steele County Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, Minnesota.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on April 10, 2019.

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: February 14, 2018

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 Dale Street North St. Paul, MN 55102 (651) 209-9760 (18-0091-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

2/27, 3/6, 3/13
3/20, 3/27, 4/3

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 18-108674

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 8, 2013

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$96,850.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Judith A. Fonner, a single woman

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 100397202862153187

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Nationstar Mortgage, LLC

SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 20, 2013, Steele County Registrar of Titles, as Document Number T000070390

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot One, (Except the West 70 Feet), in Block Two in Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna, and that part of Sixth Avenue Southeast as vacated, lying immediately East of the above described Lot and being a Parcel thirty three Feet East and West and 88 Feet North and South, all being in Block Two in Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna. AND The North Half of Lot Sixteen (16), Except the West Seventy (70) Feet, Block Two (2), Heger Addition to the City of Owatonna, and also that Portion of Sixth Avenue S.E. lying immediately East of the North Half of said Lot 16 as vacated, the Portion of the Vacated Street herein conveyed being 33 Feet East and West and 44 Feet North and South.

REGISTERED PROPERTY

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 553 11th St SE, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-174-0200 COT# 17109

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$92,506.19

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 24, 2018, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the

date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2018, or the next business day if October 24, 2018 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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

Dated: February 23, 2018

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/6, 3/13, 3/20
3/27, 4/3, 4/10

FORECLOSURE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE 17-108330

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: January 23, 2006

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$80,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Nicole J. Livingston, a single person, Brian L. Livingston, a single person, Shauna M. Livingston, a single person and Michael J. Livingston, a single person

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

MIN#: 1001752-0000290554-8

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: MILA, Inc.

SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed March 15, 2006, Steele County Recorder, as Document Number A000339706

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Holders of the Specialty Underwriting and Residential Finance Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-BC3

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North 48 feet of: All of Lot 9 and East 1/4 of Lot 8, in Block 12 of the Original Town (now City) of Owatonna, Minnesota

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 110 N Grove Ave, Owatonna, MN 55060

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 17-100-1211

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Steele

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$79,182.06

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: May 1, 2018, 10:00am

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, Law Enforcement Center, 204 Pearl Street East, Owatonna, MN 55060

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 1, 2018, or the next business day if November 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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: March 9, 2018

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for SPECIALTY UNDERWRITING AND RESIDENTIAL FINANCE TRUST MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-BC3 Assignee of Mortgagee

SHAPIRO & ZIELKE, LLP

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

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR

3/13, 3/20, 3/27
4/3, 4/10, 4/17

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF STEELE

DISTRICT COURT THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File Number: 74-PR-18-362

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

In Re: Estate of Joyce A. Matejcek, Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 16, 2018, at 2:45 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 111 East Main Street, Owatonna, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, December 3, 2012, (“Will”), and for the appointment of Curt A. Matejcek, whose address is 550 Murray St., Owatonna, MN, 55060 and Todd C. Matejcek, whose address is 1375 Edinburgh Place NE, Owatonna, MN, 55060 as Personal Representatives 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 Representatives 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.

Joseph A Bueltel 2/23/2018 Judge of District Court

Robin Hoesley Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner David L. Einhaus Einhaus, Mattison, Carver & Haberman, P.A. 202 N. Cedar Avenue Owatonna, MN, 55060 Attorney License No: 26190 Telephone: (507) 451-3580 FAX: (507) 451-3532 Email: einhaus@owatonna-lawyers.com

3/6, 3/13

NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEELE
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CASE TYPE 4: Dissolution
with Children

Summons
Court File Number:

In the marriage of:

Rukiya Ali,

Petitioner(s)
vs.

Ahmed Dahir Wais,

Respondent(s)

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT, Ahmed Dahir Wais, 1405 19th Ave., SW, Apt. 208, Willmar, Minnesota 56201:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Petitioner's attorney an Answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage which is now served upon you, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. The object of this proceeding is a dissolution of the marriage relationship and such division of property involved as the Court finds just.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING AND

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROVISIONS UNDER MINNESOTA LAW, SERVICE OF THIS SUMMONS MAKES THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO BOTH PARTIES TO THIS ACTION, UNLESS THEY ARE MODIFIED BY THE COURT OR THE PROCEEDING IS DISMISSED:
(1) NEITHER PARTY MAY DISPOSE OF ANY ASSETS EXCEPT :
(a) FOR THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE OR FOR THE NECESSARY GENERATION OF INCOME OR PRESERVATION OF ASSETS,
(b) BY AN AGREEMENT IN WRITING, OR
(c) FOR HIRING AN ATTORNEY FOR THIS PROCEEDING;
(2) NEITHER PARTY MAY HARASS THE OTHER PARTY; AND
(3) ALL CURRENTLY AVAILABLE INSURANCE COVERAGE MUST BE MAINTAINED AND CONTINUED WITHOUT CHANGE IN COVERAGE OR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT.

(4) PARTIES TO A MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION PROCEEDING ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEMPT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA LAW. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION INCLUDES MEDIATION, ARBITRATION, AND OTHER PROCESSES AS SET FORTH IN THE DISTRICT COURT RULES. YOU MAY CONTACT THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR ABOUT RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA. IF YOU CANNOT PAY FOR MEDIATION OR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, IN SOME COUNTIES, ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU THROUGH A NONPROFIT PROVIDER OR A COURT PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE OR THREATS OF ABUSE AS DEFINED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 518B, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TRY MEDIATION AND YOU WILL NOT BE PENALIZED BY THE COURT IN LATER PROCEEDINGS.

NOTICE OF PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 518.157, IN A CONTESTED PROCEEDING INVOLVING CUSTODY OR PARENTING TIME OF A MINOR CHILD, THE PARTIES MUST BEGIN PARTICIPATION IN A PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT MEETS MINIMUM STANDARDS PROMULGATED BY THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE FIRST FILING WITH THE COURT. IN SOME DISTRICTS, PARENTING EDUCATION MAY BE REQUIRED IN ALL CUSTODY OR

PARENTING PROCEEDINGS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS REQUIREMENT AND THE AVAILABILITY OF PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA REGIONAL LEGAL SERVICES

Dated: January 10, 2018

/s/ Tracy Shoberg

Tracy Shoberg
Attorney for Petitioner
Attorney License No. 0398545
903 West Center Street, Suite 230 Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: (507) 292-0080
FAX: (507) 292-0060
tracy.shoberg@smrls.org

3/13, 3/20, 3/27

NOTICE

Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAMED:
Lava Burgers

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 36918th Street S.E. Owatonna MN 55060 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Lava Burgers, Inc.
369 18th Street S.E. Owatonna MN 55060 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Mark R. Carver

MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
josedherrera@msn.com

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

3/6, 3/13, 3/20

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 16, 2018

A regular school board meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #756, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, was held in the High School Me-

dia Center at 5:15 p.m. (Open Forum at 5:00 p.m.).

OPEN FORUM – No comments.

I. CALL TO ORDER –CHAIRPERSON

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL - CLERK

Jenny Thurnau, Jon Sunde, Steve Ille, Rodney Krell, Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Dean Meshke

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools, Elementary School Principal, High School Principal, Associate Principal, Members of the BPTA

MEMBERS ABSENT:
None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the agenda with the addition of the payroll amount and transfer of funds. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

V. PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Mr. Staloch, Mr. Worke, and Ms. Mach gave reports.

VI. ITEMS ON WHICH BOARD ACTION IS REQUESTED

A. Installation of New School Board Members

Installation of newly elected board members Kelly Braaten, Pam Hameister, Rodney Krell, and Dean Meshke took place with the "Acceptance and Oath of Office" being recited.

B. Rotation of Officers

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Jenny Thurnau to approve the following officers for 2018 upon paper vote being taken: Chair-Rodney Krell; Vice Chair-Jenny Thurnau; Clerk-Pam Hameister; and Treasurer-Jon Sunde. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

C. School Board Committee Assignments.

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the School Board committee assignments as noted. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

D. Minutes, Bills, Treasurer's Report, Donations

Motion by Jenny Thurnau seconded by Jon Sunde to approve the minutes, bills, treasurer's report, and donations received. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

E. Employment

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the employment of Kayla Harvey as Science Club/Fair advisor. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

F. Volunteer Coaches

No volunteer coaches requiring School Board approval per Ms. Mach.

G. Designation of Local Depositories, Newspaper, and School Attorney

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve designation of school funds and investments as official depositories through January 2019: Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Blooming Prairie; US Bank, Blooming Prairie; Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund, New York; and Wells Fargo, Minneapolis. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Pam Hameister to authorize the following persons to make electronic or paper transactions for any financial institution for the district through January 2019: Barry Olson, Nancy Clark, Sharon Lea, and Kari Forystek. Tammy

Wurst is authorized for transactions with US Bank. Motion carried. (7 Aye/ 0 Nay)

Motion by Kelly Braaten and seconded by Steve Ille to approve the Steele County Times as the official school newspaper through January 2019. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Motion by Jenny Thurnau and seconded by Steve Ille to approve Hoversten, Johnson, Beckmann & Hovey, PLLP, Austin, MN as the district's designated school attorney through January 2019. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

H. Promulgation of Seniority Lists for the Teaching Staff

Motion by Steve Ille and seconded by Pam Hameister to approve the promulgation of the seniority lists for the teaching staff. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

I. DJ for Sadie Hawkins/Snow Dance

Motion by Pam Hameister and seconded by Kelly Braaten to approve DJ Izzy as the DJ for the February 10th dance. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

VII. ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Committee Reports

A report update was given on the following committees: Education Foundation, Staff Development, and ZED.

B. Enrollment Data

Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year as of January 10, 2018, is 420 at the elementary school (grades K-6) and 308 at the high school (grades 7-12) (298 attending BPHS and 10

attending PSEO). The PSEO number consists of 5 seniors and 5 juniors with attendance being full-time.
C. Dates to Note
The Board noted dates of importance.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OR BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

1. Superintendent Olson gave a review of the MSBA Conference which was also attended by Board Member Meshke.
2. The Board was informed that Superintendent Olson would be out of the district from January 22-27.
3. A thank you was acknowledged from the family of Dennis Conroy and family of Jon Carlson.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jon Sunde and seconded by Steve Ille to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Motion carried. (7 Aye/0 Nay)

Tentatively, the next Regular School Board Work Session will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 6:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the High School. Tentatively, the next regular meeting of the School Board will be Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 5:15 p.m. in the High School Media Center (Open Forum begins at 5:00 p.m.).

A complete copy of the official minutes may be found in their entirety in the official minute book located in the superintendent's office at the high school; however, they will not be available until approved by the School Board.

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

3/13

NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
BLOOMING PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA
January 11, 2018

A regular school board work session was held at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018, in the Board Room at the High School.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Jenny Thurnau, Kelly Braaten, Dean Meshke

ALSO PRESENT:
Superintendent of Schools

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
General review and discussion was held on agenda items for the January 16, 2018, regular school board meeting.

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

3/13

Important Information Regarding Property Assessments

This may affect your 2019 property tax payments.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Westfield will meet:

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 10:30 am
Location: Town Hall

The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

Given under my hand this 5 day of March, 2018

John Fouarge
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Help Wanted

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Must be available nights and weekends. Full job description and application can be obtained at Municipal Liquor Store. Starting wage is \$11.20 per hour.

Ellendale Liquor Store: 217 5th Ave, Ellendale
or the City Office at: 106 6th Ave. West, Ellendale



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Call the office with questions at 507-584-2253



BP students compete in SE Minnesota spelling bee

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

Ava Becken, an eighth grade student from Northfield Public Schools, emerged as the winner of the Southeast Service Cooperative Regional Spelling Bee in Rochester on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Twelve spellers (six from each regional spelling bee) competed in the Final Spelling Bee.

These 12 students were narrowed down from 75 students from 37 districts in Southeastern Minnesota who participated in two regional spelling contests on Feb. 13 at the Wood Lake Meeting Center in Rochester.

Two contestants from the 27th Annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling Bee on Jan. 10 competed in the regional contest on Feb. 13.

Twenty-four Blooming Prairie students in grades 5-8 participated in the annual Blooming Prairie District Spelling

Bee.

Blooming Prairie's two students did not end up in the top six to continue on. Asha Lighthizer, first place winner in BP, went out in Round 3 on "flotilla" and second place winner in BP, Micah Donnelly went out in Round 4 on "chalupa."

"We are proud of them and they had a wonderful experience," said local spelling bee coordinator Jeanette Hauschildt.

Spelling bees have been popular world wide, and Blooming Prairie has really embraced the contest with lots of participants, said Hauschildt.

Becken was declared the champion after correctly spelling the word triturate. She also participated in the Final Bee in 2017. She now advances to the 91st annual Scripps National Spelling Bee from May 27 to June 2. She won a trip for herself and one adult to Washington, D.C. donated by Southeast Service Cooperative.

She also received a first place trophy, Webster's Third New International Dictionary (provided by Scripps National

Spelling Bee), 2018 United States Mint Proof Set (The Samuel Louis Sugarman Award from Scripps), a one-year subscription to Britannica Online Premium and Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet.

Lukas Singer, an 8th grade student from Rochester Catholic Schools, was the First Runner-up. Singer received a trophy, and Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary (donated by Merriam-Webster), Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet, and a \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.

Isaac Nerstad, an 6th grade student from Spring Grove, was the Second Runner-up. Nerstad received a trophy, Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement Booklet, and a \$50 Barnes & Noble Gift Card.

The Southeast Service Cooperative has operated since 1976. It is a public, non-profit cooperative of over 100 member schools, local governments, and non-profits impacting over 82,000 students and almost 18,000 employees in 11 counties to mobilize resources and add value through collaboration.

BP musical groups busy during Music in Our Schools Month

BY HOWARD LESTRUD
STAFF WRITER

March is Music in Our Schools Month, and Blooming Prairie School musicians are a busy bunch.

Kari Bottin is choir director, and Ross Reishus is band director.

On March 3, BP hosted the Middle School Solo and Ensemble festival, featuring students in grades 6-8.

On March 6, BPHS soloists performed at the Prairie Manor Care Center. Later that same day the pep band had its last performance for the season at the boys basketball tournament game in Rochester.

Students were at the MSHSL Solo and Ensemble Festival with some band and choir kids on March 12.

That night was also the 7-12 choir concert at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

Saturday, March 17 is the area Middle

School Honor Band Festival at Austin High School with two giant bands playing under guest conductor batons, as well as a professional wind quintet who will play for them during one of the breaks in the day.

Then our Music In Our Schools Month Band Concert for grades 7-12 takes place in the gym on Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

The busy season is capped off with the Minnesota State High School League Large Group Festival with the high school band going to perform at Stewartville High School for three certified festival judges, who will assign the BPHS band a rating.

If the rating numbers are high enough, it will result in a Superior rating, and trophy. The last time BPHS earned this trophy was in 2016. This takes place Wednesday, April 4.

The Blooming Prairie Music Boosters and BP Education Foundation paid for some high school music students to go to the School of Rock at the Orpheum. "We had a great trip and it was a great show," said Bottin.

Parts of I-35 by Owatonna to close for bridge demolition

Interstate 35 traffic south of Owatonna will be detoured overnight on March 14 and 15 to allow construction crews to demolish a bridge that was damaged by a crash last year, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The demolition of the Steele County Road 18 Bridge over I-35 south of Owatonna will prompt the bridge's closure to traffic beginning March 12.

I-35 southbound will closed March 14 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and I-35 northbound will be closed March 15 from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Each night construction crews will remove the portion of the bridge over the highway and remove debris in time for traffic to resume at 8 a.m.

During that time, traffic will be detoured off I-35. Southbound traffic will be detoured on March 14 and northbound traffic will be detoured on March 15.

The southbound I-35 detour is Highway 14 east to Steele County Road 45 south to Highway 30 west to I-35. The northbound detour route is in reverse: I-35 Exit 26 to Highway 30 east to Steele County Road 45 north to Highway 14 west where it rejoins I-35 at Owatonna.

The westbound and eastbound exits on Highway 14 at Steele County Road 45 will be closed from 8 p.m. on March 15 until 8

a.m., March 16 during the northbound I-35 detour. The exits will be open during the southbound detour on March 14.

This bridge replacement is being included into the project south of Owatonna where 10 bridges are being replaced over two years on I-35 (six bridges) and Hwy 14 (four bridges). Last year, a vehicle carrying construction equipment struck two bridges over I-35. The damage to the bridges, which were built in 1965, was such that MnDOT determined through a review of life cycle, cost analysis and funding availability that replacement would be best now with the timing of the other bridges. This is the second year of the two-year project.

Lunda Construction Company is the prime contractor for the \$29.6 million project.

Motorists interested in more information about the project, may visit the MnDOT project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/steelecty-bridge/index.html and sign up for email updates on the project.

Motorists should always be attentive, drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones. For real-time traffic information in Minnesota, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.



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